I would like to welcome this debate on this vital resolution. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear from civil society representatives and members of the UN family;

The United Kingdom is committed to ensuring that women are provided with the opportunity to participate fully in all stages of the peace process, from early ceasefire negotiations to reforms of the security sector and restoration of the Rule of Law. Women's full participation in peace consolidation is vital to sustained and long-term stability;

But even more than that, it is essential that the rights of women, so often the victims, are respected. This means responding to all the problems which confront women in post-conflict situations, and encouraging their empowerment through education, employment, and participation in the political process;

We know peacebuilding is difficult enough. There is a 50% chance that post conflict countries will relapse into conflict within ten years of the peace agreement being signed. Excluding women from the process only makes peace more uncertain;

We have high expectations of the Peacebuilding Commission. It should produce greater coherence in the total peacebuilding effort. That includes ensuring that gender is integrated at
the very start of our efforts to establish peace, and carried through in all its different aspects, 
disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, security sector reform and rule of law;

- The recent meetings on Sierra Leone and Burundi identified the need for a gender-sensitive 
  approach. We must see this through as concrete steps are taken to build peace in these 
  countries;

- The Netherlands, Norway and the UK recently participated in a joint donor review of the 
  implementation of 1325 in the UN peacekeeping missions in the DRC, Liberia, Sierra Leone 
  and Kosovo;

- I happy to note that progress is being made. But six years on, this should be the norm and not 
  the exception;

- Gender mainstreaming is not taking place, there is an absence of clear monitoring and 
  evaluation mechanisms, so that accountability is weak. Gender is not included in a systematic 
  or coherent way in either the establishment or running of peacekeeping missions;

- Another problem is implementation. This includes implementation by Member States, where 
  national plans are much needed, implementation by the countries emerging from conflict and 
  implementation by the UN family. We all have a responsibility;

- Within the UN system, there are many dedicated and serious efforts being made to cope with 
  the issues in 1325. But they lack coherence. They are not necessarily co-ordinated. It is not 
  always clear who is responsible for doing what. Can we consistently say that relationships are 
  cooperative and not conflictual?

- Let me end with a challenge to the UN system. Can we set clear objectives for each of our 
  peace support operations in post-conflict countries? The objective is simple – to implement 
  1325. And in setting that objective, can we then develop an action plan, specific to each
country, agreed with the government, in which individual funds, programmes and agencies assume particular responsibility for the separate elements of 1325?

- In looking at country situations in the Council, the Council would then be able to assess the objectives, the intended implementation and the success in achieving precise outputs. This would result in the systematic application of the Resolution and accountability for how it was done;

- I hope in responding to this debate the Secretariat can endorse such an approach and take on the responsibility of putting a degree of order and planning into the way in which this issue is addressed;

- As the UN looks to new ways to ensure peace consolidation and to reform our service delivery, our starting premise must be that women are full and equal participants in all parts of the process. To do otherwise is an injustice to them and an injustice to the cause of peace, which we seek to serve. The obligation therefore on all of us to work together to ensure the full implementation of 1325 is only too apparent. We all have our part to play. Let us plan to do so.