



**NORWAY**

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Security Council.  
Women and Peace and Security.

STATEMENT  
BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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Mr. President,

Let me start by expressing my thanks to the Namibian Presidency for the initiative to hold this open meeting on Women and Peace and Security. Norway appreciates that these topics are being discussed in the Security Council.

A sustainable political process and enhancement of democracy requires full participation of women. Peace and the avoidance of armed conflict are inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development.

Women do not yet have the opportunity to participate on an equal basis with men in all areas and at all levels of public life, especially in decision- and policy-making. This is true also with regard to activities on peace building, peace making and conflict resolution. At the 23<sup>rd</sup> UN special session in June this year, "*Women 2000; Gender Equality, Development and Peace*", the topic on women, peace and security was among the areas where it was agreed that a strengthening of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was needed.

The special session stressed the need to ensure and support the full participation of women at all levels of decision-making and implementation in development activities and peace processes, including conflict prevention and resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building. Also, there is a requirement to support the involvement of women's organizations, community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations.

There is under-representation, at all levels, of women in decision-making positions, such as special envoys or special representatives of the Secretary-General, in peacekeeping, peace-building, post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction, as well as lack of gender awareness in these areas. We need better training of personnel dealing with the needs of women in situations of armed conflict or as refugees or internally displaced. There is also a shortage of specific programmes that address the healing of women from trauma. In this respect, more needs to be done.

There is now wider recognition that armed conflict has different destructive impacts on women and men and that a gender-sensitive approach to the application of international human rights law and international humanitarian law is important. Women's contribution in the areas of peace-building, peacemaking and conflict resolution have been increasingly recognized. Education and training in non-violent conflict resolution have been introduced. There is also greater recognition of the need to integrate a gender perspective in the planning, design and implementation of humanitarian assistance and to provide adequate resources to make this possible. Humanitarian relief agencies and civil society continue to play an increasingly important role in the provision of humanitarian assistance, including programmes to address the needs of women and girls.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that Norway will host an expert seminar on the situation of women in refugee camps, early next year.

Mr. President,

In the Brahimi report, the gender issues are in our view not sufficiently covered. There is need for a clearer focus on the role of women as a resource in the planning and implementation of peace processes. Also, the report is short with regard to the potential positive role of women and the impact of conflict on women and girls. It is therefore of utmost importance that the gender perspective should be strengthened in the follow-up to the report. We have, for too long, seen women as victims only. Women represent a resource that we can not afford to ignore. The report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Brahimi report seems to be a step in the right direction.

In June this year, a Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in multidimensional Peace Support Operations was adopted in Windhoek, Namibia. We view this plan as a good start for putting commitments already made by the UN into practice. The Plan of Action was a result of the study conducted by the Lessons Learned Unit of the Department for Peacekeeping Operations. A second phase of the study will identify the gender issues and dimensions that would need to be addressed in a specific peacekeeping context. We expect the outcomes of the study to be a practical instrument for full implementation of a gender perspective in all activities related to peace and post-war situations.

Mrs. Graca Machel's Review Document dealing with the impact on armed conflict on children and women is seen as an important contribution.

Norway has commissioned a study on women soldiers in post-conflict situations. We know that a number of women do participate actively in armed conflict, both as combatants and support staff. We need to know more about their role after the conflict, the problems they meet, and how their competence can be used in a constructive manner in a post-conflict situation.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Norway will continue to be committed to the issues of Women, Peace and Security. We must strive for full implementation of gender mainstreaming in all activities. Political will is the key, and it is our responsibility to see that we achieve these goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.