

Women, Peace and Security: from Resolution to Action
The Protection Agenda under Security Council Resolution 1325/2000
Consultation Conclusions

15-16 September 2010

Geneva

We, the participants of the Geneva Consultation on “Women, Peace and Security: from Resolution to Action”, met on the 15-16 September 2010 as part of a series of events, in recognition of the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 (SC/Res/1325). In the presence of representatives of governments, the European Union (EU), the United Nations and civil society including women’s organisations and networks, we came together to translate our shared experiences and commitments into actionable recommendations.

In the last decade we have seen the adoption of three additional resolutions by the UN Security Council (SC/Res/ 1820, 1888 and 1889), which have significantly strengthened the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Over the years there has been considerable progress at the policy and advocacy level however there are still persistent shortcomings with regards to implementation. For example:

- In 300 peace accords from 45 conflict situations since 1998, there have been only 18 references to sexual or gender-based violence¹;
- While women’s views on protection can be critical in peace building, women have represented less than 3 per cent of signatories on peace agreements²;
- The recent reports of atrocities in the Democratic Republic of Congo once again reveal that early warnings of impending violence were not fully acted upon;
- Humanitarian and post-crisis programs are not engaging fully with women in planning, designing or monitoring, or ensuring gender mainstreaming³;
- Only a small percentage of female ex-combatants and women and girls associated with armed forces are entering Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programmes, and when they have access to these programmes their specific needs are not adequately addressed;
- Protection actors, including women’s organisations, are critically and chronically under-resourced.

¹ UNIFEM Women War Peace, Facts and Figures, accessed on 11 September 2010, http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_war_peace/facts_figures.php#1

² Of interest, there are no references of sexual or gender-based violence in accords regarding conflicts in Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Liberia. UNIFEM research April 2009 Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence, accessed on 11 September 2010

http://www.realizingrights.org/pdf/UNIFEM_handout_Women_in_peace_processes_Brief_April_20_2009.pdf

³ For more information on gender mainstreaming please see *Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action and Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings* both available at <http://oneresponse.info/crosscutting/gender/Pages/Gender.aspx>

Acknowledging this, we fully endorse the recommendations that have been made at the various recent events that marked the 10th anniversary of SCR1325, in particular, the EU Conference, “Ensuring women’s participation in peace and security” on 9 September 2010 in Brussels.⁴ We stress that the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is dependent on recognising the inter-linkages between participation, prevention and protection in policies, programmes and legislative frameworks. In this spirit we call on the EU and member states to:

1. **Finance chronically under-funded humanitarian, reconstruction and peace building programmes.**
2. Provide **policy, technical and financial resources directly to community women's networks and organisations.** Recognize the agency and essential roles of women in provision of services in communities and provide support for human rights defenders.
3. Support a **robust mandate for the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)** in order to link the Human Rights and accountability mechanisms, Millennium Development Goals, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.
4. Establish a **special mechanism on Women, Peace and Security within the EU** with an equal robust mandate and with resources.
5. Facilitate the **development of National Action Plans (NAP)** and promote, where possible, twinning arrangements. Increase accountability in NAPs by ensuring appropriate monitoring, reporting and gender budgeting.
6. Work towards the **endorsement of reliable and systematic collection of data and information** (including global indicators OP17 SCR1889 and EU indicators), interlinked with and complimentary to mechanisms such as Human Rights machinery and early warning systems.
7. Ensure that **refugee, returnee and displaced women and girls have full access to national and international protection regimes.** Failure to do so puts women and girls at risk of exploitation and trafficking frequently resulting in their prosecution and refoulement. Address statelessness, which impacts disproportionately on women and children, due to the particular operation of nationality and birth registration laws.
8. Integrate a **stronger human security approach and perspective in protection**, thus ensuring that mandates for peace keeping and peace building missions recognize and respect the independence, impartiality and the non-political character of the humanitarian actors.

⁴ Including “Women, peace and security: from resolution to action” EU Joint Team Event, 15-16 September 2010, Geneva; “Ten years of SCR 1325” UNOG, and DCAF joint seminar 15 September 2010; “10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Ensuring Women’s Participation in Peace and Security” 9 September 2010, Brussels; “10 Years after UN SCR 1325: Conflict Prevention Mechanisms” NGO Working Group on Peace (co-chaired by WILPF and FAS) and GCSP 2 September 2010, Geneva; “10 Points on 10 years UNSCR in Europe”, CSO position; and, work of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York.

9. Recommit to the **full integration of gender into peace-keeping missions and peace building operations**, including CSDP, by including gender analysis and women's rights in the assessment, planning and subsequent phases of operations, through gender training and adoption of measures to enhance the gender balance in national armies and police forces.
10. Ensure **gender responsiveness of UN-supported Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants programs and Security Sector Reform initiatives**; working with men and women, boys and girls and addressing their specific needs, including gender dimensions of violence among ex-combatants.
11. Strengthen the mechanisms to **end impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other such gross violations**. Ensure access to justice for victims through building international and national judicial systems' capacity, including the International Criminal Court, for the prosecution of crimes against women and put in place mechanisms for the protection of witnesses. As well as, work within the Security Council, and other regional organizations to institute targeted and graduated special measures, such as sanctions against parties (public and private) to any conflict that violates women's rights, and ensure the exclusion of such crimes from any amnesty provisions.
12. Promote Corporate Social Responsibility within the private sector in affected areas through the EU and member states roles in multilateral and bilateral trade.
13. Recognizing the ten years since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1308 on HIV/AIDS, **align sexual violence and HIV prevention strategies** including through command centered approaches, training on HIV/AIDS and ensuring zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse.
14. Renew commitment to financial, technical, diplomatic and political support in order to **increase the access and participation of women in security, political and judicial processes** and institutions, recognizing the necessity of ensuring access to health care, education, safe homes, psychosocial support and economic independence for women. Ensure funding for these sectors

We look forward to the outcomes of the various New York events, which we anticipate will reinforce the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.