



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 this important issue 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 part of this effort. But we are missing the point if we believe this agenda is a matter of women's rights solely. Because it is not, inclusion is about sustainability. Women's perspectives are about deepening our common understanding. 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.

Norway is also 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 that the OSCE is involved in. 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 must include a gender perspective in its work and reporting. We have encouraged the SMM to address human rights issues more in their work. 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.

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:

1. 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.
2. Women's and men's security and rights must be taken into account in all aspects of international operations.
3. Peacebuilding processes must increase women's economic and political freedom and influence.
4. 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 have taken part in negotiations on the Addendum to the OSCE Gender Action Plan and regret that it has not yet been possible to reach consensus on this. We believe the Action Plan needs updating and hope we will be able to agree on strengthened OSCE commitments.

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. We welcome the MenEngage Network and its active efforts to involve men in creating this society.

Thank you, Mr Chairman