



NATO Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire de l'OTAN

Ms. Gitte Lillelund Bech
Defence Minister
Ministry of Defence
Holmens Kanal 42
1060 Copenhagen K
DENMARK

10 June, 2011

Dear Minister,

The issue of gender and security has taken on greater prominence in recent years, particularly following the adoption of the landmark resolution of the UN Security Council 1325 (UNSCR 1325) of October 2000 on "Women, Peace and Security". In line with this and subsequent Security Council resolutions, an increasing number of states and international organisations have recognised that gender is relevant to various aspects of peace and security. Several high-level events took place in 2010 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325. NATO itself has acknowledged the relevance of gender for its operations and taken a number of initiatives to implement UNSCR 1325.

The issue of gender and security is also incorporated into the regular work programme of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. At the 2010 Annual Session in Warsaw, the Assembly adopted Resolution 381 presented by the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security commemorating the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325, and calling for the incorporation of UNSCR 1325 into NATO policies and practices.

However, the responsibility for implementing UNSCR 1325 lies primarily at a national level. Therefore, members of the Assembly's Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security authorised me, as the Committee Chair, to circulate it to all Defence ministers, as well as to all heads of national parliaments of NATO member countries asking for information on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as well as the NATO PA Resolution 381 in their respective countries.

I would be grateful if the relevant members of your staff could send this information to the Director of the Committee Andrius Avizius at the International Secretariat of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, (address: NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Place du Petit Sablon 3, 1000 Brussels, Belgium; Tel. +32 2 504 8141, e-mail: aavizius@nato-pa.int) or Valérie Geffroy, Co-ordinator of the Committee (Tel. +32 2 504 8142, e-mail: vgeffroy@nato-pa.int).

We would very much appreciate your comments by 23 September 2011 in order to enable our Committee to discuss national responses at our Assembly's Annual Session in Bucharest, Romania, on 7-10 October 2011.

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I enclose copies of UNSCR 1325 as well as the NATO PA Resolution 381.

Thank you in advance.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Ann Emerson
M.C.

Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson
Chairperson
Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security
NATO Parliamentary Assembly