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***Statement by H.E. Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the UN  
at the Ministerial-Level Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on the Occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325(2000)***

*26 October 2010, New York*

Mr President, Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

The Security Council debate today and the numerous initiatives related to resolution 1325 all over the world confirm that women are no longer an invisible or irrelevant aspect of armed conflicts. Women have the right to be protected in conflicts, and can and should be able to contribute to peace processes. However, despite the progress made since 2000, these principles still need to be translated better into reality at the global, regional and national levels.

Estonia is committed to the implementation of resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions. My delegation would like to align itself with the comments and commitments to be made on behalf of the European Union and offer the following remarks in our national capacity.

I have the pleasure to note that last week Estonia adopted its national action plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325. Over the next four years the plan will help systematise and enhance our activities both at the national level and in regional and international organisations.

Estonia, as a member of a number of regional organisations and the UN, continues to expand its contribution to international peace and security. We continue to participate in international civilian and military operations and contribute to development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. The action plan contains commitments with regard to the inclusion of the gender perspective in these activities.

First, it includes steps to increase gender related expertise, as well as general awareness and support for the inclusion of gender perspective in crisis management at all levels through enhanced training. Second, the plan includes measures to expand the possibilities for women's participation in international civilian and military missions and increasing the share of women occupying posts related to peace and security. To name only a few, these include analysing the variables influencing women's participation in military, police and international missions and targeted information and recruitment campaigns.

Third, gender equality and the promotion of the situation of women and girls continue to be one of the priorities of Estonia's development cooperation and humanitarian activities. In Afghanistan, for instance, our projects have been aimed at supporting women's access to healthcare and education. This focus will be accompanied i.a. by support to the participation of women's organisations in peace processes.

Finally, Estonia continues to actively support the implementation of resolution 1325 in the European Union, NATO as well as the OSCE.

Estonia's action plan is a common commitment taken by a broad range of stakeholders, including governmental institutions and civil society organisations. Its implementation will be jointly monitored on the basis of a set of indicators.

Mr President,

Estonia welcomes the steps to increase the coherence and accountability in implementing resolution 1325, including taking forward the set of indicators to track its implementation, and calls for their swift operationalisation. We further welcome the call for the development of a strategic framework to guide the UN's implementation of the resolution in the next decade, which would include concrete targets and indicators to ensure the consistency and systematic evaluation of this process. The establishment of a working group for the review of the progress made would, alongside a global set of indicators, also contribute to a more thorough analysis and the definition of further goals with regard to women, peace and security.

Estonia strongly condemns grave violations of the rights of women and girls, including targeted sexual violence and supports measures to combat impunity for these crimes. We support the call to include sexual violence as a priority element in resolutions mandating the SC Sanctions Committees, which should include sexual violence as a criterion for the designation of individuals for targeted measures.

Finally, let me note our appreciation of the work of Ms Margot Wallström, the Secretary General's Special Representative, and offer my congratulations to Under-Secretary General in charge of UN Women, Ms Michelle Bachelet, whose leadership as the Under-Secretary General in charge of UN Women will be of crucial importance to the implementation of resolution 1325, including the contribution of UN Women to the work of the Security Council on women, peace and security.

I would also like to refer to the vital role of the Civil Society Advisory Group in facilitating the discussions on the further implementation of resolution 1325, as well as the work of the Group of Friends of 1325 led by Canada.

Thank you.