



**SLOVENIA**

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**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. Mr. Samuel Žbogar**

**Foreign Minister of the Republic of Slovenia**

at “A 1325 Call to Action”

**New York, 25 September 2010**

*Madam Chair,*

I would like to start my intervention by commending Canada for its initiative to organize this important event to which Slovenia and I personally attach great significance.

With the adoption of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, the Security Council acknowledged the important role of women in the promotion of peace, security and prosperity. The subsequent resolutions on the same topic reaffirmed the Security Council's determination to effectively address this issue. At the same time the resolutions underlined the need for prompt and full implementation of all commitments.

The latest atrocious crime – the mass rape committed last month in the Democratic Republic of Congo – reminded us that the international community remains far from meeting its declared goals, despite all the efforts to improve the situation on the ground. This shameful event has once again demonstrated that during an armed conflict and its aftermath women are often deliberate targets of injustice and gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence. Needless to say, these crimes could have been prevented if Resolution 1325 had been implemented.

I believe that the issue of implementation needs to be addressed on a number of levels. Internationally, a set of benchmarks is necessary to ensure that Member States live up to their obligations stemming from Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. Slovenia therefore supports the suggestion by the Secretary-General in his latest report on women, peace and security to adopt indicators to monitor the implementation of the Resolution globally.

At the national level, much more remains to be done to integrate the gender perspective in different policy areas. I would therefore like to inform you that gender equality is a priority in Slovenia, not only in the field of human rights and development cooperation, but also in the area of security and defense policy. The recently adopted *Strategy of the Participation of the Republic of Slovenia in International Operations and Missions* therefore promotes equal opportunities with respect to deployments abroad as well.

I agree that each country should prepare an action plan for the implementation of the Resolution 1325. I would therefore like to inform you that Slovenia is about to finalize and adopt such a document. The goal is to interconnect the existing national and international activities by addressing a broader concept of women, peace and security, and by translating them into genuine political commitments. I am certain that this will significantly accelerate the implementation of the resolution in my country and thus contribute to our common goal of empowerment and protection of women.

Before concluding, let me also express full support for the appointment of Margot Wallström as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. I believe this marks an important step towards a greater awareness of the utter depravity of such crimes. Rape as a weapon of war is completely unacceptable.

On a final note I would like to underline that women are not just victims of conflict. As we all know they have also established themselves as key actors in the survival and recovery of a society during and after conflict. Their full participation in everyday life and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into all policies and actions is therefore vital.

*Thank you, Madam Chair.*