

Statement by
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United Nations Security Council

Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

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Mr. President,

Allow me to open my statement by thanking the Presidency for convening this meeting and thereby once again directing the attention of the Security Council to the indispensable and vital role of women in all efforts to build and maintain peace and security.

Furthermore, I would like to associate my delegation with the statement by the Permanent Representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

The Report of the Secretary General on women, peace and security presents an overview of achievements, gaps and challenges as well as recommendations for further actions to accelerate the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.

The Report concludes that the United Nations system has made significant advances in implementing resolution 1325. UN entities are focused on mainstreaming a gender perspective and human rights in the areas of peace and security. The UN capacity has been enhanced. Advocacy strengthened and partnerships with women's organisations built.

However, the report does also confirm the existing institutional and organizational gaps and challenges in implementation of the resolution. That is regrettable, as implementation of resolution 1325 is as important as ever.

Women and girls in conflict and post conflict situations - wherever in the world - cannot afford delay.

The 2008-2009 Action Plan is conceptualized to become a results-based programming, monitoring and reporting tool. We welcome the sharpened focus on five thematic areas of prevention, protection, participation, relief and recovery and thereby the shift from project to programme implementation. A broader framework linked to national peace and reconstruction processes is provided. It commits the UN system to enhance coherence and to integrate a gender perspective.

Our commitment to results-base programming is deep felt. We all recognize the importance of guidelines, workshops and gender-inclusive procedures as important steppingstones, and important tools for the required capacity development.

But at the end of the day, it is the results that count. It's the responsibility of the UN system, as well as of national Governments, to increase the visibility of the outcome and impact of the initiatives undertaken.

Have women and girls on the ground then been able to register improvements? A year ago we regretfully came to the conclusion that we don't really know. This year the answer is the same.

I sincerely hope that in another year, we will be able to say that we have achieved increased protection of the rights of women and girls during and after conflict. Our ambition should be to take decisive steps towards fully incorporating a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations, peace negotiations and in Security Council missions. We have to come much closer to full and equal participation of women in peace processes, at all levels in negotiations and in decision-making.

Mr. President,

One of the major lessons learned from the implementation of resolution 1325 in 2005-2007 is that without concerted efforts with Governments and civil society at the country level, the implementation of the resolution would remain elusive.

Effective links between the Action Plan and the national implementation efforts are not yet well established and need special attention.

Mr. President,

Denmark was one of the very first countries to formulate a national action plan for implementing resolution 1325, and we are currently in the process of revising the plan.

Through a broad and comprehensive approach we are doing so with the full and active involvement of the Danish civil society.

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Ministry of Defence and the National Police in cooperation with NGOs and other partners are developing a plan with strengthened focus on women's active participation in peace building processes and decision making at all levels and with strong focus on visibility at country level.

In our efforts to contribute to the implementation of resolution 1325, Denmark has found that the resolution is still little known at country and grass root levels. We urge the Security Council to work on visibility alongside the actual implementation efforts.

Protection of girls and women in conflict situations is still crucial, and involvement of women in peace building processes broadens our perspective on security. We should all like to see more lasting peace agreements. Inclusive processes will make this all the more likely.

Thank you Mr. President.