



NORWAY

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**Security Council
Open Debate on
1325 Women, Peace and Security**

S T A T E M E N T

B Y

**H.E. Mr. Johan L. Løvald
Ambassador
Permanent Representative**

NEW YORK, 27 OCTOBER 2005

President,

Norway welcomes the Secretary General's report including the system-wide action plan. The document serves as a welcome follow-up of the outcome of the Summit.

With the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, the Council affirmed its commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Much has been achieved with regard to gender mainstreaming. However, when it comes to peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation, much remains to be done to honour the commitments made. There has not been a great increase in women's participation in conflict resolution, and protection of women living in situations of armed conflict is still a great challenge.

President,

Despite the substantial efforts made by the UN following the reports of sexual abuse and exploitation by personnel in MONUC last year, this continues to be a problem. Sexual abuse and exploitation of civilians by peacekeepers is unacceptable. It undermines the credibility of the UN and erodes the moral stature of the organisation. The troop-contributing countries have a clear responsibility for the behaviour of their troops and must ensure that codes of conduct are enforced. Impunity for these serious acts of violence must end. Member States should make every effort to contribute to systematic pre-deployment gender training for military and police. We must help empowering local women and assist women's networks and organisations to conduct public information campaigns to combat the culture of abuse and silence.

We cannot put the entire responsibility on the troop-contributing countries. The full backing of the UN organisation, including the DPKO, is needed to reverse this negative trend. Norway has offered to finance a study for the DPKO on lessons learned and best practices regarding how effective implementation of a gender perspective can contribute to the success of a peace mission.

More importance should be attached to the gender advisers. Only 10 missions have a full-time gender advisory position, while what is needed is teams of gender specialists to support the gender advisers in dealing with the huge requirements and scope of programmes undertaken as part of the mission. Gender awareness must be recognised as the basis for the successful design and implementation of all post-conflict work.

To ensure that the gender perspective is systematically integrated in policies and recommendations to the Peacebuilding Commission, Norway would welcome the inclusion of a Senior Gender Adviser in the Peacebuilding Support Office.

President,

It is particularly important to improve the gender balance in peace missions. Norway supports the Swedish proposal that the observer categories participating in UN peace missions be expanded to include civilian observers. This would broaden the recruitment base and make a better gender balance in UN peace missions more achievable. The experience from mixed military and civilian Provincial Reconstruction Teams in ISAF can provide valuable input to the discussion on the inclusion of civilian observers in UN peace missions.

Norway welcomes the action plans on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 from each of the Peacekeeping Missions. It is crucial that the UN itself is a model for securing fair and balanced representation between the sexes at all levels. The under-representation of women in the UN Secretariat, in particular at senior level, is therefore a serious cause for concern.

Also important is the notion that incorporating a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations means ensuring that sex-disaggregated data are included in the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council. This is necessary to understand the reality experienced in the field by women, men, girls and boys.

Empowering women locally is an important part of building lasting peace and laying the foundations for development. Women are seriously under-represented in negotiations, in constitutional commissions and in political fora. Obviously, this is an important challenge for the Peacebuilding Commission.

President,

Enhancing political participation should be of highest priority. The UN must be at the forefront in promoting women's participation in electoral processes. While there are no international standards on quotas or targets for gender-representation, there is clear evidence that where quotas are applied, either voluntarily or by law, they are an effective way of securing women's representation. The trend seems to be that many countries receiving electoral assistance themselves decide to apply quotas for the representation of women. Norway is confident that the UN has the necessary competence for assisting countries in this respect.

Thank you.