

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mr. Anders Lidén
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Open meeting in the Security Council on resolution 1325:
Women, peace and security

New York

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. President,

To enhance our collective capacity and determination to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and ending impunity is urgent. Observations from Sudan and elsewhere are as horrendous as they are clear. This debate and its focus on protecting women and girls from being victims of gender-based violence, including systematic rape and abduction, is as timely as it is necessary. We must ensure that women, on equal terms with men, have the opportunity to participate in all decision-making processes. Their capacity, experiences and influence are essential for equitable and sustainable solutions to armed conflict, for prevention of new conflicts, for the respect for human rights and for long-term development.

Mr. President,

We welcome the recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General, and call for their urgent implementation and adequate financing. Implementation is a shared responsibility – for member states, the UN system, NGOs, regional organisations and others.

In the statement just made on behalf of the EU, several recommendations were put forward. Let me offer some additional ideas:

Firstly, in regard to the question of women as actors, the Secretary-General could consider instructing UN mediators or facilitators to promote the inclusion of women in peace-processes and transitional decision making fora. A specific target of at least 30% women could be set where appropriate. Actions should be evaluated and followed up on.

Secondly, efforts must be redoubled for the protection and security of women and girls from gender-based violence and to end impunity:

- We should consider awareness raising and training that include the role of men and boys.
- Every effort should be made to prosecute perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including sexualized violence. The ICC should be further strengthened.
- Abused women must have an opportunity to interact with female members of a peace-keeping mission, but the ratio of women in such missions is however still very low. One possible idea, to be further explored, is to include civilian observers in military observer teams, which often constitute the only presence of a peace-keeping operation in certain areas. Civilian observers could facilitate a better gender balance and would also diversify the competence of the team, thereby strengthening its ability to fulfill its core tasks. Perhaps synergies could be found with the general civilian monitoring capacity that is now being developed within EU civilian crisis management.

Thirdly, accountability is lacking and resolution 1325 must be implemented in a systematic way. We would like to suggest the development of a comprehensive UN action plan, with specific timelines, resource implications, and clear targets and

responsibilities. In this context, the increase of female representation within the UN should be examined. The Security Council could consider designating a focal point, possibly supplemented by a working group, with a particular responsibility to monitor the work done. Another proposal is to establish a gender advisor in the DPA.

Fourthly, as member states we must take our responsibilities. Sweden has established a working group in the Swedish Government Offices, bringing together the security, defense and development communities, to continue the systematic implementation of resolution 1325. Resources for research and policy studies on resolution 1325-related issues have been augmented. We will develop a national plan of action and hope that other members join in these efforts and develop and report on their own plans.

Mr. President,

We must use all efforts to ensure that our commonly agreed objectives of full inclusion of women and enhanced protection from gender-based violence are translated into tangible progress. This has been achieved only when the daily lives of women and girls in conflict-stricken and transitional countries have improved. We have the opportunity and it is our common responsibility to make use of it. For that we need commitment, resources and firm political will.

Thank you, Mr. President.