



PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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INTERVENTION BY

**THE MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
OF THE KINGDOM
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H.E. MRS. AGNES VAN ARDENNE-VAN DER HOEVEN

'WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY'

open debate in the Security Council

NEW YORK, 29 OCTOBER 2003

check against delivery

Mr President,

Resolution 1325 [thirteen twenty-five] is the framework for Dutch policy on women, peace and security. As I see it, the great advantage of "1325" is that it presents women not simply as victims, but also as active agents in conflict resolution. We know that peace is more likely to last if all parties, men and women, work together to achieve it. Sadly, three years on, women are still hardly involved in efforts to resolve conflicts.

Mr President,

It's good that we celebrate the anniversary of this resolution every year. But it's also up to us to make sure that there is something to celebrate.

Gender must be part of the Security Council's day-to-day business. It must inform the analyses you make and the decisions you take. The recent resolution on Liberia, which refers to and also builds on "1325", is a good example of how things can be done, but unfortunately seldom are. It's good that NGOs keep up the pressure. It's often thanks to them that the voice of women reaches the Council.

We, the member states, need to do a number of things. We must always ask for feedback from the Secretary-General's special representatives and also in reports to the Security Council. We must put forward women candidates for key posts like Special Representative. We must see to it that we strengthen the position of women and give more thought to them in peace and security operations. The same applies to disarmament campaigns and mine clearance, from which women are the first to benefit. Finally, we must learn from one another's experiences in the field through better co-operation and communication.

Mr President,

Last year my Government commissioned a study into "Women's roles in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction". I can recommend this analysis, which sheds light on the complex role women play in conflict and post-conflict situations. We used it to evaluate and strengthen Dutch activities.

One result is that we are now investing in a better balance of men and women in the Dutch armed forces. And we train them better to protect women and girls in warfare and involve women in peace-making.

We are trying to get aid agencies to do the same, so that women and girls in refugee camps and elsewhere will be better protected.

We are now providing more active support to women's groups taking part in peace talks, like in Sudan last year. Because we have seen that this can make peace more durable. In Afghanistan and Iraq, too, we are calling attention to the role of women in the difficult process of reconstruction.

Mr President,

In its new "Stability Fund", the Netherlands has pooled ODA and non-ODA funds. The aim is to respond more flexibly to security and stability issues, laying a basis for reconstruction and development. We must shake off our endless institutional concerns. Instead we have to focus on the needs and potential of both men and women trying to rebuild their lives and countries. Their suffering in the Great Lakes, Horn of Africa, and the Middle East calls for new solutions. We owe it to them.

Thank you.