

**Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820
on Women, Peace and Security
– elaboration and implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans**

BRUSSELS, 2 October 2009

REPORT

The ‘Comprehensive EU approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security’, adopted in December 2008 foresees that “an open exchange among EU Member States on national implementation of Resolution 1325 will be organised once a year in view of sharing best practices and identifying joint interests, taking in particular into account difficulties encountered and the lessons identified for the future.”

The first meeting took place in Brussels on 2 October 2009, with the focus on UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (currently 9 EU MS have UNSCR 1325 NAPs and at least 3 are being prepared). It was attended by 22 EU Member States, the European Commission, representatives from Nepal, Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Liberia, UNIFEM, African Union, NATO and a number of specialised European NGOs. The event was co-chaired by Ambassador Lena Sundh from the Swedish EU Presidency and Dr Riina Kionka, Personal Representative for Human Rights of HR/SG Javier Solana.

The event provided for a **useful platform to exchange experiences on the elaboration, the implementation and the monitoring of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans**, as well as on indicators that can be used to follow up on commitments and cross learning/twinning experiences. The main conclusions and recommendations were as follows:

- With the UNSCR 1325 10th anniversary coming up in 2010, and considering the adoption of UNSCR 1888 (2 October 2009) and 1889 (5 October 2009) on related topics, we need to sustain **momentum**.
- When elaborating a UNSCR 1325 NAP, it is important to take **the time needed for proper consultations**. It is important to consult with NGOs, but also different think-tanks and academia. In addition, it is **useful to consult with people working in conflict-affected countries, for example embassies**. The process raises awareness and engenders a sense of ownership across the concerned services. It is essential to have multiple stakeholders involved in the process and keep the network active afterwards.
- In the elaboration, the implementation and the monitoring of UNSCR 1325 NAP, it is essential to link the work to the work of already ongoing strategic groups and processes (in Germany for example to the Interagency Group on Crisis Prevention or the Special Group on Afghanistan).
- There is an important need to raise awareness on UNSCR 1325 issues around the world, particularly in developing and conflict-affected countries.
- It is essential to achieve **high-level commitment**, as demonstrated inter alia by the Finnish experience (President’s support). Nomination of high-level political champions/representatives has proven useful (for example the Irish Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and the Spanish Special Ambassador for the promotion of

gender policies). High-level personalities can push for women's participation in peace processes they support.

- While it can be useful to prioritise and to focus action in a UNSCR 1325 NAP, it is important to **keep a holistic approach** covering the different aspects of UNSCR 1325: women's participation; the protection of women and girls and women's role in conflict prevention. **Different issues can be underlined in different contexts**; for example psycho-social support in Liberia and human trafficking and de-mining in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **UNSCR 1325 is not something that only concerns women; it is about policy and society as a whole** and implementation demands the involvement of both men and women. Men's participation in the promotion of UNSCR 1325 should be stepped up.
- It is essential to ensure **sustainable and sustained support after the UNSCR 1325 NAP elaboration and adoption**.
- It is useful to **foresee annual consultations or reporting** to enhance implementation and monitoring.
- The question was raised whether twinning/cross-learning "South"- South" could be a useful complement to existing cooperation "North" – "South" . **It would be useful to clarify what is sought by partnerships and what kind of partnerships/twinning initiatives are most beneficial**. However, many issues remain the same independently of the country's situation (conflict or non-conflict). While one can and should tailor the approach to the specific situation, one still has to progress through the steps one by one. This is good news for skills transfer and twinning.
- **In post-conflict situations working on UNSCR 1325 can provide entry points into the broader gender agenda**, e.g. in respect of drafting more gender-sensitive legislation. Drafting and implementing a UNSCR 1325 NAP can serve as a catalyst to include both men and women at all levels, for example in Nepal.
- **Regional UNSCR 1325 action plans and regional cooperation, for example in the Balkans or the African Great Lakes Region, can increase synergies and efficiency as well as promote peace**. This kind of initiatives should be supported by donors.
- It is important to **fully utilise the already existing regional commitments** (for example African Union and EU). Regional organisations such as the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries or the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region should be considered as a key resource in the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- It is important to **push for countries to ratify already existing instruments**, for example the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of Women in Africa, and to **support them in the submission of relevant reports**.
- The EU should analyse the possibility to **apply gender budgeting and sex-disaggregated reporting in the ESDP** (e.g. systematically giving the information with regard to the participation of men and women among the staff).
- To guide policies, **it is important to provide statistics and figures** on issues such as women's participation in peace negotiations or post-conflict funding addressing women's needs. 'What does not count does not get counted.'
- Although UNSCR 1325 NAP is a very useful tool, alternative means such as regular comprehensive reporting (Germany) can be used in the promotion of women, peace and security issues.

The detailed report together with the presentations delivered will be distributed through CIVCOM, PMG, COHOM and CONUN. Other interested persons can request the report from the GSC Human Rights Unit at secretariat.hr@consilium.europa.eu.