

## **Delegation from the Kingdom of Denmark**

### **The Position Paper for the Security Council**

The Kingdom of Denmark recognizes the urgency and importance of the topics before this body: marking the 25th Anniversary of the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, and addressing the disproportionate effects of armed conflicts on children. Denmark reaffirms its strong commitment to advancing gender equality, ensuring the meaningful participation of women in peace processes, and protecting the rights and well-being of children affected by conflict. Denmark looks forward to engaging constructively with all Member States to advance these priorities at the upcoming conference.

#### **I. Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security**

The Kingdom of Denmark recognizes the urgent and enduring importance of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as we mark 25 years since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Despite normative advances, under-implementation remains a persistent challenge. According to United Nations (UN) Women (2023), women represented only 9.6% of negotiators, 13.7% of mediators, and 26.6% of signatories in UN-supported peace processes, while cases of conflict-related sexual violence have risen sharply, with the proportion of women killed in armed conflict doubling in 2023. These statistics highlight the gap between commitments and meaningful implementation. Denmark has been a global leader in operationalizing WPS, integrating gender perspectives into foreign policy, humanitarian action, and peace operations. The central issue remains ensuring that international commitments translate into real protection, participation, and empowerment of women and girls in conflict-affected regions.

The WPS agenda has been strengthened through successive United Nations resolutions and global initiatives. UNSCR 1325 has been followed by key resolutions, including 1820 (2008) that highlights the need to address sexual violence in conflict, 1888 (2009) Provides a framework for leadership, coordination, and accountability in tackling gender-based violence and strengthening leadership to combat gender-based violence, and 2242 (2015) linking WPS to counterterrorism and violent extremism. Mechanisms such as the 2015 High-Level Global Study on WPS and annual Security Council Open Debates provide essential monitoring tools and highlight ongoing gaps. The 2024 Common Pledge for Women's Full, Equal, and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes reinforces commitments to gender parity in leadership, consultation with local women's organizations, and deployment of gender experts in negotiation teams. Denmark has operationalized these commitments through both policy and practice. Its first National Action Plan on WPS (2005) laid the foundation for integrating gender into Danish foreign policy and military contributions; the current fourth NAP (2020–2024) and the upcoming 2025–2029 plan prioritize women's leadership in peace operations, protection from conflict-related gender-based violence, and gender-responsive humanitarian assistance. Denmark's Gender Equality Act (2000), the development cooperation strategy *"The World We Share"* (2021), and civil society partnerships including the Danish Women's Council and Nordic Women Mediators' Network, reinforce national capacity to implement WPS principles. Denmark also deploys gender advisers to UN and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) missions and supports gender-sensitive early warning systems, ensuring policy and operational alignment.

The Kingdom of Denmark reaffirms its commitment to advancing the WPS agenda through concrete and feasible measures. Denmark proposes establishing a UN WPS Implementation Support Group, tasked with coordinating monitoring, reporting, and technical assistance, alongside expanding funding for women-led peace initiatives through the UN Women & the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF). Member States should adopt national targets for women's participation in peace operations, supported by regional training hubs, while a Gender-Responsive Early Warning Task Team could integrate gender perspectives into conflict prevention. These proposals are achievable within existing UN frameworks, align with Denmark's national priorities, and leverage current peacebuilding resources. By promoting accountability, financing, and gender-responsive mechanisms, Denmark seeks to ensure that the commitments of 2000 translate into tangible progress for women and girls in conflict-affected regions, advancing sustainable peace and inclusive security globally.

## **II. Addressing the Disproportionate Effects of Armed Conflicts on Children)**

The Kingdom of Denmark recognizes that children remain among the most vulnerable victims of armed conflict, making their protection a core security priority. According to the UN Secretary-General's annual report on Children and Armed Conflict, in 2023 the UN verified 32,990 grave violations against 22,557 children including a 35% rise in killings and maiming, 8,655 children recruited, and 5,205 incidents of denied humanitarian access. The following year saw an even sharper escalation: in 2024, there were 41,370 verified violations, a 25% increase, affecting 22,495 children. Notably, attacks on schools rose by 44%, and sexual violence increased by 34%. Globally, this crisis reflects a fundamental failure to protect children during hostilities. At the national level, Denmark has consistently spoken up. At the June 2024 Security Council open debate, its ambassador (speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries) decried the 35% rise in killing and maiming and urged parties in conflict to respect international humanitarian and children's rights law. For Denmark, protecting children in armed conflict is not only a moral imperative but a strategic investment in sustainable peace.

Denmark has a robust record of supporting international mechanisms and frameworks to protect children in war zones. It strongly backs the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) established under UNSCR 1612 (2005) is a key tool for protecting children in armed conflict. It systematically monitors, documents, and reports on grave violations against children, including recruitment as child soldiers, and has consistently called for sustained funding and political support for it. In its 2025 open debate statement, Denmark reaffirmed its commitment to accountability and urged all parties to comply with international humanitarian law, to implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and to sign action plans with the UN to prevent violations as it provides a binding legal framework to prevent the recruitment and use of children in hostilities. Denmark channels significant resources into preventing and responding to child protection crises through its development and humanitarian policies. Under its development cooperation strategy *"The World We Share"*, Denmark invests in stabilisation, conflict prevention, and child protection in fragile regions. According to Impact Fund Denmark, Denmark's partnership with UNICEF is long-standing: in 2021–2025, Denmark provided approximately DKK 500 million in contributions, including core and earmarked funds reinforcing programs in child protection, education, and gender equality. In situations of acute conflict, Denmark has funded protective services for example, it contributed DKK 115 million to UNICEF efforts in Somalia to rehabilitate former child soldiers and support children affected by forced recruitment. Civil society supports also active organizations like Save the Children Denmark and the Danish Refugee Council deliver psychosocial support, education, and child protection in conflict-affected regions.

Denmark reaffirms its commitment to advancing actionable, feasible solutions within the UN framework to address grave violations against children in conflict. Building on its research, history of engagement, and financial commitments, Denmark proposes the establishment of a UN-mandated Child Protection Task Force, operating under the Security Council's Children and Armed Conflict framework, to enhance monitoring, increase reporting capacity, and ensure that data on grave violations is promptly translated into preventive action. This Task Force would begin its work by 2026, in cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) and UNICEF, with regular progress reporting to the Security Council. Simultaneously, Denmark calls for expanded, dedicated funding for reintegration programs reinforcing support for children formerly associated with armed groups, especially in reintegration hubs. Through partnerships with international financial institutions including the World Bank's State and Peacebuilding Fund can provide grants for reintegration hubs and community-based recovery programs and this funding could be overseen by UNICEF in partnership with national governments and civil-society actors. These proposals lie within existing UN mechanisms, align squarely with Denmark's national policy and humanitarian objectives, and leverage Denmark's proven financial and institutional capacity. Through such concrete steps, Denmark aims to translate global commitments into real protection and hope for children caught in the world's most brutal conflicts.