

*High Level Meeting for Ministers of Gender on Implementation and
Monitoring of the Women, Peace and Security Commitments
in the Great Lakes*

Entebbe, 23 November 2018

Speech by Zenia Chrysostomidis

Honorable Ministers

Distinguished Ambassadors

UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region

UN Resident Coordinator in Uganda

ICGLR and AU representatives

Friends of the Security Council Resolution 1325

Ladies and gentlemen

I am deeply honored to give a few brief closing remarks on behalf of
Ambassador Eckey and the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala.

I understand from talking to colleagues and participants that you have had rich
and fruitful discussions over the last few days.

As you have deliberated, the implementation of the regional action plan requires
among other things partnerships, concrete budget allocations, structural changes
and dedicated deliverables - but first and foremost, it requires political will.

That is why I want to applaud Uganda's commitment to the empowerment of women, and to applaud the other countries in the region who are participating at this meeting at a high, political level.

The women, peace and security agenda is an important priority for Norway. Among the issues highlighted by the resolution is the crucial role of women in formal peace processes.

As a diplomat, I have been involved in the Norwegian facilitation of several peace processes, and I am myself a proud member of the Nordic Women Mediator's Network, which was established a few years ago. So if you will allow me, I want to take this opportunity to focus on this particular aspect of the 1325 agenda. As you know, only 2 per cent of mediators in the main peace processes around the world from 1990 to 2017, were women. Women continue to be side-lined as negotiators.

So I really like the goal set out in this regional action plan, of achieving 30 % representation of women in peace and political processes by 2023 – and I agree with those who say that the aim should be 50 %. But this goes beyond numbers. To quote a former Norwegian Foreign Minister, it is really “not about counting women, but making women count”.

The various women mediator's networks around the world are at different stages of development. Our focus and expertise might differ. However, what we all have in common is a concern about the continued marginalization of women and the lack of focus on gender in informal and formal peace processes. We know changes are needed. Such changes can be achieved by building coalitions, exchanging experiences, making women's experiences more visible, increasing

women's access, and actively pursuing inclusive processes in collaboration with women's civil society organizations and grassroots peacebuilders.

Norway is currently working on gathering all the global networks – including FemWise – for a global alliance in New York in the fall of 2019. We hope to see many of you there!

Norway is proud to support this important work towards the implementation of a regional action plan on UNSCR 1325. I hope that the days here in Entebbe have provided you with the necessary knowledge, networks and inspiration to continue with this important task.

Thank you for your attention – and good luck!