

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security**  
**28<sup>th</sup> of October 2011, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by H.E. Ms. Eirini Lemos-Maniati, Representative of NATO*

Madam President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today and to represent NATO in this important debate.

NATO's approach towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is firmly anchored within the framework of building and maintaining sustainable peace and security. With over 100,000 men and women currently engaged in operations from Afghanistan to the Western Balkans, NATO has made clear that the involvement of women in operations is crucial if we want to establish relationships and trust with civil society.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, which was celebrated last year, provided a catalyst for further initiatives and an impetus for continued high-level engagement. For NATO, this was highlighted at the Lisbon Summit Meeting of November 2010, when Allied Heads of State and Government renewed their political commitment to UNSCR 1325 and, at the same time, endorsed both a comprehensive report on the implementation of Alliance policy and a NATO Action Plan on Mainstreaming UNSCR 1325 into NATO-led operations and missions. Both documents have guided our work in 2011, setting out a number of concrete goals, such as improving gender balance at senior level in NATO-led operations and missions and encouraging Nations to include gender perspective in their national training initiatives, to be achieved by clearly-defined deadlines. In our efforts to mainstream 1325 in NATO-led operations and missions, we have also added an initial set of indicators, making further progress more easily measurable.

On the ground, our efforts have led to the creation and filling of gender-related positions in our operations from Afghanistan to the Western Balkans. Since 2009, when the first military gender advisers were deployed to ISAF Headquarters in Afghanistan, we have seen a significant increase in the number of gender-related positions in NATO-led operations and missions. Even more important, the gender perspective is increasingly becoming an integral part of all our operational planning.

In the field of education and training, gender-perspective modules have now been included in most of NATO's pre-deployment training efforts. This is an area where we feel we can benefit from the experience of other international organisations and we are thus pleased to be contributing to a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project aimed at Supporting Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans. We hope that this, and similar cooperation which we have already begun with the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, will continue and deepen over the course of the coming year.

We have also continued to support women's networks – especially from Afghanistan – which play a key role in the development of governance and social and economic development and we are also actively engaged in training women as part of local forces.

Madam President,

As we look ahead, we know that we need to do more and we will continue our efforts to mainstream UNSCR 1325 in our operations, to develop education and training in civilian and military frameworks, to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices, and to encourage nations to promote the participation of women in their armed forces.

In so doing, we strive to continue our work of making the principles of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions an integral part of the everyday business of NATO.

I thank you Madam President.