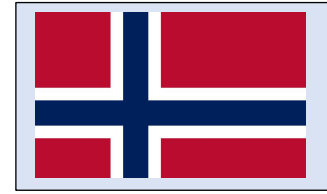


POSITION PAPER



Committee: Security Council
Delegation: Norway
Delegate: Ana Marija Bukovec

Topic 1: Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace, and Security

Twenty-five years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, Norway believes the international community must confront a difficult truth. Despite legal framework and decades of commitments, the core promise of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda remains largely unfulfilled.

Norway stresses that women still represent less than 8 percent of negotiators in formal peace processes, and only 26 percent of peace agreements include gender-responsive provisions.¹ This failure does not arise from a lack of normative clarity. Resolution 1325 and its successors, Resolutions 1820, 1888, 2106 and 2467, establish participation, protection, and prevention as binding pillars.² CEDAW, the Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol I, and the Rome Statute further recognize sexual violence, targeted attacks, and gender discrimination as violations of international law.³

Though, persistent underfunding and weak enforcement have prevented meaningful progress. Less than 0.5 percent of international peace and security assistance goes to women's organizations⁴. Without financial backing and political will, the most vulnerable women remain invisible. Norway believes that a structural transformation in how the United Nations approaches the WPSA is required.

We propose establishing a WPS compliance mechanism under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, requiring annual reporting by every Member State. In addition, States that systematically exclude women, must be brought before the Council for formal consideration.

¹ UN Women. (2023). Peace, Security and Resilience, URL: <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/peace-security-and-resilience-2023-highlights-en.pdf>

² UNSC. (2000). Resolution 1325 (2000) S/RES/1325, URL: <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n00/720/18/pdf/n0072018.pdf>; UNSC. (2008). Resolution 1820 S/RES/1820, URL: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/CAC%20S%20RES%201820.pdf>; UNSC. (2009). Resolution 1888 S/RES/1888, URL: https://www.un.org/shestandsforspeace/sites/www.un.org/shestandsforspeace/files/unscr_1888_2009.pdf; UNSC. (2019). Resolution 2467 S/RES/2467, URL: [https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/2467\(2019\)](https://docs.un.org/en/s/res/2467(2019)).

³ UN. (1979); ICRC. (1977); International Criminal Court. (1998). Rome Statute of the ICC.

⁴ OECD. (2022). Aid to gender equality and women's empowerment, URL: https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2022/05/gender-equality-and-the-empowerment-of-women-and-girls_9fbdf09e/0bddfa8f-en.pdf

Peace negotiations facilitated by the UN should only proceed if they meet a minimum threshold of 40% women's participation, ensuring that women's perspectives are foundational.

Norway also supports the establishment of a Global Reparations Fund for victims of conflict-related sexual violence, modelled on the ICC Trust Fund for Victims and financed through penalties on perpetrators.⁵

We suggest deploying gender-responsive peacekeeping units, not only to provide early-warning mechanisms, but to also document gender-based violations. These units would ensure that signs of violence against women are not only monitored, but understood within the full context of gendered harm.

Finally, Norway recognizes the realities of modern conflict and the barriers many women face in physically attending peace negotiations. Therefore, we facilitate secure digital participation for women in conflict zones who cannot safely travel to negotiations sites. Digital inclusion should not be viewed as a threat, but rather as an effective and modern solution to enabling participation in a safe and accessible manner.

These measures do not expand the normative framework of WPSA, but they operationalize the promises made 25 years ago. Norway stands ready to work with all Council members to finally fulfil the commitments made in Resolution 1325.

Topic 2: Addressing the Disproportionate Effects of Armed Conflicts on Children

Norway expresses deep concern over the alarming impact of armed conflict on children worldwide. We are particularly troubled by the recruitment and exploitation of children, which continues despite decades of international legal frameworks designed to protect them. As the UN Secretary-General observed, "grave violations against children have reached unprecedented levels"⁶. Norway views this crisis not simply as a humanitarian failure, but as a profound breach of binding international law.

The legal framework protecting children in conflict is clear. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) obliges States to ensure children's protection and care in conflict situations.⁷ The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2000) explicitly prohibits the recruitment or use of anyone under 18 in hostilities.⁸ International humanitarian law, as codified in the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols,

⁵ ICC. (2020). ICC Trust Fund for Victims, URL: <https://www.trustfundforvictims.org/en/about/legal-basis>

⁶ UN. (2025). Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, URL: <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Secretary-General-Annual-Report-on-Children-and-Armed-Conflict-Covering-2024.pdf>

⁷ UN. (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child, URL: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11&chapter=4&clang=en

⁸ UN. (2000). Optional Protocol on the involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, URL: https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11-c&chapter=4&clang=en

mandates special respect and protection for children. The Paris Principles affirm that children associated with armed forces or groups must be treated as victims.⁹

And yet, as Save the Children explains, “the law protects children, but they are denied that protection in practice”.¹⁰ Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) has established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, which remains critically under-resourced. According to UNICEF, over 52 million children have had their education disrupted by conflict, while attacks on schools and hospitals continue to rise.¹¹

Norway recognizes that these failures are not due to gaps in norms, but failures in enforcement, accountability, and political will. As highlighted by the ICRC, “children are especially vulnerable to armed conflicts and need special safeguards from the numerous dangers they face during armed hostilities”.¹² Therefore, Norway urges this Council to adopt a more enforceable framework grounded in existing obligations.

Firstly, Norway proposes the establishment of a Child Protection Accountability Index. This index would publicly rank how States and non-State actors comply with the CRC, the Optional Protocol, IHL, and relevant Security Council resolutions. The purpose is not merely to score countries, but to put perspective on the suffering of children and hold those responsible accountable in the eyes of international community.

We also call for automatic Council action when grave violations occur. These violations are not abstract, they are real violations of children’s dignity, safety, and future. They must carry real political consequences, sending a clear message that the world will not tolerate the exploitation of its most vulnerable.

Thirdly, we encourage the deployment of specialized Child Protection Units in all peace operations. These units must include legal experts, child-protection specialists, and officers capable of collecting digital evidence documentation. Without credible evidence, there can be no credible accountability.

Lastly, Norway insists that any peace agreement endorsed by the UN must contain disarmament of children who were recruited, and long-term reintegration support for children. Reintegration is not a temporary project. It is a lifeline, giving children the opportunity to heal, access education, and regain hope for a future free of violence. Protecting these children is both a moral obligation and a test to our collective humanity.

⁹ UNICEF. (2007). The Paris Principles, URL: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/ParisPrinciples_EN.pdf

¹⁰ Save the Children. (2019), URL: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/how-does-the-law-protect-children-during-armed-conflict>

¹¹ UNICEF. (2024). 25 Years of Children and Armed Conflict, URL: <https://www.unicef.org/reports/25-years-children-armed-conflict>

¹² ICRC. (2019). *What’s new in law and case law around the world? Protection of children in armed conflict: Thematic update on national implementation of international humanitarian law*, URL: https://international-review.icrc.org/sites/default/files/pdf/1590391258/irc101_2/S1816383120000132a.pdf