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Statement

by

H.E. Mr. Gordan Jandroković

**Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Croatia**

at the

Ministerial Level Meeting

“A 1325 Call to Action”

New York, 25 September 2010

**Address of H. E. Mr. Gordan Jandroković, Minister of Foreign Affairs
and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia**
– 1325 Call to Action –
New York, 25th September 2010

*Mr. Secretary-General,
Distinguished Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to the hosts of today's event, particularly to the Delegation of Canada and H.E. Mr. Lawrence Cannon for providing us the opportunity to reaffirm our common commitment to advancing the goals embodied in Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, Peace and Security".

The presence of many eminent speakers in this room is in itself a testimony to the profound impact that it has produced over the past ten years.

The Resolution highlights not only the special vulnerability of women in conflict, but also their role as indispensable participants in conflict prevention.

It also stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents of peace and security.

I am pleased to say that Croatia, both in its capacity as, until recently, a non-permanent member of the Security Council and a member of the Group of “Friends of Women, Peace and Security”, has always strived to have this dimension echoed in our discussions.

As we look back at the past actions of the Security Council, I am proud to recall that Croatia was an active participant in the recent endeavor to improve the visibility and effectiveness of Resolution 1325 and translate its goals into practice.

It was a highly important task which resulted in the adoption of several resolutions and presidential statements under the umbrella of Resolution 1325, accompanied by a series of high level debates.

We would like to see this positive trend continued, and support the efforts to close the implementation gaps through applying a global set of indicators to track progress achieved in the implementation of SCR 1325.

While the normative progress achieved over the past 10 years is undeniable, its implementation has been uneven.

Sadly, armed conflicts continue to have a devastating impact on women and girls.

They are often accompanied by gender based violence including an increasing scale and brutality of sexual violence, rape often being used as a tool of war.

Impunity for such violence against women is still widespread, while the prosecution rate is very low.

Participation of women in peace processes still falls short of the mark.

Here I would like to recall the recent Statement adopted by the CEDAW Committee on the 10th anniversary of SCR 1325 that emphasizes the important links between this Resolution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

We support the CEDAW Committee's view that the implementation of SCR 1325, 1820 and 1889 should be placed into a broader framework of the implementation of the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol.

SCR 1325 recalls the Preamble of CEDAW which makes a direct connection between the cause of peace and the full participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields.

And by doing so, it holds out a promise to women across the globe that their rights will be protected, that all barriers to their equal participation and full involvement in the maintenance and promotion of sustainable peace will be removed.

Unfortunately, major gaps in the implementation of SCR 1325 still remain, and a mechanism of accountability to ensure its implementation has not yet been instituted by the Security Council. While women are widely recognized as effective agents of peace, they still have little access to decision-making positions and peace negotiations.

The gender composition of peace-keeping missions is still unbalanced.

Therefore, the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325 should serve as an occasion to focus and re-energize our efforts, both on the international and domestic level.

I am pleased to say that Croatia has taken steps to integrate the gender perspective in the national security policy through its National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

One of our goals, for instance, is to keep increasing the deployment of women officers in peace-keeping operations.

The Government is also developing a new National Action Plan for the implementation of 1325 and related resolutions.

In this context, we attach particular importance to cooperation with the national and regional civil society.

Under the leadership of its first female Prime Minister, Her Excellency Ms. Jadranka Kosor, Croatia will continue to give its firm support to the full implementation of the „women, peace and security” agenda.

We see it as a “gender-based peace agenda”, which involves not only addressing the disproportionate effect of conflict on women and combating sexual violence.

It is also about securing a full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of the peace process, giving them an equal role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peace-building.

The realization of these goals is a basis for safeguarding basic human rights and achieving human security and lasting peace.

Thank you for your attention!