



NORWAY

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Security Council
Women, peace and security

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Security Council, 25 July 2002 "*Women, peace and security*".

Mr. President,

It was an important break-through when the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 in 2000 and included Women, Peace and Security on its agenda. The resolution provides us with an instrument to ensure the full and equal participation of women at all levels of decision-making and in promoting peace efforts, including conflict prevention, -resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

I commend the UK presidency for organising this meeting. It is clearly important that the Security Council actively follows up resolution 1325 and its implementation. I want to thank ASG Angela King for her leadership in preparing the study on women, girls, peace and security and the speakers here today for their important contributions. I am pleased to learn that recommendations for future action have been identified during the work on the study. We are looking forward to being able to closely examine the study and the report by the Secretary-General. The recommendations will be crucial for progress in this field.

Mr. President,

During the spring of this year several Arria-formula meetings were held to provide the members of the Security Council with information and views on the status of women in war affected areas. We heard accounts of horrifying human rights breaches and abuse. Despite the many bleak stories we heard, it must be stressed that women must not only be viewed as victims of crime and abuse. Women are peace makers and peace builders and it is of the utmost importance that they be included at all levels of peace planning and in the efforts to secure the peace in a post-conflict situation.

Norway has actively supported a strengthening of the DPKO with regard to gender issues. I regret that the gender adviser posts previously proposed by the DPKO were not given the needed support. We continue to believe that these posts are needed and hope the study will contain a recommendation to include gender advisers in DPKO.

We are also looking forward to seeing the Standard Operating Procedures being revised to include gender perspectives. Policy- and decision-makers need to pay attention to gender-based differences. We recommend that gender focal points be established in all UN mandated operations and that gender awareness is included in training-packages intended for peace-keeping personnel.

Also, more efforts should be made to seek out women candidates and promote women to positions, both in peace missions and as special representatives of the Secretary General.

Mr. President,

I also hope that the forthcoming recommendations will include practical and detailed mechanisms to ensure accountability of gender-mainstreaming. Implementation remains the most challenging part of this work, and efforts should be made to develop practical tools and training.

Finally, Mr. President, I take this opportunity to suggest that a guidance note on gender perspectives be prepared which details issues that should be included in reports to the Security Council.

Thank you Mr. President