Resolution 67/48

‘Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control’

Kingdom of the Netherlands

2012

The Netherlands wants to contribute to a safer world and is actively engaged in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. The Netherlands pursues an active struggle against the uncontrolled proliferation of and the unregulated, illicit flow of arms as it feeds armed violence, terrorism and crime undermining security, human rights and stability. The resulting cost of hundreds of thousands of lives, often innocent civilian lives, across the globe requires a practical and concrete approach.

The Netherlands stresses the importance of incorporating context based gender perspectives in disarmament discussions as women and men are differently affected by, and involved in, issues related to weapons of mass destruction, small arms and light weapons, landmines and disarmament and development.

Therefore, the Netherlands has actively pushed for reference to gender perspectives, UNSCR 1325 and related UN resolutions in international negotiations and implementation of leading agreements on tackling the illicit and uncontrolled spread of weapons and ammunition, such as the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations and the United Nations Programme of Action against the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Furthermore, the Netherlands supports programs related to disarmament such as mine clearance and mine awareness, the safe storage of weapons and ammunition, regulation and transparency in arms trade and training of (female) security and police forces as a part of the Netherlands foreign and development policy. Hereby, the Netherlands takes the needs of both men, boys, women and girls into account and works closely together with NGO’s and regional organisations. Sexual gender based violence is often conducted in situations of conflict and related to the illicit trade in arms. Activities aiming to end impunity towards sexual gender based violence are supported by the Netherlands.
Additionally, the Netherlands supports building knowledge on and increasing awareness of the linkages between disarmament and gender. Understanding the relationships between gender and security, and between gender and weapons, is of relevance in furthering the international goals of disarmament. In this regard the Netherlands is engaging with and supporting the work, such as evidence based research, publications and panel discussions of NGO’s and knowledge institutions within and outside the Netherlands. The International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament provides an important platform to further this engagement between different actors. Next to this, the Netherlands supports training initiatives on integrating comprehensive gender perspectives in peace operations to provide diplomats, military and civilian experts operational tools and knowledge.

The Netherlands considers that disarmament can be strengthened through the integration of gender insights into disarmament debates, decision-making and actions, and through more equitable participation of women in decision-making. This is in line with the second National Action Plan 1325 (2012-2015) creating an enabling environment for female leadership and active (political) participation at national, sub national and local level. Women have essential roles in reaching sustainable peace and security as early warners of conflict, combatants, peacebuilders, activists and political leaders. The Netherlands remains committed to strongly support women’s participation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.