

Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 26th October 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by H.E. Jan Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations

Belgium aligns itself with the statement that will be made later on behalf of the European Union (EU).

We thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000).

Women's participation in peace processes increases the likelihood that women's needs will be met, that their status in society will be enhanced and that their well-being will improve. It is disconcerting, in that regard, that 10 years after the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), we are still excluding half of the world's population when we are discussing sustainable peace and trying to build democracy.

If the ideals to which we committed ourselves in resolution 1325 (2000) are to become a reality, it is clear that we need to increase accountability and monitor our commitments. We therefore call on the Security Council to endorse the indicators developed by the Secretary-General and to establish an accountability and reporting mechanism in order to monitor the implementation of the resolution on the basis of those indicators.

Belgium also welcomes the creation of UN Women and the appointment of Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet as its first head.

In the fight against impunity, Belgium further asks the members of the Security Council to use, and effectively impose, targeted and graduated measures against all parties to conflicts who violate women's rights, including perpetrators of sexual violence and commanders who commission or condone the use of sexual violence. We believe that the Council should include sexual violence in resolutions mandating its sanctions committees, and those resolutions should include sexual violence as a criterion for the designation of political and military leaders for targeted measures.

Belgium attaches great importance to the full and thorough implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), as well as of the follow-up resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009). In the run-up to this debate, and in order to raise awareness and come to real and concrete commitments around the celebration of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), Belgium, together with the European Union, organized three events at different levels. We organized a high-level conference in Brussels on women's participation, an experts' seminar in Geneva on protection and a ministerial-level lunch here in New York last month.

In 2009 and 2010, Belgium has supported activities related to resolution 1325 (2000) and women's rights in 14 countries, not only politically, by raising the issue in relevant dialogues and by facilitating meetings with women's groups, but also financially. In the past two years, more than €30 million has been spent on gender-related projects in fragile States.

Two years ago, Belgium also adopted a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Without a doubt, the plan has contributed to increased ownership at different levels of public administration and civil society. For example, our Ministry of Defence has assigned clear duties within its staff and adopted specific budgetary lines for the implementation of all activities relating to the implementation of the national plan of action that fall within its responsibilities.

We commit today to revise our national action plan by 2012, in full cooperation with civil society and taking into account EU indicators, as well as the indicators that we hope to see adopted by the Council today. We further declare ourselves ready to consider assisting the development of such a plan by any country that would welcome our support.

Finally, let me add, as Chair of a country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, that that Commission is a very appropriate framework in which to include the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) among its activities.