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SECURITY COUNCIL
Open debate on SCRes 1325

STATEMENT

by

Mr. Wegger Chr. Strømme
Ambassador

New York, 28 October 2004

Mr. President,

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The Security Council's monitoring of the implementation of this resolution is an effective and important way of keeping the international community's attention focused on gender perspectives and on women's role in the area of peace and security.

- As of June 2004 women constituted one per cent of military personnel and five per cent of civilian police personnel assigned by Member States to serve in UN peacekeeping operations. These low figures indicate that we, the Member States, must do more to recruit women to national services in order for them to gain relevant work experience for international service.
- It is a tough challenge to increase the number of women in high-level decision-making positions in peacekeeping operations. Norway welcomes the efforts of DPKO to encourage female candidates to apply for peacekeeping operations. Last year DPKO established a gender focal point. We strongly support this decision. It is vital that DPKO now ensures that the gender adviser is instrumental in mainstreaming the gender dimension into all phases of peacekeeping operations, from the initial planning of new operations and throughout their implementation.
- The responsibility for mainstreaming the gender perspective rests with the leadership. This responsibility must be assumed by leadership at all levels – from this council to commanders in the field. According to the Secretary-General's report, only 15 per cent of the Security Council's resolutions adopted from January 2002 to June 2004 incorporated gender concerns. Is that good enough? We are convinced that gender mainstreaming is crucial to creating stability and lasting peace. We encourage the Security Council to pay increased attention to gender issues and the role of women in its work.
- Member States, together with the UN, should put even more effort into giving women a role in formal decision-making. This would be an important encouragement for more women to become involved at the informal level. Both women's and men's points of view need to be integrated into peace agreements. Sustainable peace can only be achieved if both women and men are listened to.
- It is vital to work in partnerships and enhance co-ordination in order to facilitate the implementation of Resolution 1325 at all levels. Women's groups and networks at the local level are crucial. It is essential to draw on the experience of NGOs and researchers, of formal and informal contacts, in order to identify women's views and needs in peace processes. Norway is doing its part. We are focusing on how to advocate women's recommendations for sustainable peace in areas where we are involved in conflict resolution. We do this through partnerships with networks at the local level, NGOs, researchers, individual states and various parts of the UN system.

- The real test of the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 will take place on the ground. We are therefore pleased to see that many parts of the UN system, including DPKO, funds and programmes and specialised agencies, are participating in the implementation of Resolution 1325. Their ability to find practical solutions and co-operate among themselves and with others is critical to achieving results. UNIFEM is making concerted efforts in this field, and we must ensure that it plays its mandated role as a catalyst in the UN system.
- According to the report, the peacekeeping and humanitarian areas have seen the most dramatic improvements in terms of new policies, gender expertise and training initiatives since 2002. We support the Secretary-General's suggestion to develop a comprehensive strategy and action plan for mainstreaming gender perspectives into peacekeeping efforts both at headquarters and in peacekeeping operations.

Thank you for your attention, Mr. President.