



10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325
**Ensuring Women's Participation
in Peace and Security**

Egmont Palace, Brussels, 9th of September 2010

Concept Note

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Steven Vanackere will be co-hosting the Brussels Conference on “10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Ensuring women's participation in Peace and Security” on Thursday 9 September 2010.

Context

In 2010, the international community celebrates the 10th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This resolution acknowledged for the first time the importance of gender in processes of peace building, peace keeping and conflict resolution. Three new UN resolutions on women, peace and security have been adopted since (resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889), putting the emphasis on the fight against sexual violence and the need for concrete action in combination with targeted sanctions.

Women continue to be largely marginalized in peace negotiations and their potential is not fully used in peace building and post-conflict reconstruction processes. Moreover, consistent reports on acts of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict areas are being brought to the attention of the international community. In his latest report to the Security Council, the Secretary-General noted that, while the United Nations system and civil society have made some important progress towards developing and pursuing more comprehensive approaches towards the full implementation of Resolution 1325, a visible gap remained between policies and their effective implementation.

Many countries worldwide, including nine EU member states have adopted National Action Plans which aim at implementing the UN resolutions in their national policies. Without a doubt, these plans have increased the ownership and the responsibility of states to take position in this matter. Moreover, the “EU Comprehensive Approach on Women, Peace and Security” complements efforts of Member States at the EU-wide level.

The 10th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 is one of the most awaited events in 2010 by national parliaments, public opinion and non-governmental organizations alike. A debate at ministerial level will most likely be organized in the Security Council in New York in October 2010 in order to examine ways to further enhance the impact of Resolution 1325.

The EU is committed to seize the momentum of the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325. In particular the EU and Belgium will organize three events, respectively in Brussels, Geneva and New York, around the three pillars of resolution 1325: participation, protection, and prevention. The objective of these events is to gather a set of recommendations that will represent the EU contribution to the UN events to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325.

The event taking place in Brussels will be devoted to the issue of women's participation.

Format and participants

The event will be held at the Egmont Palace in Brussels, starting at 9:00 a.m.

We envisage the Brussels Conference as a high-level forum to promote the sharing of experiences on the issue of women's participation in peace and security worldwide. A specific emphasis will be given to the role that the UN, the EU and its Member States play in this domain.

EU member states and like-minded countries, relevant United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations, representatives of civil society and prominent think tanks will be invited to attend the event. Active participation by all is encouraged. An audience of around 400 is expected.

The working language is English, and simultaneous interpretation English/French/Dutch will be provided.

Contacts

For all matters related to the conference, please contact:

- Katelijn De Nijs, Political advisor at the Belgian Foreign Office (Katelijn.denijs@diplobel.fed.be or +32 2 501 40 44)
- Davide Zaru, gender focal point, DG External Relations, European Commission (davide.zaru@ec.europa.eu or +32 2 29 87034)
- Kati Leinonen, gender focal point, Council Secretariat (katariina.leinonen@consilium.europa.eu, +32 2 281 8179)

Registration

Participation is by invitation only.

You can send your application to 10yearsof1325@diplobel.fed.be