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Comments from Denmark concerning Res 68/33 "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control"

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations presents its compliments to The Office for Disarmament Affairs and has the honour, while referring to Verbal Note Nr. ODA/11-2014/WAD of 12 February 2014, to provide the following comments on Resolution 68/33 entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control":

"Denmark refers to the EU joint reply related to UNGA Resolution 68/33.

It is widely recognized that sexual and gender-based violence carries responsibility for an unacceptably high share of human suffering in this world, not least of the suffering caused by illicit and unregulated arms trade.

This was confirmed in the most welcome Security Council resolution 2117 that underline how the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons have a disproportionate impact on violence perpetrated against women and girls, and exacerbates sexual and gender-based violence.

Also, gender-based violence was allocated a prominent place in the Arms Trade Treaty, where it was reflected both in the preamble and in the operative article 7.4. Accordingly each exporting State Party, when assessing risks related to an export authorization, shall take into account the risk of the conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.

Further, Security Council resolution 1325 recognizes that men and women are affected differently by weapons and armed conflict and that their contribution to disarmament efforts will be different and complementary.

Hence, we should reaffirm the importance of women's political, social and economic empowerment and of gender equality while emphasizing the important role that can be played by women, civil society, including women's organizations, and formal and informal community leaders in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

United Nations Office for Disarmaments Affairs

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These affirmative and perceptive norms already established by the international community should be better reflected in future UNGA resolutions on Women, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control. Mainstreaming of gender awareness should form part of all the endeavours of the First Committee.

Based on the overall strategy and mainstreaming approach on gender equality in Danish Development Cooperation, women's rights and empowerment as well as gender awareness form an integral part of Danish assistance programmes related to disarmament and arms control, including in the revised Mine Action Strategy adopted in 2006 and still in force."

The Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 29 May 2014



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