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Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden

Swedish views on resolution 69/61 on Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (2014)

Sweden would like to thank the UNODA for the possibility to comment on resolution 69/61 on Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Sweden is a firm supporter of the aims of resolution 69/61, making important connections between issues of gender equality and policies for disarmament and arms control. Such links are often neglected and resolution 69/61 plays an important role in raising awareness of the need to apply a gender perspective in the work on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Sweden pursues a feminist foreign policy and is implementing systematic gender mainstreaming throughout the foreign policy agenda, not least in peace and security efforts.

When it comes to the disarmament and non-proliferation area, Sweden promotes equal participation of women and men in disarmament discussions and negotiations. This includes the representation of women in international organisations, such as the IAEA, CTBTO and OPCW.

Sweden has consistently stressed that the equal participation of men and women in disarmament analyses, delegations, discussions and decisions increases the legitimacy, quality and effectiveness of disarmament agreements. Sweden has also worked with partners to highlight the effects of nuclear weapons on women and girls.

In line with the 2015 Report of the Secretary-General on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Sweden would like to highlight the gendered nature of armed violence and conflict. A gender sensitive perspective

should therefore inform policies and programmes on conflict prevention and arms control. This includes recognition of the fact that women are not just victims, but also perpetrators and facilitators of armed violence.

Policies and programmes on arms control need to be gender mainstreamed. Sweden would like to encourage more research on gendered aspects of armed violence, including gender disaggregated data collection on the different impacts of armed violence on women and men, girls and boys. In this regard, Sweden would specifically like to highlight the important work of Small Arms Survey.

A gender perspective should be integrated in the implementation of international instruments on small arms control, including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the UN Programme of Action (PoA). Sweden encourages states to accede to the ATT and to live up to the obligations of Article 7.4 on gender-based violence.