**International conference on women, peace and security: Strengthening Women’s Role in Building and Sustaining Peace: from Commitments to Results**

**Ha Noi, December 7th – 9th, 2020**

***Innlegg til konferansens dag 2, 8. desember 2020, 12:30 – 14:00 CET/ norsk tid***

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| **18:30 – 20:00** | **PLENARY SESSION 2**  **DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL ACTION PLANS:**  **SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES FROM SELECTED COUNTRIES** |
| Moderator | ***H.E Wendy Mathews, Ambassador of New Zealand to Viet Nam*** |
| *Speakers* | ***Keynote speakers:***  ***H.E. Mr Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Foreign Affairs****, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland*  ***H.E. Ms Martha Delgado Peralta, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights****, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico*  ***H.E. Åsa Charlotte Regnér, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women***  ***Panel discussion***  • **Norway – H.E Marte Ziolkowski,** State Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs  • **Afghanistan** – **Ms. Zarqa Yaftali**, Head of the Women and Children Legal Research Foundation  • **Sierra Leone** – **Mr Charles Vandi**, Director of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare  • **Bangladesh** – **Professor Meghna Guhathakurta**, Member of the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh and lead consultant supporting the government working group to develop the NAP.  • **Chile – an official**  • **Poland/Global - Ms. Agnieszka Fal Dutra-Santos,** Global Network of Women Peacebuilders  Email: agnieszka@gnwp.org  *Panelists share their country and regional experiences of developing and implementing National Action Plans on implementation of UNSCR 1325.* |

Excellencies, fellow panellists, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you this afternoon from Oslo. I would like to thank Vietnam and the UN for hosting this international conference.

Vietnam has shown a strong commitment to the women, peace and security agenda and has been making its mark as a member of the UN Security Council and as chair of ASEAN 2020. Norway is looking forward to cooperating with Vietnam on this agenda next year when both countries are serving on the Security Council.

In this session, we are taking a close look at the role of National Action Plans in moving the women, peace and security agenda forward. I would like to make three points about the importance of these plans, and illustrate each point by sharing some of Norway’s experience in this area.

Firstly, the plans are important because **they focus our efforts**. Two years ago, we adopted the fourth Norwegian national action plan on women, peace and security. It was launched by five ministers, underscoring the strong commitment of the Government and the active engagement of these five ministries.

One of the trends we had observed during the periods covered by the first three plans was that our plans were expanding thematically. We therefore found it important to define a primary focus for the fourth plan, to avoid ending up without any focus at all. We have identified **four priority areas,** all closely linked to Norway’s peace and security efforts. These four areas are **support for peace and reconciliation processes, implementation of peace agreements, peace operations** and **humanitarian response.**

The new plan highlights our commitment to work to promote women’s rights and participation from the **early phases of peace initiatives** right **through to after a peace agreement has been signed**. In practice, this means that a gender perspective must be integrated in conflict analyses, women must be consulted early on, and we must maintain the same focus during the implementation of agreements.

Plans are needed, but for them to be realised, they must be practical. This is why we have developed implementation tools such as Norway’s guidelines for the Foreign Service. Each mediation team has been instructed to draw up its own basic strategic plan for how it will promote women’s participation and rights in its work.

My second point is that plans are vital because **they involve key partners.** In Norway, we have cooperated closely with civil society and academia in developing our national action plans and in the follow-up. We consult both civil society partners in priority countries for efforts relating to the women, peace and security agenda and partners within the UN. These partners provide an independent voice and a variety of perspectives, and often raise important questions. They point out shortcomings in our plans and suggest improvements.

This leads me to my third point – **accountability**. Through evaluations of our work and annual reports on implementation, we are held accountable and can correct our course as needed. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation enable us to learn more systematically from our mistakes and successes alike. This system of accountability also shows others what we are doing well and where we need to do more.

In closing, I would like to reiterate Norway’s commitment to work to promote women’s rights and inclusion when we take our seat as an elected member of the Security Council in January. We will draw on our extensive experience of peace and reconciliation efforts.

We will do our utmost to move this agenda forward by contributing to reports and taking part in field visits and by working with the other members of the Council to develop mandates, resolutions and presidential statements. Because mandates and resolutions have an impact on the ground. We look forward to working with Vietnam, and a range of other good forces, to ensure that the peace we build is lasting and benefits both women and men.

Thank you.