

**Statement by**

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**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) – Identifying  
Progress and Closing Gaps**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Colleagues and Friends,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Panellists,**

**It is a pleasure for me to participate in this retreat and to make a  
presentation on the “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325  
(2000) – Identifying Progress and Closing Gaps.”**

**The adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 in 2000 was celebrated as an important milestone. For many years the specific situations, roles, needs and rights of women during and after armed conflict had remained unaddressed. Resolution 1325 (2000) finally recognized women's rights to protection from violence and to participation in all peace and security processes to prevent, manage, and resolve conflict. It has opened doors for women all over the world – it has shone limelight on the capabilities of women, their resilience and creativity in the face of disruption, chaos and tragedy.**

**Within the Security Council itself, resolution 1325 (2000) has led to the adoption of other key resolutions on women, peace and security, including resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) on sexual violence during conflict and 1889 (2009) which urges UN Member States and other relevant actors to take further measures to improve women's participation in all stages of peace processes.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is timely, as we prepare to commemorate the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) in October this year, to ask ourselves the important question – has real progress been made or is it just rhetoric?**

**The answer is simple – indeed some progress has been made, but much remains to be done.**

**The Security Council has remained actively engaged. It has held several open debates on women, peace and security, as well as Arria formula meetings to inform its work. The Council has issued Presidential Statements and adopted three other resolutions [1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009)] providing further policy direction and guidance. New measures to support women’s peace initiatives, including by meeting with women’s groups and networks during its field missions, have been undertaken.**

**The Security Council also called on the United Nations system to adopt a system-wide action plan to monitor implementation of the resolution and likewise requested Member States to adopt their own national action plans.**

**In the past decade, there has been a stronger acknowledgement of the differentiated impact of armed conflict on women and their contribution to**

**peace processes. At the international level initiatives on women and peace and security have increased, addressing in a more targeted way different aspects of the resolution such as violence against women and the need to end impunity for perpetrators, enhancing women’s participation in decision-making, especially in efforts related to peace and security and further clarifying and responding to the gender dimensions of conflict. The Council has introduced a gender perspective into country reporting.**

**At the United Nations, a number of countries formed the “Friends of 1325” a group that globally advocates the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and encourages other states to raise awareness of the resolution and to promote its implementation.<sup>1</sup>**

**At the regional level, a number of initiatives have been undertaken to support implementation. The European Union (EU) 1325 partnership, for example, brings together regional and national institutions, including the military, academia and NGOs, to enhance awareness and coordinate implementation efforts regionally. The African Union has partnered with the European Union to support African countries in their implementation efforts.**

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<sup>1</sup> Christine Binder, Karin Lukas, and Romana Schweiger. Empty Words or Real Achievement? The Impact of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women in Armed Conflicts. *Radical History Review*: Issue 101 (Spring 2008)

**At the national level, there is increased attention to women's participation in decision-making and peace processes which has created more opportunities for women and women's organizations to contribute to the prevention of conflict and to participate in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and peace negotiations. As of 30 June 2010, Rwanda held the world's highest representation of women in parliament with 56.3 per cent women in the lower or single house and 34.6 per cent in the upper house or Senate. Governments are increasingly supporting initiatives to enhance participation by women in efforts to maintain and consolidate peace, including at all decision-making levels.**

**An increasing number of countries are developing national action plans on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) to guide implementation through the prioritization and coordination of strategies and activities. As of 1 August 2010, 18 countries had adopted national action plans and several countries were in the process of formulating such plans.**

**Some countries have integrated strategies and actions on women, peace and security into existing national policies and strategies on gender equality. For example, in Germany women in armed conflict and their role in conflict management is one of the key issues covered in the Gender Action Plan 2009-**

**2012 of the Federal Ministry for Economic cooperation and Development. It comprises measures to support women's groups and networks whose work promotes peace and non-violent conflict resolution, the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and the deployment of female gender advisors and human rights observers in peace missions. In Namibia, resolution 1325 (2000) is mainstreamed in the revised National Gender Policy.**

**In a number of countries dedicated mechanisms, such as inter-agency working groups, observatories and networks, have been established to support and monitor the implementation of national strategies and actions on women, peace and security. An example is Argentina where the Ministry of Defence created a working group for the diagnosis and analysis of measures and actions for the effective implementation of the gender perspective in the field of defence and in the context of International Peacekeeping Operations. Sweden's "Genderforce" brings together government agencies and NGOs to develop common approaches on how to implement resolution 1325 (2000) focusing on issues such as training and planning for international missions.**

**In response to the Security Council, the UN System adopted a system-wide action plan for 2005-2007 which was further refined following an evaluation, leading to a results-based new plan for 2008-2009. Moreover,**

**entities, individually and in partnerships, have undertaken over 1000 activities in support of Member States' implementation efforts. They have devoted resources and time on training, capacity development and awareness-raising. Publications, tools and materials have been produced to guide and support the implementation of the resolution.**

**Through advocacy and targeting of police and military, the number of women peacekeepers in those units has increased. Currently women constitute 9 per cent of the UN police and 4.2 per cent of military experts and 2.3 per cent of troops. A dedicated unit of women police officers provided by India for the UN Mission in Liberia has served as a role model. Other police contributing countries are considering its emulation. The United Nations Mine Action service has been relentless in ensuring that mine action programmes have an equal impact on women, men, boys and girls. Perhaps more importantly they have aided in the transformation of women's views about their roles. Afghanistan is a case in point.**

**Civil society continues to play a vital role in highlighting the role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts. NGOs have also undertaken awareness-raising and advocacy efforts on Security Council resolution 1325**

**(2000). They organize workshops and conferences as well as disseminate information and research on women, peace and security.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**While we must acknowledge this progress, yet we must also admit that it is modest and proceeding at an extremely slow pace. A critical analysis points to the following:**

- Although the resolution recognizes the role of a wide range of stakeholders in following up on implementation, the Security Council has given disproportionate attention to the UN system activities, for example, the System-wide Action Plan. As a result, the importance of the activities of Member States, civil society and others has been somewhat minimized.**
- While it is evident that a lot of effort went into the elaboration of the resolution, a strategic and focused plan for its implementation is still lacking.**
- The UN System-wide Action Plan has not succeeded in generating enhanced collaboration both in terms of resource mobilization and planned activities. It has primarily served as a template for collating activities.**



- **No single mechanism exists to hold Member States and entities accountable for results.**
- **Frustration at the slow pace of progress has led to singling out certain aspects of the resolution for specific focus. This is contrary to the comprehensive approach of the resolution itself and has the risk of relegating other aspects to lower levels of importance. There is also a risk of fragmentation in resources as new mechanisms or actors are created for these focused areas.**
- **The availability of resources remains unaddressed and presents a challenge at both national and the international levels.**
- **Lack of data disaggregated by sex and indicators to assess progress has stymied attempts to track performance.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**So what is needed to redress this situation?**

**First, a holistic approach should be adopted by the Council to avoid fragmentation, duplication and ensure maximization of resources.**

**Second**, a clear framework containing a set of achievable goals within specific timeframe, and with measurable indicators, should be established to ensure a coordinated and concerted implementation.

**Third**, provision of resources to Member States' implementation is critical especially in an environment of financial and economic melt down coupled with other crises and emergencies.

**Fourth**, an accountability framework must be established to provide for regular monitoring and reporting.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Let me make a specific and bold recommendation. It is essential to establish an MDG-like framework for women, peace and security. A few specific goals with associated targets and indicators are needed. These must be set within a timeframe – perhaps ten years. And, like the MDGs, a system of regular review must be put in place to assess progress and constraints and any needs that might arise to fine tune the approach.**

**This would be a practical and tested approach to addressing the many constraints that have slowed progress in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) in the past decade.**

**Within the Secretariat, a process has already begun to identify an Agenda for 2010 and Beyond. The process seeks to reach consensus on a few key areas that should be targeted in the next decade of implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This could lay a foundation for identifying specific women, peace and security goals for this new framework.**

**I thank you for your attention.**

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