



PERMANENT DELEGATION  
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING  
1 OCTOBER 2007

NORWEGIAN STATEMENT FOR WORKING SESSION 11  
GENDER ASPECTS OF SECURITY II  
SENIOR ADVISOR BIRGIT KLEVEN

Madame Moderator,

Norway is a strong advocate of gender equality and women's rights and the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security is the single most important in this regard. It represents a watershed, recognising the crucial need to consider gender impacts and the need to include women at all levels of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction. Issues of security have, overwhelmingly, been the area of men, while women are disproportionately affected by security break-downs. Rape as a weapon of war and other atrocious violations of women's human rights and dignity needs to be tackled much more forcefully than has so far been the case Sustainable peace and effective reconstruction stands a much better chance if it includes the whole of society.

The participating states are responsible for implementing the resolution. Norway was the first country to adopt an Action Plan for the implementation of 1325, and it is an essential part of our efforts to promote international peace and security. Norway will continue to advocate the follow-up of the Resolution in all relevant forums, including the OSCE.

It is however important to keep in mind that violence against women will not end unless we succeed in mobilising men as allies in the struggle for a just and equitable future.

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC), has ever since its adoption in 1994, been a document at the very heart of the OSCE's politico-military dimension, as well as of the OSCE as a whole.

It is important to reflect the resolution in all relevant areas. Bearing in mind the fact that there is no consensus among participating states on reviewing or "opening" the Code or its Questionnaire, we propose that the reply to the Questionnaire should be expanded to also include information regarding implementation of UNSCR 1325 at a national level.

The OSCE has taken significant steps to end gender discrimination within its own ranks with the Action Plan being an excellent starting-point. The OSCE aims to mainstream gender perspectives into all its activities, policies, projects and programmes. We need a strong commitment from the organisation and the participating states in order to achieve this.

Successful gender mainstreaming requires that sufficient resources- financial, human capacity and competence- are provided. To efficiently mainstream the gender perspective, the OSCE and its member states need to consider gender aspects in all decisions made. Unfortunately, women and men are not equally represented in decision-making processes, especially in security related matters.

The principle of gender mainstreaming needs to be complemented by a strategy for gender balance at all levels of the OSCE and in all processes relating to security, peace and reconciliation which is in accordance with the UNSC Resolution 1325.

Madame Moderator,

Achieving true gender-equality is paramount to reaching the millennium development goals. In addition to our Action Plan, Norway has pledged USD 35 million to new initiatives promoting gender equality. Furthermore, an additional USD 23 million has been ear-marked measures targeting women and gender equality in humanitarian assistance, human rights, peace and reconciliation. Moreover, Norway has appointed an Ambassador to deal with women's issues and gender equality. Norway has also launched an Action Plan against trafficking and donated USD 6 million to a joint UNICEF/UNFPA Trust Fund in this regard.

I look forward to hearing other examples and to a stimulating session.

Thank you Madame. Moderator