



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Intervention by H.E. Philippe KRIDELKA, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative to the UN,
at the
**United Nations Security Council Open Debate on Women,
Peace and Security: "Women Peace and Security: Towards
the 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325"**

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New York, 07/03/23

Madame President,
Madame Executive Director,
Madame President,
Madame Special Envoy
Excellencies and Colleagues,

At the outset, let me highlight that Belgium fully supports the statements of the European Union and the Group of Friends on Women, Peace and Security.

Madame President,

Thank you for initiating this open debate, allowing us to timely take stock of our efforts in preparation of the 25th anniversary of Resolution 1325 in 2025. Effective action to counter under-investment and persisting implementation gaps of core commitments are indeed vital to turn this commemoration into a satisfactory one.

We commend the new Security Council members that have signed on to the 1 December 2021 Statement of Shared Commitments for their membership. At the same time we urge all actors involved to strive collectively to duly integrate WPS in the New Agenda for Peace.

Today my country would like to underline three key elements:

First of all, we need to double down to remove structural barriers. The failure to guarantee women's rights across the board and to address persistent inequalities prevents women from fully, equally and meaningfully participating at all levels of decision-making. This includes their participation in this very room. Any kind of reprisals or intimidation – offline and online – against women peace builders, women human rights defenders or other representatives of women-led civil society organizations is simply unacceptable.

We urgently need to reinforce our short and long term prevention and response strategies in this regard.

Secondly, we need to put our money where our mouth is. This agenda cannot move forward without funding. In this regard, I am proud to mention Belgium's continued financial support to the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund. This fund enables women to stand up, participate in decision-making, prevent conflicts and respond to crises, whether it be in the DRC, Mali or Ukraine. We are also pleased with our financial contribution to the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. National authorities need assistance to end impunity, while using a survivor-centered approach in cooperation with civil society.

Finally, all of us need to internalize the commitments we agreed upon in Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions. My country continues to do its part: for the period 2022-2026, we are already implementing our fourth National Action Plan 'Women, Peace and Security', and we call on all states that have no national action plan yet to consider adopting one. Belgium is ready to share its experiences in this regard.

Thank you.