



**United Kingdom
Delegation**

To the Organisation for Security and
Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
Vienna

**OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING, 24 SEPTEMBER – 5
OCTOBER 2007, WARSAW**

WORKING SESSION 11: GENDER ASPECTS OF SECURITY II – UNSCR 1325

UK STATEMENT

The UK fully supports the EU statement delivered by Ireland; and we're glad to be able to take this opportunity to share some of our experience of implementing Resolution 1325.

The UK was a driving force behind the adoption of Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000. This was a significant step forward, promising to protect women's rights across the globe, and to remove the barriers which prevent equal participation in decision-making on security issues. It also seeks to ensure that women's perspectives are considered in all aspects of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance and post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

We have made some progress as a result. UN agencies have taken clear steps to implement a range of measures in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) missions. And it is praiseworthy that other international organisations - such as the EU and OSCE – have followed suit.

But it is important that governments take action themselves. That is why the UK put forward, in 2004, the proposal that UN Member States should develop their own National Action Plans. We believe this will ensure that the principles of Resolution 1325 are translated into reality on the ground. Action plans or national implementation strategies can ensure that we are all making a systematic sustained effort. They can also ensure that institutions as a whole, and individuals within those institutions, understand the importance of the Resolution and are actively working towards its implementation.

As part of our commitment to UNSCR 1325, the UK developed a National Action Plan on women, peace and security in March last year. The Plan brings together several government departments, which means that we are able to take a comprehensive approach that has the approval and understanding of the wider government community. We drew this up with the help of NGOs and Parliamentarians – who help to keep us to our side of the bargain by asking parliamentary questions, or chasing progress in regular meetings.

We believe that it is essential to the success of any such Action Plan that from the beginning it has the input and support of all those concerned: government departments and civil society. Civil society is an important voice, not only through encouraging governments to take action but also through the sharing of expertise, knowledge and advice. Civil society works on the frontline

and has the unique ability to provide governments with the in-depth knowledge they need to ensure the successful and appropriate implementation of Resolution 1325.

We believe that a National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 helps to ensure that existing policies and programmes take full account of the Resolution. It enables assessment of existing practices and the determining of what more must be done. It provides a clearly laid out and systematic approach that all government departments can use as a starting point for their work.

The UK Action Plan links development, humanitarian, defence and diplomacy work, all important to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. It consists of 12 broad areas of activity and sub-action points, including several actions shared across more than one government department. It's a living document which we will add to over time. To mention a few examples of what we are doing: we are working to raise awareness of gender in all Security Council work by ensuring it is referred to in relevant resolutions and peacekeeping mandates. And we are supporting practical implementation on the ground - the UK has provided funds for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to establish a virtual resource centre for those who are carrying out this work. We also work to deploy UK female military and police personnel in peace operations and fund a range of projects through our Global and Africa Conflict Prevention Pool funding. For example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we have supported the Electoral Commission and women's organisations towards the full participation of women in the political process.

We have a long way to go before women - one half of our world - achieve a truly equal stake in ensuring their own security, and can fully contribute to a more peaceful world. We are confident that the OSCE, as a regional security organisation, can continue to take forward the many important ideas contained in 1325 and look forward to hearing the views of others on this subject during this Working Session.

(If asked: our Plan is available via the Foreign & Commonwealth Office website www.fco.gov.uk, by clicking on "International Priorities", then "Conflict Prevention" and finally "Women, Peace and Security".)