

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

*Statement by H.E. Mr. Paul Seger, Representative of Switzerland*

Ms President,

Last year, when we were assembled in this very room to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325, I have told you about an encounter with peace women in Burundi, whose peaceful demonstrations have had a significant impact in limiting the violence in the course of the elections. I am very happy that these women's commitment to peace was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the recipients Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakul Karman and all the peace women they represent. The events related to the Arabic Spring have shown the load-bearing role of women and how urgent it is to include them in the shaping of their governments and its policies.

This is why we would like to thank the Nigerian presidency for choosing "women's participation" for this year's open debate. This important aspect of Resolution 1325 lies at the core of the Swiss foreign policy goals. Our National Action Plan to implement Resolution 1325 includes specific measures to gender mainstream our mediation program. For example, we strive for a balanced participation of women and men in our government's annual peace mediation training courses. UN staff regularly participates in these courses. Further, our mediators take account of gender specific aspects; and lastly – although it remains a challenge – we actively promote women as mediators.

Ms President,

It is my honour to make the following remarks on behalf of the Human Security Network, namely Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, Slovenia and South Africa as an observer. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that advocates a people-centred, holistic approach to security, which complements the more traditional understanding of national and international security.

On the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of resolution 1325, much could be achieved in the normative and institutional area, so that the Security Council disposes of an adequate set of instruments for time-bound and measureable action in order to bring forward the resolution 1325 agenda: UN Women was created and has issued a first strategic plan for its work; an initial set of indicators on resolution 1325 was created and the indicators were applied in the Strategic Results Framework. We believe that the Strategic Results Framework is a useful tool and we are hopeful that the targets set in there can be achieved with concerted action. However, we conclude in a rather sober assessment that those achievements are still not matched with the necessary political will.

The Human Security Network encourages the Security Council to continue its efforts to meet its women, peace and security obligations, in particular by means of - issuing concrete

instructions in resolutions to mandate or renew UN Peacekeeping Missions - a practice that was positively mentioned and encouraged in the report of the Secretary-General; - regular encounters with women stakeholders during missions; and - frequent exchange with UN Women and the Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflicts.

I now return to speaking in my national capacity. We would like to draw the attention of the members of the Security Council to the Monthly Action Points of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, and the Handbook of Peacewomen, both supported by Switzerland and Liechtenstein. These two instruments are now available also as an iPhone Application. They are, in our view, excellent tools to support the gender mainstreaming policy in the context of the Security Council and we encourage you to make use of them.

Ms President,

This year's report of the Secretary-General shows it as well: increased participation of women in peace promotion remains a challenge. Capacity building exercises of women mediators are ongoing in different parts of the world to provide for a stock of well-prepared women to be involved in future peace talks. To be mentioned are, for example, training activities by Swisspeace in West Africa with UNOWA and UN Women and Kirgizstan with UN Women. However, our experience shows that it is not enough to train women as mediators. The Security Council as well as Member States need to put in place strategies to facilitate the active involvement of women and women's rights in peace processes, including by the inclusion of women mediators and by ensuring that women's rights are integrated into peace agreements.

Switzerland is committed to continuing its efforts down this path, namely by its National Action Plan, its strategic partnership with the UN and specific civil society organizations here in New York as well as in the field – and, I hope, in close cooperation with the members of the Council and the rest of the Member States.

Thank you