



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO STATE SECRETARY DR. RALF KLEINDIEK

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 10 March 2016

Mr Chairman,

I join other speakers in welcoming State Secretary Kleindiek to the Permanent Council. We welcome this opportunity to discuss the important issue of gender equality with the Chairmanship.

Mr Chairman,

Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related resolutions is a priority for my government. Ensuring that the rights and needs of both women and men are addressed in all peace and security efforts is at the heart of this endeavour.

But we are missing the point if we believe that the 1325 agenda is a matter of women's rights solely. It is not, inclusion is about sustainability. It is about dealing with the whole range of challenges and possible solutions. We know that peace processes that genuinely include women, are more likely to lead to an agreement, and more likely to last.

We are also, Mr. Chairman, strongly committed to preventing and combatting sexual violence in conflict. This includes addressing the challenge of impunity.

Mr Chairman,

We should ask what implications this has for conflict resolution in which the OSCE is involved. The Secretary-General has urged participating States to provide more female candidates to the SMM. This is commendable, but only a first step. The SMM should strengthen the gender perspective in its work and reporting. Engaging women, including women's organisations, is important in the mission's activities. Gender issues must also be part of the general training for all monitors.

I take this opportunity to reiterate a point I have made earlier, namely that the SMM should more systematically address human rights issues in their work.

Mr Chairman,

Last year my government presented our new National Action Plan for women, peace and security for 2015-2018. We have identified four priority areas for our efforts:

The first of these areas is that peace processes and negotiations must involve both women and men, and peace agreements must address the rights, needs and priorities of both women and men.

The second point is that women's and men's security and rights must be taken into account in all aspects of international operations.

Third point is that peacebuilding processes must increase women's economic and political freedom and influence.

And finally, Norway's efforts in response to humanitarian crises must safeguard the rights of both men and women.

The basic idea underlying the Action Plan is that women are stakeholders, not just victims in conflict situations.

Mr Chairman,

We regret that we have not yet reached consensus on the addendum to the OSCE Gender Action Plan. The Action Plan needs updating and I'd like to echo State Secretary Kleindiek who in his introduction appealed to delegations to find a compromise on the outstanding issue.

Mr Chairman,

Gender equality is important not only for women, but to ensure a society based on inclusion, democratic participation and non-discrimination. This will give the best opportunities for both men and women and create strong and prosperous societies. We welcome the MenEngage Network and its active efforts to involve men in creating this society.

Chairman, since I have a few seconds left of my speaking time, I would like to make a comment on the statement made by my distinguished Russian colleague.

I recognized a new twist to his arguments today, namely a reference to "aggressive neoliberalism" – in the west I suppose – which according to my Russian colleague stands in contradiction with the so called traditional and family friendly values.

I am not sure I fully understand the point my Russian colleague is attempting to make, but I suppose the point is that more needs to be done to protect the family in the Russian Federation itself, since, for example, more marriages are dissolved and more abortions take place in the Russian Federation than in most other OSCE participating states.

Thank you.