

SWEDEN



STATEMENT

by

H. E. Mr Frank Belfrage, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

at

the Ministerial Level Open Debate on Women Peace and Security
in the Security Council

United Nations
New York

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- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr President

I would like to thank The Republic of Uganda for ensuring that the 10 year anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 has been given a very prominent part of this month's Security Council agenda.

During the "1325 Call to Action-meeting" a month ago, governments from all corners of the world demonstrated their support and their conviction that women have a central role to play in achieving a durable peace in conflict regions.

So far around 20 countries have adopted a National Action Plan for 1325 and we were happy to note the intentions from many more countries to adopt and implement such plans. We heard inspiring examples of transnational cooperation to share experience and knowledge with those whose plans are still in progress. Many of us also emphasized the importance of including civil society and women's groups in such processes and other work.

Four years ago, Sweden presented its first National Action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325. Today, we are in the process of implementing our second National Action plan for the period 2009-2012. It permeates our security and development policies and makes 1325 a special focus in our crisis management, in our humanitarian assistance and in our development cooperation with countries in conflict- and post conflict.

A concrete example is the upcoming appointment of a special ambassador for the work of implementing UNSCR 1325. Other concrete examples from the field include Sudan, where Sweden is contributing some 45 million SEK, via UNIFEM, to a variety of organisations promoting women's role and participation. Sweden also contributes to UNIFEM in Afghanistan with some 62 million SEK, including for support to the Afghan National Action Plan for Women. Additional contributions are directed to the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, and their programmes for girls. We have also been active strengthening the gender perspective in EU crisis management, for example we have sent gender advisers/focal points to EU-missions (such as EULEX/Kosovo, EUSEC/EUPOL/DRC and EUMM/Georgia).

We welcome the Security Council's request to the Secretary General, to provide a single coherent framework based on the set of indicators, aimed at tracking the implementation of resolution 1325. It is time to make sure that we, the Member States can be held accountable to our commitments.

Mr President

Sweden welcomes the new UN entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and we congratulate its first Executive Director: Mrs Michelle Bachelet. Sweden will support her coming efforts in a substantial manner, both financially and politically.

Civil society and participation of women's groups play an important role. Women's groups help empower women so that the voices of women in conflict areas are heard and can influence the work to achieve peace. They conduct research on women's roles

in conflict, they alarm us of tragedies and report to us on progress, and provide expertise.

Sweden is grateful for the valuable work of such groups and acknowledges the need for a wider cooperation with civil society at all levels. We would encourage UN Women to show the leadership necessary to facilitate a wide inclusion of women's organisations in the work of the United Nations and our collective ambition to achieve durable peace and an equitable and sustainable global development.

Mr President

The Secretary General's report shows once again, that enhancing women's participation is an efficient method to achieve security and development for local communities as a whole. Given the importance of having women in leading positions we would strongly encourage the appointment of more female Special Representatives and deputies of missions. We welcome the targeted efforts to train and deploy more female mediators.

We welcome the efforts of the senior Police Adviser of the DPKO, including her struggle to increase the number of female police officers in peace keeping operations since this also responds to operational needs on the ground. Sweden is committed to continuing to sustain at least the same proportion of female police officers in peace keeping operations as in the National Police Service.

Finally, I would also like to emphasize the work being done by SRSG Wallström and her office on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The SRSG's work is of outstanding importance and the results in the next few years will be an important indicator of the international community's ability to address the structural violence that is directed towards women.

Thank You