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Women in Peace Operations

Part Two: Women in Peace Building and Reconciliation

BLUE HELMET FORUM AUSTRIA 2017

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Preface

The topic of the *Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2017* was 'Women in Peace Operations' with a special focus on 'Women in Peace Building and Reconciliation'.

In conflict situations, men, women, boys and girls are threatened by and exposed to many forms of violence at different levels. This means that attempts at conflict resolution as well as post-conflict periods which do not take all those different levels and forms into account are greatly at risk of failure. The same applies to reconciliation.

It must be possible to create a post-conflict situation in which gender perspectives are included in decision-making processes so as to establish a stable and lasting post-conflict period. As women are often at a disadvantage (e.g. less physical strength, discriminating laws, traditions and/or religion), it becomes necessary to address them in particular. The United Nations therefore implemented a **Seven Point Action Plan** to improve the situation of women in post-conflict countries in order to put words into action.

Apart from conflict resolution, where it lists actions to include women in the peace process, the UN's Seven Point Action Plan mentions actions to be taken in post-conflict planning and financing, actions in the area of state and public institution so as to make them more accessible to women and girls and less prone to gender-based discrimi-

nation, as well as actions to promote the right of women and girls to security and justice, as well as actions to reach equal involvement as participants in and beneficiaries of a successful economy.

Calling for greater participation of women in transforming conflict-affected societies, the United Nations Security Council still has a long way to go in rolling out these strategies.

In October 2016, the Secretary-General reported some recommendations to the Security Council, two of which I would like to highlight:

First:

Bringing women's participation and leadership to the core of peace and security efforts – e.g. by removing obstacles and also by tracking and reporting progress in this field.

Second:

Protecting the human rights of women and girls during and after conflict – e.g. by abiding by the law, punishing all violators, protecting those who defend human rights, giving women a key role in designing and implementing protection and prevention strategies, and making efforts to root out sexual exploitation and abuse.

On the one hand, women are deployed in all areas of peace operations today. Leaders profit more and more

from the additional perspectives and advice women contribute to effective mission accomplishment. On the other hand, although the inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes has increased, the number of women in decision-making positions remains relatively small. Women, however, are crucial partners in and for peace and should play a key role in achieving lasting peace after a conflict.

This Forum, once more, provided the opportunity for the military and relief organizations to explore possibilities and modes of cooperation, as well as to remind ourselves and our environment of the importance of women in Peace Building and Reconciliation.

Lieutenant General Erich Csitkovits,
Commander of the National Defence Academy

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Foreword

The Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (AAP) has a long history of organizing the Blue Helmet Forum Austria (BHFA), which deals with various topics from the context of peacekeeping operations, in particular those with direct contemporary relevance. We are honored to do this in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Defence and the National Defence Academy, Vienna. Their assistance makes it possible to invite high-level experts to our Forum, which takes place in the Defence Academy's noble baroque state hall, the Sala Terrena.

The Blue Helmut Forum Austria 2017 continued the series of fora addressing women in peace operations, which the AAP initiated in 2016. Whereas in 2016 we focused on Mission Experience - women working in a military environment, such as in peace operations, in peacebuilding activities, or by serving as soldiers in the military - in 2017 we took a closer look at Women in Peace Building and Reconciliation, including the role of local women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Our presenters, experts from the civilian as well as military fields, covered a broad spectrum of expertise and shared their experience with us in this publication.

Step by step we discovered that we can no longer ignore the risks, needs and perspectives, as well as the talents, knowledge, energy and skills of 50 percent of the

population. We not only recognised the advantages and the imperative of including women in peace-building and reconciliation processes, but also discussed measures to implement standards and identify best practices, e.g. in the UN Seven Point Action Plan or the Comprehensive EU Approach to the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

The Comprehensive EU Approach to the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 provides guidance to ensure that the Union's external actions are shaped to protect women from violence and that they contribute to increased equality between women and men during and after armed conflicts and in fragile situations.

As we learned in 2016, the number of women in decision-making positions remains small. With regard to peace and security they are often excluded from positions of decision-making and are rarely selected as members of international peace negotiation teams. But not only that, women are also often in possession of important information, but unable to share this information with those who could prevent a crisis. These are only three examples which have a crucial impact on the subsequent process. This shows that gender aspects affect all actors in theatre (civilian, military/police, and politics) at all levels and in all dimensions. The keywords here are empowerment and leadership engagement. Giving the local female population a voice and a vote, i.e. participation and leadership in negotiations on conflict prevention, conflict resolution and

peacebuilding at the decision-making level, and supporting them in socio-economic terms, will generate empowerment and gender equality. To reach this goal requires commitment and a lasting political will from local, national, and international organisations so that words become actions and the effectiveness of missions will increase accordingly.

The UN Secretary General has not only emphasised the importance of moving women's participation and leadership to the core of peace and security efforts, but also their role as crucial partners in economic recovery, social cohesion, and political legitimacy. All of them are crucial elements to achieve lasting peace.

We also need to recognise the importance of developments on the ground, below the radar, at a level often overlooked in concepts and policies. And it is at this grassroots communal level where women in action are most often encountered and where the foundations of peace, security, and development lie. Similarly, in military structures, women are increasing in numbers at all levels, mirroring the steps being taken in the corporate sector.

The participation and leadership of women at the national, regional and international levels, in areas as vital as peace and security, is not simply a concession to modern life, it is a long-overdue, essential element, which was absent in the past, to achieve a comprehensive approach to restore peace and security.

After all, women are half the world – I would say probably the more important half.

General (ret) Günther Greindl,
President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers

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Introduction

This publication contains the majority of the presentation delivered at the Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2017, printed in the order they were given. It aims at illustrating the wide field of Women in Peace Operations.

Today women are deployed in all areas of peace operations - in the military, police and civilian fields - and have a positive impact on the peacekeeping environment, both in supporting the role of women in building peace and in protecting women's rights.

The contributions deal with the different roles women have (victims, contributors to peace and stability, perpetrators). The feminization of terror is illustrated in the article on Boko Haram - this flip side to female contributions to conflicts must also be acknowledged. The articles also take a closer look at the EU Comprehensive Approach, the UN approach with its Seven Point Action Plan, as well as the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls. The articles also provide various examples of how women and their work contribute to a better future. They deliver insight into the work of Voices of African Mothers (VAM) and UN women in different hotspots around the globe with a focus on health, education, as well as sexual and gender-based violence.

These articles will make the reader aware of the sustainable contribution women can make to peace, reconciliation and a better future. These commitments are proof positive that the question is no longer 'what is the value of integrating women in peace building and reconciliation', but 'what are the risks and consequences of not involving them'.

The 2017 Forum provided facts and examples, illustrated the lack of progress and the limitations and pitfalls of the current situation. It illustrated possible developments and also functioned as an eye-opener concerning the obstacles ahead. Leaders could learn about increased mission effectiveness and about becoming a better leader by broadening their minds.

The knowledge of the authors who boast extensive field experience led to intensive discussions. These all came to the conclusion that the time has come to put words into action. The quantity of documents related to the topic, e.g. the UNSC Resolutions, the EU Approach, the National Action Plans, strategic papers and programmes, provided guidance. But these paths need to be paved with projects and actions by leaders and societies. For military personnel, effective mission accomplishment must be the goal and neglecting the needs and risks of up to 75% of the population is simply unacceptable.

Please note that the summary refers to the outcome of the 2017 Forum. Eight challenges were identified. Ques-

tions such as 'what is key to implementing UNSCR 1325 in general' and 'what is key to real integration, to an understanding of the role of mothers', and 'what are the difficulties concerning the zero tolerance policy regarding conflict-related sexual violence' are some of the challenges ahead. Important topics, such as how the safety and security of women can be achieved in (post-) conflict societies and how medical gender issues can be tackled were also identified. And, finally, the roles of women's empowerment and of women's civil society organizations were discussed.

The appendix provides a selection of the documents mentioned in the articles. To facilitate reading some of the documents were reformatted.

We are sure that this publication gives a voice to those who, too often, remain unheard.

Daniela Scheiblhofer

BHFA 2016 - A Short Flashback

As the first event in a three-year-long series, the 2016 Blue Helmet Forum Austria (BHFA) *Women in Peace Operations* focused on the *Mission Experience* of military, police and civilian members of past and current peace operations. The BHFA 2016 hosted four panels, where participants discussed the *Historical Review and Future Challenges*, the *Civilian and Police Perspective* and the *Military Perspective & Gender Issues* in peace operations. The main aim of the BHFA 2016 was to discuss the roles of women in peace operations, be it as peacekeepers or as vulnerable persons in need of protection. The BHFA 2016 concluded with the following seven common challenges that require continuous attention and support from the civilian, police and the military side[1]:

1. <u>Security is more than just the absence of violence.</u>

Security is directly linked to how inclusive societies are. Therefore, security is inherently linked to gender equality, which in turn should be seen as a central security matter. It is necessary to understand diversity as a strength and to aim for the real inclusion of women, men, girls and

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[1] This short flashback based on the contribution from Ursula Hann made last year.

boys throughout the peace continuum[2] in order to build sustainable and resilient societies.

2. <u>Women have roles in conflict other than being victims and recipients of protection.</u>

Participants agreed that it is important to shift the focus from viewing women as passive victims to viewing women as active members of society. This in turn necessitates an increased focus on perpetrators when working to prevent gender-based violence (GBV). It is paramount to create environments and conditions where women can actively participate in conflict prevention, management and resolution, including in peace operations.

Participants highlighted the example of NATO in Afghanistan, ISAF, where the NATO Senior Civilian Representative (NATO SCR) got together with Afghan Members of Parliament (MPs) on a bi-monthly basis to discuss security, developmental and political affairs. Initially, a separate roundtable was organized to discuss 'women's issues' with a group of exclusively female MPs. Soon, the NATO SCR realized that female MPs had a broad

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[2] The term 'peace continuum' covers the different stages of prevention, conflict resolution and peacekeeping to peacebuilding and long-term development of societies. For more information see also *United Nations, General Assembly/Security Council. Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, Report of the Secretary General. UN Doc. A/72/707–S/2018/43, January 18, 2018. Available via:* http://www.un.org/en/peacebuilding/pbso/pdf/SG%20report%20on%20peacebuilding%20and%20sustaining%20peace.As%20issued.A-72-707-S-2018-43.E.pdf

knowledge regarding security affairs and how this area links to the safety of women and the representation of women in the Afghan High Peace Council. An equal communication platform for male and female MPs with the NATO SCR ultimately triggered male MPs to discuss UNSCR 1325 objectives.

3. <u>Gender aspects are a concern to all actors in peace operations (civilian, police and military).</u>

Gender aspects are not a 'women's issue' but a hard-core security concern, which impact the operational effectiveness and the success of any peace operation. Thus, it is important to streamline gender into national training, to include it as part of the basic curricula for civilian, police and military personnel as well as part of the pre-deployment training for peace operations' personnel. Especially the pre-deployment training needs to focus on the situational context of gender-sensitive aspects in order to ensure their proper observation, reporting and reaction. Related to this is the need to implement a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying, misconduct and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). It is key to recognize and acknowledge that these forms of misconduct represent structural and cultural shortcomings and not individual problems.

Participants agreed that especially SEA was a negative eye opener in peace operations throughout different organisations: the military leadership often realised only

through these incidents that gender-based bullying, sexual harassment and misconduct do happen in their own forces. The incidents not only harmed individuals but undermined the cohesion and effectiveness of the entire team and the organization in question. In turn, it was realized that the credibility, legitimacy and trustworthiness of any peace operation lead to its success. In this regard, sexual misconduct and intimidation cannot be seen as a problem of individual perpetrators, but must be recognized as a structural problem, a result of detrimental organisational cultures. This led to the acknowledgement that enhancing the training of troops is crucial, because better prepared troops ultimately lead to more successful operations.

4. Leadership is key for the successful integration of gender aspects into peace operations.

Successfully integrating gender aspects into peace operation requires individual persons in high-level and commanding positions to lead the way. Therefore, active key leaders such as the Force Commander or the Head of Mission need to openly and continuously address gender equality and related topics (e.g. SEA). Language is an important tool to convey ideas and mind-sets, thus the leadership of any peace operation needs to ensure that the personnel engage with each other in a respectful way.

5. Diversity needs to be understood, valued and embraced as a vital asset.

As peace operations become more complex, a broader approach to peace operations and conflict management needs to be applied. This requires teamwork and making use of different assets within a peace operation. Members of a peace operation need to understand, respect and accept their differences. Simultaneously, they need to focus on similarities and find common grounds for working together. Thus, diversity should be seen as normality (accepting different persons and their behaviour) as well as an inherent strength of any peace operation (different talents are needed in peace operations). Taking steps to empower women in peace operations enhances the problem-solving approach of developing opportunities in societies recovering from conflict.

Participants discussed the example of the NATO mission in Afghanistan, ISAF, where the mission learnt in practice that it makes a difference to have female military personnel. Female soldiers ensured the mission had access to the female half of the Afghan population. This in turn lead to the mission being able to better understand the different security needs of men, women, boys and girls and in turn to better respond to those different needs and avoid doing more harm than good. The mission also trained Afghan female searchers and election monitors which contributed to Afghan women participating in the election, leading to a historically high turnout of female voters in

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the last presidential election. By engaging with female leaders and activists from Afghanistan, whose knowledge and expectations were different, but just as valuable as those of their male counterparts, the operation provided a platform for them to have their voices heard, and empowered them to claim their rightful seat at the table.

6. Both genders have to be visible at all times and all levels in peace operations.

The conceptual approach of gender equality aims for the equal representation of women and men in different roles and in different levels. Participants discussed the example of the latest women's quota requirements for police and military components in UN peace operations. They agreed that simply increasing the number of female candidates in national armed forces does not result in having more women in peace operations. What is needed, is consistent engagement with women in junior branches, to open opportunities for women in lower-ranking positions and to place women in positions correlating to their level of training and experience. This in turn will contribute to a better transition into leadership positions.

ISAF again served as an example for participants, who discussed the crucial role women have to play in the Afghan security forces. The issue here concerned the importance of walking the talk. It may be detrimental for the missions' public appearance when ISAF commanders talk about the importance of having female leaders in Afghan

forces, with their Afghan counterparts listening to this advice coming from an exclusively male mission leadership. It was concluded that actively promoting young females and informing them about possibilities and careers within the military system is a possibility to ensure better visibility of both genders in peace operations.

7. <u>Gender stereotypes are a massive obstacle for sustainable change.</u>

Actors in peace operations need to be aware about socialization processes and how these processes produce stereotypes regarding gender roles, which in turn influence the way conflict prevention, management and resolution looks like. It is a common responsibility to observe, identify and actively break stereotypes in order to achieve a sustainable change in the framework of inclusive societies. The aim of all actors should be to enlarge the picture of what is socially acceptable and what is socially encouraged. To achieve this, to break with traditional images and to empower women as well as entire societies in a transitioning period, role models within civilian, police and military components of peace operations need to be fostered and encouraged.

Participants discussed the example of ISAF where a good gender balance existed on the junior level within the civilian political staff. Yet, already on the middle-management level men dominated the international political positions. This is related to the fact that women often

start having families during their early- or mid- thirties, which contributes to them dropping out of career tracks linked to non-family postings. Meanwhile, men with families back home are often active in embassies and international organizations on the middle-management level. This reflects how societies continue to function, including in the 'Western' world. When there is traditional thinking at home, it impacts operations abroad. Therefore, all actors need to work towards breaking harmful gender stereotypes.

Ameerah Haq

Inside and Outside Perspectives of Women in Peace Operations

I spent nearly 40 years in the service of the international community, much of it as a leader in peace operations, in the field and in headquarters. During these assignments, I experienced how women and girls often bear the burden of conflict, how they can help build peace and stability, and how difficult it has been for societies, organizations and the international community to value, respect and integrate the female perspective.

The thoughts I would like to share with you today evolve around one simple theme: If we seek to create more space for the perspective of women and girls on conflict, peace and stability, then we need change. And this change will not succeed, unless those in positions of power begin to practice what they preach. It's a simple truth no leader can ignore in the long run.

The inside perspective: Women in peace operations

Peace operations are the international community's most powerful means to shape the course of societies. They can force, support and lead change. For the sake of a better future. And it is difficult to see how such operations

can succeed in promoting female perspectives, if they don't understand, value or foster them for themselves.

Consequently, recognizing the failure of the international community to practice what it preaches when it comes to women in peace operations, must be the starting point of any balanced discussion. The statistics around women and UN peace operations are striking [and I know last year's forum examined some of the challenges in detail]:

First, there's a large gender gap in leadership. Of the 15 current Members of the Security Council, only one is a woman. In the 35 peace operations the UN currently leads or supports, only 31 of the 140 most senior civilian and uniformed leaders are women. That's one woman for every four men. Of the 29 current force commanders, deputy force commanders and police commissioners, only one is a woman: Priscilla Makotose from Zimbabwe. She serves in Darfur, in a very difficult mission environment.

Second, this gender gap extends to day-to-day operations. Of the roughly 20,000 civilians in peace operations, only 4,300 are women. That's 22 percent. Of the total 100,000 troops and police currently deployed in UN operations, just over four percent are women. Unless peace operations offer more space for women in decision-making and their day-to-day operations, their ability to lead change on behalf of women and girls is severely impaired.

There has been some progress, but it's glacially slow. Yes, the number of women among uniformed personnel has been climbing. But how meaningful is an increase from three to four percent over a ten-year period? Yes, more women are among civilian mission leaders than in the past. But why can't we do better than one woman for every four men?

As a manager of peace operations, I often heard that it's impossible to find women for the most senior or powerful leadership positions. Yet, when it came to recruiting for junior positions, with less power in the organization, there was no such problem. In fact, over 40 percent of all civilian entry-level professional posts (P-2) in peace operations are held by women. The issue is not the availability, risk aversion or qualification of women. In large part, the challenge is an organizational culture that restricts their access to positions of power. The new UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has made it one of his first priorities to close this gender gap. By 2028, the goal is to achieve gender parity among the UN's civilian staff, so that the UN can more credibly help to lead change.

The outside perspective: Women in peacebuilding and reconciliation

Bringing the female perspective to peace operations, peacebuilding and reconciliation is important. It's the right thing to do, and it requires constant commitment. For the sake of a better future.

Over the course of my work in international humanitarian, development and peace operations, I have experienced first-hand why respect for the role of women in peacebuilding and reconciliation matters. And what the international community could do to strengthen their voice.

Of the many dimensions one could examine, it is worth concentrating on three. First, when thinking about reconciliation, we need to recognize the extent to which women and girls are victims in conflict. Second, we need to appreciate the extent to which female members of society can contribute to stability in the aftermath of conflict. And third, we need to think about what the international community must do to provide better leadership for societies trapped in conflict, and the women and girls within them.

Women and girls as victims in conflict

As a leader of the UN's humanitarian and development efforts in Sudan and Darfur, I became witness to the silent suffering of women and girls in conflict. The Darfur conflict escalated in 2003, and since then, an estimated 300,000 people have died; many due to disease and neglect. Over 2 million Darfuris remain displaced from their homes, and nearly 800,000 have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

In the Darfur conflict, as in many other wars before, rape has become a weapon. Regular and irregular forces

have violated the dignity of tens of thousands of women and girls. The idea is that "if you rape one woman, you have raped the entire tribe". Those who help document these crimes, see them as part of a "deliberate strategy to break the spirit of the Darfuri tribes through mass rape". Violence against women and girls is central part of warfare.

And the violence in Darfur continues: Not just to attack the spirit of the Darfuri people but also to destroy the livelihoods that sustain their families. In 2015, for example, the UN documented that most of the recent violence against women and girls occurred while they were carrying out essential sustenance activities, such as farming and the collection of grass and firewood, often in isolated areas. Attacks against women and girls are attacks on economic foundations.

Globally, the 2015 Annual Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence highlighted distressing accounts of rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence of similar gravity in 19 at least different countries. Women and girls are among the most silent victims of conflict. And to build lasting peace, we need to better recognize, prevent and address their suffering.

Women's and girls' contribution to peace and stability post-conflict

Valuing the female perspective is even more important, because it is women who often do most to advance stability in the immediate aftermath of conflict.

Of the many relevant dimensions, the most obvious is their involvement in restoring the economic foundations of peace. For many Austrians, the work that the "Trümmerfrauen" did to restore Vienna and other cities from the damage of World War II has not yet faded from memory. Just like women worked in Austria to rebuild the peace, so they work in fragile societies emerging from conflict today. They tend to the fields, guard animals and – as heads of households – they often carry the burden of care. In 2013, the UN Peacebuilding Commission formally recognized that "the economic empowerment of women greatly contributes to the effectiveness of post-conflict economic activities and growth, and improves the social outcomes of recovery measures, as well as the prospects for sustainable development"

Beyond helping restore the damage of war (often caused by male leaders), a stronger role of women can guard against the outbreak of violence in the first place. We know from a range of studies, that where women control household incomes, they can better nourish and educate their children, engage in civil society activity and contribute to local governance. As result, women's em-

powerment generates "vital contributions to family and community stability".

International leadership and support for women and girls

Since 2000, the international community has slowly woken up to the plight of women and girls in conflict, and their impact on lasting peace.

The most prominent manifestations of international commitment are the Security Council resolutions on the role of women in peace and security: Starting with the ground-breaking resolution 1325 in the year 2000, which called on all actors to recognize the needs of women and girls, involve them in peace negotiations and ensure the protection of their human rights in the design of post-conflict institutions. Since then, the Council further strengthened its support to fostering the role of women in peacebuilding in resolutions 1820 (in 2008), 1889 (in 2009) and 2122 (in 2013).

Overall, these commitments have helped improve the engagement of women in internationally supported peace-building and reconciliation efforts. For example, while still small, the increased participation of female personnel in peace operations has helped break down barriers between the missions and women affected by conflict. In most cases, women feel safer to share evidence of crimes when other women are present. The UN mission in Timor-Leste, which I helped lead, built up a Vulnerable Persons

Unit – mostly staffed by female officers – which worked with the local police in reaching out to victims of sexual violence. Helping to uncover the suffering of women, is helping to create the conditions for reconciliation.

The Security Council resolutions have also created political leverage for women seeking to participate in political processes. The 2004 Constitution in Afghanistan, for example, enshrines that 28 percent of seats in the lower house of parliament (Wolesi Jirga), and a similar share in the House of Elders must be allotted to women. International commitments have helped give voice to women in political processes that shape the future of societies, where they otherwise would have remained silent.

We must also recognize that such achievements are under constant threat. In Afghanistan, for example, the female quota for provincial councils was recently lowered from 25 to 20 percent, against the will of Afghan women. We need to guard against such unravelling of what is right and decent, at home and abroad. In today's international environment, the European Community – and the values and history it represents – has a very important role to play. In this context, I welcome the $500 million Euro commitment to a new EU-UN Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, and to support the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality.

At a minimum, however, the international community must ensure that its work in countries affected by conflict does not create additional harm. Those serving under the blue flag across the world have a duty to uphold the highest standards of integrity, professionalism and respect for the dignity of the human person. Sexual abuse by peacekeepers has not only soiled the flag of the UN, but undermines peace and hope in the very places where we seek to build it. Since 2010, we identified at least 556 such allegations with over 700 victims. During my tenure in the Department of Field Support, we began to develop a three-pronged strategy to systematically address this misconduct through prevention, enforcement and remedial action. The Secretary-General is doubling down on these efforts, with a dedicated Special Envoy and a new Victims Rights Advocate. A new website at *conduct.unmissions.org* openly documents every single allegation, victim and action. The transparency and accountability that SG Antonio Guterres has committed to, sets new international standards. Many national institutions should learn from it.

The overall lesson, on which I would like to conclude, remains simple: To be credible leaders, we need to practice what we preach. If we seek to create more space for the female perspective on conflict, peace and stability, then we need change. And this change will not succeed, unless those in positions of power make credible commitments that lead to results. The case for women is clear: for their protection from conflict, for their role in reconcilia-

tion and the building of more peaceful societies. To make this case most convincingly for women abroad, we need to begin with change at home.

Thank you.

Mara Marinaki

State of Development

After almost two decades since the adoption of the UNSCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), it is a good time to recall the original spirit of the Resolution. It is a good time to remind the global community that women's active participation and leadership are untapped resources for achieving peace, security and sustainable development. Injustices and inequalities embedded in gender relations are a long-term threat, not only to peace and security, but also to development and stability. A holistic approach to gender is essential and all stakeholders must collectively ensure that the challenges surrounding the development-security nexus as well as the development-humanitarian nexus are dealt with swiftly and effectively.

As we are all well aware both from the United Nations Security Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and from our experiences from the different realities that we meet in our professional contexts, women have a critical role to play when dealing with peace and security in their family, in their community or in their country: women are well positioned to introduce the priorities that establish the long-term foundations for a stronger state. Women address as a priority the abuse of police power or their political exclusion, women ensure as a priority food security for their families, women place a special importance to reintegrate those who took arms and now need jobs,

women are more magnanimous to forgive neighbours who killed neighbours, women are also uniquely connected to their communities, women are key to gaining public support for negotiated settlements.[3]

Gender equality is both a goal in itself and the means to achieve security, stability, sustainable development and peace. In light of effective multilateralism, we need a confluence of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)[4] with the Women Peace and Security Agenda, to change the narrative around gender equality and to reinforce further the powerful connection between SDGs and Conflict Prevention. In fact, the EU has led the efforts for the 2030 Agenda to include not only SDG-5 on Gender Equality, but also SDG-16 on "Peaceful, just, and inclusive societies" as a global priority, by acknowledging peace and peaceful societies as a cross-cutting issue and as a stand-alone goal. The inclusion of Goal 16 provides an opportunity to address barriers to peace that gravely affect the lives of women and girls, such as violence, lack of access to justice, illicit financial and arms flows, and political exclusion.

Gender equality, women's empowerment and the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda are now more important than ever. Words and policies

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[3] OECD DAC Focus: Women, Gender and Armed Conflict, OECD, Paris 2009
https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/44896284.pdf
[4] See appendix Sustainable Development Goals

must be operationalised and translated into concrete actions in order to make a positive contribution and difference to people. During the last decade the EU has developed and put in place a comprehensive policy framework for integrating gender equality and women, peace and security into its common foreign and security policy, including the common security and defence policy. Much has been done, but challenges remain in turning the policies into practice.

WPS in the EU: The 2008 Comprehensive Approach and National Action Plans

To this day, the "EU Comprehensive Approach on the Implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820" adopted by the Council in 2008, has been defining the basic principles of the EU's policy on Women, Peace and Security and its overall objectives, common definitions as well as the common EU approach to the implementation of these resolutions. It aims at ensuring full coherence between and within different EU external action instruments and proper continuity in all realms of the EU's external action, from crisis management to reconstruction to development. The Comprehensive Approach provides overarching guidance to guarantee that the EU's external actions are shaped to protect women and girls from violence, to actively promote women's meaningful participation in all matters related to peace, security and stability and contribute to increased equality between women and men before, during and after armed conflict and in situations of fragility.

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To achieve these results, the EU promotes worldwide the creation of UNSCR1325 National Action Plans (NAP) based upon a "whole-of-government" strategy. As of October 2017, 18 EU member states have their adopted National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325. The objective is that all EU member states will have one at the earliest possible. The aim of UNSCR1325 NAPs is that the full implementation of the WPS agenda is critical in order to achieve global, regional, national and individual security. Thus the promotion of women's participation and leadership are of key importance. However, gender balance does not necessarily equal effective gender mainstreaming and both are required in order to achieve gender equality. The WPS agenda is universally applicable and must be implemented internally (domestically) as well as externally. The internal external coherence is paramount in order to provide credible and impactful external actions. For this reason, the EU is assisting Member States through strategic and technical level meetings and workshops for the development and implementation of their NAPs.

Nevertheless, despite the very strong policy framework relating to gender equality, women's empowerment and WPS agenda, the 2008 Comprehensive Approach on the Implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820, being almost ten years old, is by many considered as outdated. In fact, since 2008, six additional Security Council Resolutions relating to WPS have been adopted, and the key recommendations from these UNSCRs (e.g. gender and sexu-

al violence related to terrorism and violent extremism, sexual trafficking in conflict areas, as well as the inclusion of men and boys) are not reflected in the current EU policy framework. In addition, it should be mentioned that there are additional Resolutions, such as UNSCR 2272 (2016) on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as well as UNSCR 2331 (2016), the first to address the nexus between sexual trafficking, sexual violence, terrorism and transnational organized crime, that should be brought into consideration in a policy update of the WPS agenda. Therefore, the next natural step in the evolution towards a more effective and comprehensive implementation of the overall EU policy framework is to ensure that gaps between different policy areas are bridged and thus enabling a more effective and coherent implementation.

In this regard, the EU is not alone on the international panorama. In line with effective multilateralism both the UN and NATO have been adjusting their policy frameworks along the evolution of the WPS agenda, while the EU, through the ongoing policy review of the 2008 Comprehensive Approach is staying as coherent, and as up to speed as possible to adhere to its role as global leader for gender equality and women's empowerment. These efforts are conducted jointly by international and regional organisations, through the "Regional Acceleration Plan for Resolution 1325 (RAR 1325)" initiative led by the UN/DPKO, EU, NATO, OSCE and the African Union (AU) with the aim of enabling mutual support, between the participating

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organisations in implementing WPS at all levels. More specifically, civilian and military means for effective implementation will be identified e.g. existing tools/guidance; best practices/lessons learned; as well as challenges and implementation gaps within the WPS context. The success of the WPS agenda relies profoundly on the ability to translate the political guidance into concrete actions and this gathering of practitioners will also provide an opportunity to various regional organisations to enhance operational effectiveness and the achievement of gender equality, including during transitions.

A clear and robust policy framework is a cornerstone for any implementation of political direction and guidance, and it is with effective collaboration, dialogue and multilateralism in mind, the EU is approaching the policy review of the 2008 Comprehensive Approach in order to create and updated and comprehensive EU Strategy on Women, Peace and Security.

The EU Global Strategy

In a rapidly changing and ever so complex global environment, threats to our security and stability are multiple and interdependent and for this reason it is necessary to address the root causes and structural drivers of conflict, promote early warning systems to prevent conflicts and especially, engage women by addressing their specific challenged as well as recognizing their unique contributions in all aspects of society. These are only a number of

the issues addressed in the recently adopted European Global Security Strategy, which promotes Women, Peace and Security and gender equality and women's empowerment as a cross-cutting dimension to be mainstreamed into all priority strategies and thematic blocks. Efforts in the mainstreaming of gender have also succeeded in a number of policy documents.

In fact, gender has been integrated in the "Joint Communication on Resilience" as it is clearly acknowledged in the Communication that *"Women have a specific and essential role in building resilient societies, that needs to be recognised and acted upon, while addressing the structural causes of gender inequality"*. The aim of this strategy is to identify how a strategic approach to resilience can increase the impact of EU external action and sustain progress towards EU development, humanitarian, foreign and security policy objectives.

Working on the Implementation Plan on Security and Defence and with the new Operational Planning and Conduct Capabilities for CSDP Missions and Operations, a gender perspective resulted to be included as both capacity and a capability in the establishment of the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) and with the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC). Furthermore, in regards to mission and operations, the Council of the EU welcomed in 2015 the initiative for a baseline study, a mapping exercise with the aim of creating an information base for measuring progress and delivery on

human rights, gender and related fields. It was of utmost importance to conduct a baseline study after a decade of efforts to integrate human rights and gender into the CSDP planning process and across missions and operations and it was a welcome stock-taking exercise.

The EU's external actions do not only comprise its missions and operations, but also development cooperation in which gender is being mainstreamed since 2001. Numerous innovative programmes and projects have been implemented by a variety of different actors across the development and security spectrum to address the development, economic, and socio-political challenges leading to inequalities.

The Gender Action Plan (GAP II) for the period 2016-2020 stresses the need for the full realisation of women's and girls' full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. For the first time, there is a focus on thematic pillars, four pivotal areas that have been identified which could transform the lives of women and girls if action is taken. The three thematic pillars are: ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity, promoting the social and economic rights / empowerment of girls and women and strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation. There is also a fourth, horizontal pillar: shifting the institutional culture to more effectively deliver on EU commitments. We have recently concluded the GAP-II 1st

Implementation Report which establishes a solid vehicle for us all to move forward upon, in our efforts to empower women and girls and achieve gender equality worldwide – this report provides us a base and a good mix of best practices and positive achievements as well as highlighting areas where further efforts need to be made.

The EU-UN Spotlight Initiative on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls

During the 72nd UN General Assembly in New York, there was a notable focus on human rights and on Gender/Women, Peace and Security agenda issues, starting with the UNSG's opening High-Level Meeting on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on 18 September 2017. More than 70 UN Member States, including all 28 EU Member States, have already signed up to the Voluntary Compact, and more than 20 more Heads of State and Government have indicated their intention to join the UN initiative 'Circle of Leadership' to demonstrate their solidarity and firm commitment to ending impunity and strengthening measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping and political missions, among other international deployments, ensuring full implementation of the UNSG's Zero Tolerance policy.

Today, more than ever, when the world is facing so many challenges, the EU stands firmly by the UN in an effort to defend effective multilateralism, and a global order based on rules, agreed jointly and respected by all.

We are all committed to promoting peace, human rights and sustainable development, and other shared values and principles, and on this we cannot accept any exceptions, or excuses. Violence against women and girls is rooted in structural inequality in power relations between women and men. It persists in every country in the world and is one of the most systematic and widespread human rights violations. A major obstacle to ending gender inequality and discrimination, it hinders women and girls from claiming their social, economic, civil, and political rights. And in order for women and girls to feel empowered, they first have to feel safe and secure for their lives.

This was the message shared by UNSG Guterres and DSG Amina Mohammed with HRVP Mogherini and Commissioner Mimica at the successful launching event during UNGA 72 in September 2017, of our joint EU-UN "Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls", which aims at achieving transformational change worldwide in different regions, in a manner consistent with the principles of the 2030 Agenda, through applying a human rights' based approach in order to "leave no-one behind". The Spotlight Initiative is an ambitious endeavour of an unprecedented financial and political scale. This new UN Fund is a pioneering investment in gender equality and women's empowerment, with foreseen initial EU funding of EUR 500M, bringing together the EU and the UN to combine their efforts in targeted regions and with actions around the world to combat all forms of

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violence against women and girls. This Initiative will respond to all forms of VAWG, with a particular focus on domestic and family violence; sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation in select countries and regions worldwide.

Gender and Radicalisation

Given the complex global security context today, besides the general guidelines provided by UNSCR 1325, there is also the UNSC Resolution 2242 (2015) highlighting specifically the role of women in countering terrorism and violent extremism, urging Member States and UN entities to integrate a gender analysis on the drivers of radicalization for women, to consider the impacts of counterterrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations, and to ensure greater consultations with women and women's organizations.

In order to tackle more effectively radicalisation and violent extremism at the earliest possible stage, we have to differentiate our traditional gender-blind approach, and ensure that Gender is incorporated from the earliest and initial analysis and planning to improve our understanding of the phenomenon and the quality of our responses and activities. The work on violent extremism and terrorism must engage women at all levels and from the earliest possible time. As extremist groups have increased in influence through also the exploitation of social media, their

territorial advance has been coupled with targeted, strategic attacks on women's rights and freedoms, including the ability to move freely, engage in public life, access education and employment, enjoy health services, express themselves without the fear of repercussion, and live as equal citizens.

Recognizing sexual violence as an effective tool and tactic of terrorism demands that we rethink our response. It is necessary to apply the "women, peace and security" perspective and a comprehensive gender approach, if we should be successful. We must work jointly and leave the silo approaches behind as only together with all relevant stakeholders on board we can truly and successfully prevent violent extremism and terrorism. Women and girls are used to entice prospective terrorist fighters as an incentive for their recruitment. It is used to raise funds through sale, trade and trafficking in women and girls. Forced and early marriage is being used as a means by which extremists are embedding themselves in communities by establishing new kinship ties. Sexual violence is being used to destroy and displace some minority/religious communities.

Yet, it is also important to recognize that women play different roles when it comes to violent extremism: they can be enablers, perpetrators and actors, or they can play a key role in countering fundamentalism and extremism. Nevertheless, women are positioned to be effective partners in CT/VE efforts against intolerance and extremism,

and as positive change agents in their families, communities, and public spaces in order to prevent radicalization that leads to violent extremism and acts of terrorism. Only when women are meaningful participants in shaping comprehensive CVE strategies – through the security sector, criminal justice system, in social programs, counter-ideology initiatives, and within civil society – will societies be able to address the conditions conducive to terrorism.

The EU has run different programmes aiming at including more women in P/CVE at the earliest possible stages. These include programmes that empower mothers to identify early signs of violent behaviour and enhance their problem-solving skills. For instance, as part of its European Neighbourhood Policy and Instrument to Stability and Peace (ICSP), the EU funds a package of Strengthening Resilience to Violence and Extremism (STRIVE) that is aimed inter alia at empowering women to counter radical ideologies. Within the EU, projects are supported to examine the situation of young women who turn to right-wing as well as radical Islamic contexts.

The 2017 Radicalisation Awareness Network/RAN - collection of inspiring practices includes projects focusing on women and their contribution to prevent and counter radicalisation. The EU has also sponsored research, for instance on the push and pull factors that lead to the recruitment of women, carried out by RAN and Hedayah. Such research is an essential first step to design effective

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policy responses. The EU believes that all efforts must have an integrated gender perspective and must ensure that women are playing an active role in all P-CT/VERLT efforts, including in the security sector where women's participation is a pre-requisite for equal security for all.

The Challenges Ahead

Although we have equipped ourselves in the European Union with a robust and comprehensive policy framework and developed targeted projects and initiatives for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment, substantial challenges still persist. When promoting gender equality on all our EU external actions and policies, we must first and foremost ensure internal/external coherence.

According to EU statistics, over 55 % of women in EU Member States are reported to have experienced some form of sexual harassment. Domestic abuse and femicide are equally as prevalent. In June 2017, Commissioner Jourova signed for EU accession to the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women [the Istanbul Convention]. This Convention is a comprehensive instrument to tackle all forms of discrimination against women, particularly the widespread phenomenon of violence against women, as both a cause and a consequence of inequality between women and men and thus limiting the full advancement of women. We are confident that the EU signing of the Istanbul Convention will

have a positive impact on the matter and boost the effectiveness of regulations already in place. Cultural understanding related to masculinities need to be broadened, male leadership is essential, and attitudes need to be changed both in men's and women's perceptions, in order for traditional, unequal gender roles to be broken and reconstructed.

The EU will continue to channel the empowerment of women and girls also through the support and empowerment of CSO/women's organisations. We are always consulting with Civil Society, especially these days where we see signs of shrinking space for civil society organisations and activists – our position is as a matter of fundamental principle, not only because it is a requirement found at the core of UNSCR 1325 and in the EU policies on Gender Equality, but also because it is the way to keep ourselves properly grounded with the grassroots and to ensure that our policies and activities are in line with the day-to-day realities of the millions of women and girls on the ground. It is not only the 'right' thing to do, but also the way of work guaranteeing that we do things "right".

In my capacity as EEAS/EU Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR1325, I meet regularly and often with representatives from Women's Organisations and with Women Human Rights Defenders from around the world, both here in Brussels and during my missions, and we do know that they need our full support and protection, politically and economically and this must be safeguarded.

With gender equality and peace and security as its overarching aims, the EU approach is fully comprehensive in order to work for achievement of these objectives within all parts, levels and activities no matter externally or internally. In 1995 during the UN's Fourth Annual Conference on Women, it was decided that the key strategies to implement in order to achieve gender equality were gender mainstreaming and gender balance. We must not focus on one at the cost and marginalisation of the other, we must do both. Gender Parity and Women's meaningful political participation are both key and at the very core of the UNSCRs within the WPS agenda. All resolutions reaffirm the critical condition of women's full and equal participation in all aspects related to peace and security as both a mean and an end.

As the European Union, we will continue leading by example and pioneering innovative and bold policies in our External Action worldwide together with our partners to support and promote gender equality, women's empowerment and the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda to the benefit of all our citizens alike, women and men, as well as girls and boys.

Nasra Hassan

UN-Commitment: Seven Point Action Plan

Strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding is high on the agenda of the United Nations, which recognizes that women are crucial partners in shoring up three pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy. The UN's Peace Building Support Office and UN Women are supporting the implementation of a Seven Point Action Plan, the commitment of the United Nations to improve women's situations in post-conflict countries.

The UNSC has passed a number of resolutions which address the roles of women in the peace and security agenda. While these legal frameworks have increased awareness of how conflict impacts on women specifically, calling for greater participation of women in transforming conflict-affected societies, the United Nations Security Council still has a long way to go in rolling out these strategies.

A high-level review of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 1325 in 2015 provided an opportunity for policy-makers to move beyond the rhetoric of gender mainstreaming and start putting words into practice. Resolution 1325 underlines the need for gender-sensitive approaches to peace and stability in post-conflict contexts. Although the inclusion of women in peacebuild-

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ing processes has gained momentum in policy discussions over the last 15 years, the number of women in decision-making positions remains relatively small.

Peacebuilding is the foundation for creating sustainable human security and equitable development in countries emerging from conflict. UNSC resolution 1325 recognises that women are disproportionally affected by conflict, and to address this, women should play a key role in achieving lasting peace after conflict.

Although national laws are important for recognising gender equality, these do not guarantee it in practice, and cannot ensure that women will receive the practices often carry more weight than a national constitution, even in places where the law calls for women to play a greater role in decision-making.

Seven Point Action Plan: Commitments & Measures to Track Progress

In 2010, the Secretary-General issued a Seven Point Action Plan with commitments & measures to track progress, *viz.*:

1. Conflict resolution: UN entities to take more systematic action to ensure women's participation in and the availability of gender expertise to, the peace process – *via* (a) appointment of women as chief mediator/ special envoy to UN-led peace processes; (b) inclusion of gender expertise at senior levels in mediation support activities;

(c) investing in strategies for the inclusion of more women in negotiation parties; (d) ensuring that mediation & negotiation teams consult with women's Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);

2. Post-conflict planning: UN system to more systematically institutionalize women's participation in all post-conflict planning – *via* (a) undertaking a comprehensive review of existing institutional arrangements for incorporating gender issues into post-conflict planning – principles to apply to all post-conflict strategy & planning processes; (b) develop standard processes on donor conferences to ensure that a cross-section of women's representatives from civil and political society are invited & provided access to all documentation, space on the agenda and assistance in convening preparatory meetings & developing policy papers;

3. Post-conflict financing: UN commitment to increasing financing for gender equality & women's and girls' empowerment in post-conflict situations – *via* (a) all UN-funded projects in support of peacebuilding to demonstrate how these will benefit men & women; (b) each UN entity to initiate a process, in line with its mandate & governance arrangements, for laying groundwork & investing in systems to track gender post-conflict financing and to work towards ensuring that at least 15 % of UN-mandated peacebuilding funds is dedicated to projects whose principal objective is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women;

4. Gender-responsive civilian capacity: civilian capacity to include specialized skills to meet women's urgent needs and expertise in rebuilding state institutions to make these more accessible to women & girls and less prone to gender-based discrimination – *via* UN leaders ensuring that mission & humanitarian planners revise procedures to improve the UN's ability to address women's and girls' post-conflict needs;

5. Women's representation in post-conflict governance: ensuring that technical assistance to conflict-resolution processes & countries emerging from conflict promotes women's participation as decision-makers in public institutions through temporary special measures – *via* (a) building structures of inclusive governance by ensuring that technical assistance includes rigorous assessment of the potential value of such special measures, including quotas for women; (b) ensuring that gender discrimination is addressed at every stage in the political process; (c) UN technical assistance to public administration reform should ensure full consideration of measures to increase the proportion of women in state institutions at all levels;

6. Rule of law: UN's approach, before, during & after conflict, to systematically promote women's & girls' rights to security & justice – *via* (a) peace operations initiating immediate & longer-term efforts to prevent & respond to sexual and gender-based violence; (b) implement legal support services for women & girls to end impunity

& protect victims and make this a standard component of the UN's rule of law response in the immediate post-conflict period; (c) establishing minimum standards of gender-responsiveness for Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRCs), reparations programmes & related bodies;

7. Economic recovery: UN system to ensure that women's equal involvement as participants & beneficiaries in local development, employment-creation, frontline service delivery and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes in post-conflict situations – *via* (a) requiring the direct involvement of women & women CSOs in setting priorities, identifying beneficiaries & monitoring implementation of local development & infrastructure programmes which are based on a participatory/community-development approach; (b) post-conflict employment programmes to specifically target women as a beneficiary group, using a range-of-parity principle, women workers receiving daily payments directly, and addressing barriers to equitable participation; (c) promotion of women as "frontline" service-delivery agents, e.g. in health, agriculture, education & management of natural resources; (d) ensuring women's equal participation in all stages of DDR, from negotiation of peace agreements & establishment of national institutions to the design and implementation of programmes.

In his report to the Security Council in October 2016 on women and peace and security, the Secretary-General made the following important points:

· the women & peace & security agenda was a critical, yet under-utilized tool for preventing conflict and for shaping more effective responses to today's complex crises;

· stakeholders were called upon to build and act on evidence, lessons and good practices gathered over the past 15 years to ensure women's meaningful participation, in particular in formal peace processes;

· the importance of protecting and promoting the rights and leadership of women in peacekeeping and humanitarian settings;

· repeated the need to address conflict-related sexual violence as part of a continuum of violence that is closely intertwined with broader attacks on gender equality and women's human rights;

· the protection of women in situations of displacement;

· promotion of gender equality in humanitarian action; and

· women's access to justice, in which significant advancements in criminal accountability for conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes had taken place recently.

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In his concluding observations and recommendations, the Secretary-General emphasized:

- bringing <u>women's participation and leadership to the core of peace and security efforts</u> and continued to call upon all stakeholders to remove obstacles and incentivize the effective participation of women in peace and security, as well as to carefully track and report on progress in this field and that more must be done by the UN to accelerate progress in achieving gender balance in staffing;

- <u>protecting the human rights of women and girls during and after conflict</u>, where human rights violations against women and girls had continued unabated, including with some armed actors and terrorist organizations attacking women's human rights as part of their political agenda; asking all actors to recommit to complying with obligations under international humanitarian, refugee and human rights law, to respect and promote the full range of women's human rights, to punish all violators, including non-State actors or those within its own troops, and to protect those who defend the human rights of women and girls; women must play key roles in the design and implementation of protection and prevention strategies, as well as in the international community's determined efforts to root out sexual exploitation and abuse from the Organization;

- ensuring gender-responsive planning and accountability for results, including through the Security Council's new Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, and the 11 new national action plans adopted in 2016;

- strengthening gender architecture and technical expertise, where the UN must accelerate efforts; the high-level review, as well as the reviews of peacebuilding architecture and peace operations, recommended new measures, whose full implementation would require additional commitment to effecting partnerships;

- financing the women and peace and security agenda, where increased financial resources were necessary to meet commitments to the women and peace and security agenda; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places gender equality at the centre of sustainable development and highlights the connections between sustainable development and peaceful and inclusive societies, with the need for global leadership to prevent and end conflict a core responsibility outlined in the Secretary-General's *Agenda for Humanity*; insistence on redoubling efforts to prevent conflict and that gender equality be at the heart of every endeavour to establish a more peaceful world; and

- prioritizing gender equality and women's empowerment in peace and security settings as a continued effort in the long term.

Women and Reconciliation:
(cf. Point 6 of the Seven Point Action Plan above)

There is no universal roadmap for reconciliation, no short cut or simple prescription for healing the wounds and divisions of a society in the aftermath of sustained violence; creating trust and understanding between former enemies is a supremely difficult challenge, but an essential one to address in the process of building a lasting peace. Examining the painful past, acknowledging it and under-standing it, and above all transcending it together, is the best way to guarantee that it does not – and cannot – happen again. Truth is at the heart of reconciliation -- the need to find out the truth about the horrors of the past, the better to ensure that they never happen again. And that is the central significance of reconciliation, without which af-fected societies have no sense of safety, no trust, no confi-dence in the future. The aim of reconciliation is 'to build a shared future from a divided past'. There is no alternative way to lasting peace.

Women can play an important role in reconciliation, but the international community and the regional & na-tional leaderships need to show more determination in bringing women into all aspects of political, economic and social development so that women can play their rightful role in reconciliation as well as in the UN's peace and development and security agenda.

Reconciliation is an over-arching process which includes the search for truth, justice, forgiveness, healing and so on. At its simplest, it means finding a way to live alongside former enemies – not necessarily to love them, or forgive them, or forget the past in any way, but to coexist with them, to develop the degree of cooperation necessary to share society with each other, so that all have better lives together than they have had separately. While politics is a process to deal with the issues that have divided communities in the past, reconciliation is a parallel process which redesigns that relationship.

Gender aspects and perspectives: These require an understanding of how violent conflict involves and affects different social groups beyond the most immediate impact, such as torture and displacement. A gender perspective illustrates some of the "small conflicts" that lie beneath the main conflict and which need to be addressed in order to create a sustainable peace and a democratic society. For example, women have experienced sexual abuse in the form of mass rape, forced marriages and prostitution, with social stigmatization and marginalization as a consequence. For such women reconciliation involves offences against them being recognized and punished, illegitimate children being recognized as legitimate with full rights, and resources being allocated to deal with the physical and psychological consequences. For war widows, reconciliation would include compensation and to address existing inheritance laws and practices which dispossess them or

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hinder them in fulfilling their new obligations as family providers.

A gender perspective also entails looking at how men are affected. In the context of reconciliation it is necessary to recognize that armed conflict encourages a "warrior identity" while at the same time doing damage to the male self-perception as provider and protector of a family. The frustration and anger this may give rise to be a serious threat to a reconciliation process. Establishing trustful and respectful relations between men and women, and between particularly targeted groups of men and women, is essential for fashioning a democratic society. Such relations require full recognition of how a particular conflict has involved and affected men and women in different ways.

Gender is an indispensable dimension of reconciliation at the official and institutional levels. Most experience across the globe demonstrates that women (and often also other politically-marginalized groups) have limited access to peace negotiation processes and little or no representation in government and other decision-making bodies. This lack of involvement in political processes seriously reduces their possibilities to voice their concerns and interests and ensure that these are recognized as political concerns at a crucial point, which may again result in a certain alienation from the nation and the state.

Note: A truth commission or truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) is a commission tasked with discover-

ing and revealing past wrongdoings by official or non-state entities, in the hope of resolving conflict. Approximately 55 TRCs have been established since the end of World War Two, some of which are still in existence.

Nana Fosu Randall

Voices of African Mothers and
Peace Operations

I am sure all of you know it. However, I thought I should say it anyway. Regrettably, unlike thousands of men and women from various parts of the world including Austria and my home country, Ghana, I have never had the honour of wearing a blue helmet or blue beret. I have never stood guard along any ceasefire line. Well, having served in several United Nations peace missions I should perhaps describe myself as an 'ex-blue-helmet-less-peacekeeper.' To be exact I was an ex-civilian staff in UN peace missions. As a senior financial officer and a woman I think my appointment may have been conveniently identified as an example of gender-responsive civilian capacity in UN peace missions. The objective has been to ensure that civilian capacity includes specialized skills to meet women's urgent needs and expertise. We share the view that effective management of the financial resources of peace operations on the ground is crucial to the success of the missions.

I took great pride in serving in that capacity in missions such as Liberia, Lebanon, Kuwait and in Iraq after the Gulf War. At the same time I will never ever forget the impact that one of those missions had on my life and post-UN career activities. You would be interested to know that

Voices of African Mothers (VAM) which I founded emerged from one of those UN peace operations. It was in Liberia that I was inspired and urged to work for the welfare of mothers and children in Africa.

In 2001, I travelled to Liberia after the civil war. I witnessed many horrendous situations in that country as the result of the war. However, one particular site really pulled on my heart strings. I saw a little girl on the roadside, she had no limbs; with no hands and legs. This little girl was there with a baby begging for money. At first, I thought that she was exploiting the child to collect money from the passersby. But I was wrong. It was her own biological child AND SHE WAS ONLY 13 YEARS OLD. I was overwhelmed with emotion. I was filled with tears. I was speechless and I was very upset to see it. I knew then I had to do something. Hence, I instructed my driver to investigate further on the young girl. How can a handicapped 13-year-old girl have a child? Where is her mother or father, where is her family? My driver reported to me that her parents were killed during the senseless wars Samuel Doe, Charles Taylor, Foday Sankoh and others brought upon the people of Liberia and Sierra Leone. I soon developed a relationship with the little girl. In spite of her serious disability she was full of life and had dreams to fulfill. I promised myself to do whatever I can to help this young girl, her child, and many other children in the rural areas of Africa. Because of the little girl in Liberia I saw how their tears are beyond their pain and it

saddened me that no one heard them. That is why I am here to share their stories with you and the world through my organization Voices of African Mothers.

The aims and objectives of VAM emerged from my own strong belief that wars do not build nations; wars destroy them. Wars bring unnecessary pain, hunger, distress and suffering. Furthermore, there is an alternative to war – the promotion of peace, the sharing of resources and the creation of understanding among peoples.

The UN Security Council has correctly pointed out that since women are most affected by armed conflict they should play a key role in achieving lasting peace after conflict. We in VAM believe that women should also play an active role before conflict (and I emphasize the word before). That is in preventing, averting conflict and ensuring/strengthening peace before the onset of war.

As an organization we in VAM recognize the important role that women can play in reconciliation. While we do not have, for instance, the capacity (I wish we had) to enhance the role of women in reconciliation *per se* after violent conflict, our programmes are aimed at building peace. In other words we try to reduce the incidence of armed conflict by improving the lives of people. We have programmes in the areas of education, health and other social services especially to benefit the girl-child (the mothers of tomorrow) as well as women. Children and

women are the two most vulnerable population groups in armed conflict.

Voices of African Mothers (VAM) stresses the need to help individuals and families work together to build hopeful, sustainable and just communities. We believe that by listening to their voices and helping them to become self-sustaining citizens they would become leaders in their communities with an equal voice, creating an understanding among all people. Our programmes are designed to improve the family life of our participants by framing them around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Incidentally, two of those goals are of special interest to us now and in the coming years These are Goal #3 Health: ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages, and Goal #4: Education – ensuring inclusive and equitable education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. Our programmes should be seen in the context of peacebuilding or sowing the seeds of peace.

In this regard, I am convinced that based on its experience in sowing the seeds of peace including in partnership with others, Voices of African Mothers (VAM) could make a meaningful contribution to some aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding undertaken by the UN and other relevant organizations.

For instance, our community outreach includes assistance to orphanages throughout the Ashanti and Northern Region in Ghana.

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VAM is devoted to community outreach, health and education

VAM provides yearly free health services to 300-400 children in the rural areas of Ghana

VAM is dedicated to building strong educational institutions across Ghana.

We have erected two schools in Ghana in the Ashanti (John William Montessori School) and Volta (VAM Girls Academy) Region. We have 800 students admitted to our schools and 25 % are attending on full scholarship. We have also partnered with Sustainable Education Ghana to further our goals of providing excellent curriculum to our students.

VAM is not exclusively a women's organization, it welcomes men to participate in its activities. It urges men to adopt the role of providers and protectors, offering support to their wives, daughters, mothers and sisters in their endeavor to become fully empowered and active in their communities.

I would like to conclude this presentation by re-emphasizing that Voices of African Mothers (VAM) is, in its own right, a conflict prevention and peacebuilding organization, an organization that exemplifies the relationship between peace and development. All the 17 Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 are directly or indirectly related to sustainable peace and development on our planet, such as keeping peace, making peace, building peace and strengthening the institutions that create a peaceful environment. As you are aware, Goal #16 of the SDGs specifically aims to create peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Allow me to quote from the rationale for Goal #16:

"...Violent conflicts have increased in recent years, and a number of high-intensity armed conflicts are causing large numbers of civilian casualties and driving millions of people from their homes. Disparities abound: data show that countries with higher income inequality suffer from higher levels of violence. Poorer countries and regions tend to be sources of victims for human traffickers and are more prone to corruption..."

We must find the means to avert or reduce and even as far as possible prevent all forms of violent conflicts and their consequences.

Here in Vienna, Austria, during the Blue Helmet Association Forum, I learned that towards the end of World War II the women of Austria helped to bring peace and security to the people. I am inspired by those efforts and I plan to do the same for the women and children in Africa so that they can have a better life, everlasting peace and security. I pray that Africa would never again have leaders like Idi Amin, Samuel Doe, Foday Sankoh, and Charles Taylor. I thank the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers (Blue Helmets) for giving me this opportunity to present the stories of African women and their children, young or old, through Voices of African Mothers.

I thank you.

Viviane Tassi Bela

Women and Peace in the Boko Haram Context

As I am writing this article, the Nigerian Boko Haram terror group kidnapped more than 100 schoolgirls this week, after the notorious 2014 Chibok kidnappings. These attacks targeting mainly girls and women seem to have become "normal" in this part of the world ruled by poverty, violence, suicide attacks and human trafficking.

Boko Haram advocates an Islam which forbids any Muslim to share or promote any socio-political values associated with the West. As such, education and women's empowerment are both values that are not welcome in the world of Boko Haram. Muslim families who support these so-called western values are punished by the terror group and their girls abducted on their way to school, to the local market or when they are looking for water.

In analyzing 434 suicide bombings carried by the Nigeria-based group since 2011, researchers at the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point and Yale University found that at least 244 of the gender-identifiable 338 attacks were carried out by women. In just 2017 alone, Boko Haram has already sent 80 women to their deaths[5]. Women who escaped Boko Haram describe the systematic sexual and physical violence they and other captives endured,

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[5] http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4787152/Boko-Haram-s-suicide-bombers-women-children.html

including gang rapes and forced impregnation. The story also illuminates the agonizing legacy of the group's campaign of sexual violence – children conceived by rape[6].

Figure 1: Deaths from Boko Haram Female Suicide Bombers over Time
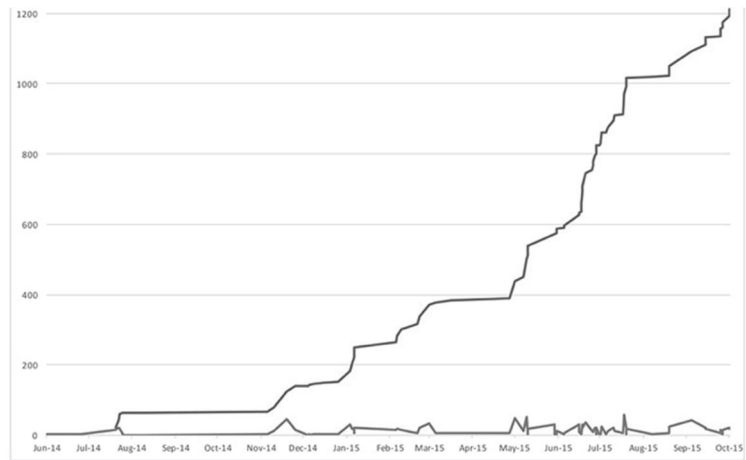
Graph illustrates cumulative (red) and incident (blue) death tolls over time in the Lake Chad region.

(Source: Inclusive Security 2016)

Background of the Terrorist and Islamist Group Boko Haram

Boko Haram was founded in 2002 on the principles of the *khawaarij* advocating Sharia Law. The movement developed into a jihadist group in 2009 willing to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria and in the surrounding countries (Northern Cameroon, Chad and Niger). It opposes western values, condemns the reading of books other than

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[6] Source: Jason Motlagh, 2016

the Quran and promotes a radical Islam to all Muslim regions.

In an article recently published by IAFOR, Dr Azeez Olaniyan, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Ekiti State University, Nigeria, explained that since 2002 the sect has transformed into a terror machine that affects the daily lives of the local population through suicide bombings introduced into Nigeria in 2009.

Feminization of Terror

(Source: CNN, February 28, 2018)

In April 2014, Boko Haram raided Chibok in northeastern Nigeria and kidnapped 276 school girls, aged between 16 and 18 years old. Many of the girls are still missing. This attack was the major one specifically targeting women and indicated clearly the so-called beginning of the feminization of terror observed since 2009 in Nigeria

but also in Northern Cameroon. In February 2018, 110 schoolgirls were abducted by suspected Boko Haram militants in Nigeria.

Beside these kidnappings, an emerging trend of suicide attacks being carried out by women and girls in Nigeria was observed. According to Pearson (2015), in just 16 months approximately 90 female bombers linked to Boko Haram killed over 500 people and injured over 700 more.

These female attacks of extreme violence highlight the will of Boko Haram to challenge the socio-cultural norms and constructs of femininity in Nigeria. Women are often seen as mothers and protective human beings in traditional and patriarchal society due to their reproductive roles. They are not seen as a direct threat of peace in the community. Using them as suicide bombers is therefore a terror strategy of Boko Haram that challenges the gender image of women and girls who can kill hundreds of people (even if they were forced to do so as there is no evidence that they were supporters and sympathizers of Boko Haram).

On the other hand, this tactic of Boko Haram highlights the use of violence against women and girls. Indeed, many women and girls rescued in 2015, reported being pregnant from Boko Haram fighters or militants and explained that they went through forced marriages and rapes during their captivity.

Using women and girls as female bombers is therefore a tactic of Boko Haram to use; in total impunity, physical violence against women and to challenge the local government and the international community that promote women's rights and gender equality, considered by the terror group as western values.

The message behind the observed feminization of terror by Boko Haram is clear. Through this tactic, Boko Haram is telling the world "We can destroy in full impunity any woman and girl willing to go to school, as education of women and girls is not part of our Islamist agenda. As sanctions, we use them as sexual objects (rapes and forced marriages) or terror instruments (suicide bombers)".

Women, Peace and Security in the Lake Chad Region: UNSCR 1325

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325), on women, peace, and security, was adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on 31 October 2000, The resolution underlined the specific impact of armed conflicts on women and girls and calls for the adoption of gender responsive strategies and actions that address the special needs of women and girls during conflict, repatriation, resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

In addition, Resolution 1325 requires parties to a conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, to support

active women's participation in peace negotiations and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts and crises.

According to PeaceWomen, WILPF analysis of 2017 shows that only 73 UN Member States (38 % of all UN Member States) have UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs). Among the eight new National Action Plans that were launched in 2017, Nigeria and Cameroon were included and highlighted their commitments to implement the Resolution 1325 in a Boko Haram context.

(Source: http://www.peacewomen.org/member-states)

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Lilly Sucharipa

The Role of UN Women in Implementing UNSC Resolution 1325

I thank the organizers of this Conference for the invitation to speak here today. Unfortunately, I could not attend yesterday's meetings, because my organization, the UN Women National Committee Austria celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Thus, I am afraid I might repeat some of what was said already.

UNSC Res 1325 adopted in 2000 is based on the understanding of the International community that women are an essential factor in peace operations, peace negotiations, reconciliation, and recovery of countries and societies after armed conflicts. They are indispensable to reach a sustainable peace.

On the other hand, they and the children are the weakest of victims in conflicts. They are disproportionately affected by armed conflict. They need special protection and in humanitarian actions they have different needs as men, which are often overlooked. They are frequently abused. Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, etc. are specifically named in the Rome Statute as crimes against humanity.

In the years after UNSC Res. 1325 many efforts have been made to implement the resolution and its follow-up

resolutions. 67 countries have enacted National Action Plans to implement UNSC Res. 1325.

UN Women plays an important role in the implementation of UNSC Res. 1325. In 2015 for the 15th anniversary of the resolution the UN Secretary General commissioned Radhika Coomaraswamy to lead research on a review of the implementation of UNSC Res 1325, of the achievements and gaps. UN Women was actively involved in this process and the development of the recommendations.

Research shows that there exists an unquestionable evidence that women's **participation** in peace and security processes is **core to their operational effectiveness**; strengthening the protection efforts of peacekeepers, improving prevention of radicalization, and accelerating economic recovery. Women's meaningful participation also helps the conclusion and implementation of more sustainable peace agreements.

· When negotiations are stalling it is very often the women who push for further efforts to reach an agreement.

· The presence of women can change the dynamics of negotiations. They bring a special quality of consensus building to the table.

· Peace agreements reached with the involvement of women in the negotiation process have a much better

chance to be implemented and are proven to last longer.

- Yet, even after 17 years, more than half of peace agreements do not mention women,

- 97 % of UN peacekeepers are still male and

- Only 2 % of development assistance money for peace and security targets gender equality as a principal objective.

The contribution of women to peacebuilding continues to go undervalued and under-resourced, leaving untapped an incredible source for transformative change and sustainable peace.

Unfortunately, also today participation in peace negotiations is often not existent or just *pro forma*.

Ten years after the adoption of Res. 1325 women are not included in the negotiations of a Syrian peace agreement. Only after long and difficult efforts by UN Women (supported by The Netherlands and Norway), the Syrian Women's advisory Board was established to give advice to the UN Special Envoy on Syria, Staffan de Mistura. But, also, here and now these important women who really could contribute to the understanding of what is necessary for the people on the ground, are not at the negotiating table.

What a *déjà-vu!*

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Seven years after the adoption of UNSC Res. 1325, in the aftermath of the war in the Balkans, women were not included when the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General, the former President of Finland, Martti Ahtisaari negotiated to reach a Status agreement for Kosovo, even though, at that time, there were a number of peace initiatives conducted by the Regional Women's Lobby for Justice, Peace and Democracy in South-East Europe – a group of women from all parts of the former Yugoslavia. Only after a specific request by this Group in a letter to the Security Council they were heard.

By the way this letter to the SC was written during a workshop organized by the UNIFEM National Committee Austria on the request of UNIFEM to give those women the opportunity to discuss the situation in a neutral setting.

Realizing the importance of the role of women in peace building, recovery after conflict and accountability UN Women developed among its flagship programs the **Humanitarian flagship program** the so-**called LEAP program,** which promotes women's **l**eadership**, e**mpowerment**, a**ccess and **p**rotection in crisis response.

It addresses the necessary elements to enable women to play a role as agents for change. However, it is important that women play a **significant** role. If they do not have any negotiating power and decision-making power their presence at the table is only a fig leave to pretend to implement UNSC Res. 1325.

LEAP focuses on:

· Gender-inclusive humanitarian planning, frameworks and programming;

· Protection and economic opportunities for women affected by sudden onset emergencies;

· Positive coping mechanisms for women and girls affected by protracted crises.

Enhancing women's engagement for sustainable peace requires an integrated approach that simultaneously addresses conflict prevention, resolution and recovery, while strengthening national accountability and ensuring women's protection from all forms of human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence.

UN Women, therefore, has identified **priority outcome areas for transformative change** to ensure that UN Women can deliver on the SDGs. This Program will mainly focus on achieving Goals 5 (gender-goal) and 16 (Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels):

1. Create an enabling environment for the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments.

This includes support to civil society's advocacy work as well as enhanced capacities of Member States and the UN system to adopt, monitor and finance National Action

Plans on UNSC Res. 1325 that address emerging threats, including violent extremism.

2. Ensure women's participation in decision-making processes and responses related to conflict prevention.

This means that favorable attitudes of all stakeholders towards women's conflict prevention need to be promoted and that women must participate in effective early-warning mechanisms (including for violent extremism) that are connected to national and international reporting and response systems.

3. Increase women's meaningful participation in formal and informal peace negotiations by raising awareness of mediators and parties to the conflict, making gender expertise available during negotiations as well as strengthening women's capacities and influence to engage in processes.

4. Protect women and girls' human rights, safety, physical and mental health and security through establishing operational mechanisms to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, ensuring women and girls' access to quality comprehensive support services and ending impunity by holding international, national and non-state actors accountable.

5. Promote the socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls in post-conflict situations through women's participation in peace-building and recovery planning, women's economic empowerment within recovery efforts, as well as promoting gender-responsive post-conflict institutions.

The LEAP Program combines humanitarian aid with development assistance and thus empowers the victims of conflicts.

I would like to give you a few examples of UN Women's actions to implement UNSC Res. 1325:

Cameroon

UN Women Cameroon plays an active role in the provision of response services for two humanitarian crises in the country - namely for conflict-affected refugees from CAR and for Nigerian refugees and Cameroonian IDPs displaced by the ongoing crisis caused by Boko Haram in the Lake Chad Basin.

Utilizing the **LEAP flagship program** model, UN Women, working through four Women's Cohesion Spaces in three different refugee camps and four government run Women's Empowerment Centers for IDPs, has been able to offer services to over 1,000 women. These include psycho-social support and GBV mitigation, as well as support with livelihood-skills and education to address their medium to long-term sustainable self-reliance and future pro-

spects. In addition, more than 47,000 people have been reached through community sensitization against GBV.

In the running of the Women's Cohesion Centers and in the provision of protection services, UN Women has partnered with four national women's organizations. By providing financial backing and technical support to these local partners, UN Women has been able to extend its reach to the community level and make a tangible difference on the ground. For example, the organizations' local Community Workers play a key role in community sensitization and identification of GBV cases and through their community sensitization activities, there has been a significant decrease in early/forced marriage cases and in the number of female drop-outs from school.

Uganda

Working with South Sudanese refugees in Northern Uganda, UN Women's response program provides sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) services that target 30,000 women refugees, the wider refugee population and host communities. The program provides the women with access to emergency legal aid and psychosocial services and strengthens existing systems to prevent and respond to violence.

In addition, UN Women also provides economic empowerment and livelihoods training for 3,000 women and informal and formal education opportunities for 1,700 women and girls.

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UN Women is also active in the inter-agency coordination forums covering SGBV and protection for the refugee response, which include the UN system, international NGOs, local civil society and government authorities. Through UN Women's efforts the ongoing monitoring and reporting of the refugee response are based on gender-disaggregated data and gender analysis.

UN Women also facilitates the inclusion and participation of women and girls in the response coordination through a monthly Women's Forum where they are able to voice their views and opinions.

Arab States – Iraq (Mosul)

UN Women in Iraq has been assisting the women and girls of Mosul, displaced by the ongoing conflict, through evidence gathering, coordination, capacity building and targeted services in order to address their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

In the coordination of the humanitarian response, UN Women has provided to the Humanitarian Coordinator, and the Humanitarian Country Team, technical capacity to ensure that the response in Mosul takes into consideration the gender dimensions and differentiated impact on women and girls who have been living under ISIS controlled territory.

In addition, UN Women ensured the inclusion of women's organizations and civil society representatives

from areas expected to be affected by the Mosul operation and along the displacement lines in the UN response planning process.

UN Women also provided targeted services by distributing 20,000 Necessity kits and 3,000 thermal blankets to women displaced from Mosul and is in the process of setting up a Listening Centre that will offer space for women to communicate their needs and engage in the response. The center will also extend free legal aid. Protection and prevention services for survivors of conflict related sexual violence will be extended to Mosul IDPs.

UN Women continues to work in other areas of Iraq that have been retaken from ISIS, providing support to over 1,300 women to build their self-reliance and longer run resilience through cash for work support, emergency employment, skills training and business start-up grants.

Za'atari Jordan

The case I am personally best informed about is the UN Women Programs in Za'atari in Jordan. Za'atari is the largest Camp for Syrian refugees. It houses approx. 80,000 people, 80 % of those are women and children. Already in 2012 UN Women established safe areas, so-called OASES in the camp, where women and girls can meet. Those who have experienced violence can get trauma counseling, can be referred to legal, social, medical services, At the same time they have the opportunity to attend educational pro-

grams. Arabic literacy and numeracy classes, English and Computer courses are available.

Also, life skills training such as tailoring, carpet weaving, production of jewelry and other handicrafts is offered. Child care services available while the mothers attend classes or work.

For these programs there is no need of many UN Women personnel. The refugee women are employed within the framework of the cash4work program as teachers, translators, instructors for the handicraft workshops and the tailoring. Thus, these programs are almost self-reliant. They not only give the women a small income which is being used to better their daily diet, it also gets the women out of their caravans and thus breaks through their isolation. It also gives their lives a daily structure. Nothing is worse in a camp than being bored and hopeless in isolation.

In addition, the women get instructions about their rights, learn to participate in decision-making in the camp council meetings etc. and are basically prepared for an empowered life in the camp and hopefully soon back in Syria.

These safe areas service about 16,000 women and girls a year. Unfortunately, only women who live in the vicinity of the OASES can attend the programs because of the lack of public transport within the camp. The camp covers an area of 5 square km.

The programs at Za'atari are a best practice example for other camp settings. They combine humanitarian aid with developmental programs and thus empower the refugee women to prepare for a future independent life.

These are positive examples of initiatives to implementing UNSC Res. 1325. It is time that the international community realizes the importance of including women in peace processes at all stages and on all levels. Only by using this untapped resource, peace processes will be successful.

Daniela Scheiblhofer & Anna Scheithauer

Summary Blue Helmet Forum 2018

The 2017 Blue Helmet Forum Austria (BHFA) focussed on the topic of "Women in Peace Operations". As part two of the event conducted in a three-year-long series, the 2017 BHFA looked at "Women in Peacebuilding and Reconciliation" reflecting on the role of regional mechanisms and field experience regarding past and current peace operations. During the course of four panels, the participants of the 2017 BHFA discussed the topic of women in peace operations, covering *the Role of UNSRC 1325 for Peacebuilding*, the *Role of UN peace operations for Women's Peacebuilding Efforts, Practical Experience of Women as Peacebuilders* as well as *the Way ahead and Lessons Learned.*

Regarding the roles of women in peacebuilding and reconciliation – be it as peacebuilders or vulnerable persons in need of protection – participants of the BHFA 2017 identified the following common challenges that require continuous civic-military attention and support.

Leadership engagement is key for the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325

The successful integration of gender aspects into peacebuilding requires leadership engagement. The best structures and mechanisms to implement UNSCR 1325 at the programming level (i.e. to include women in strategic

planning or to employ a gender parity principle) are of little use without credible commitment at the national and international level. The effective implementation of these measures requires political will to connect women's initiatives at all levels. The latest initiative of the UN Secretary General, the *Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations operations*, aims to trickle down the 1325 agenda. Similarly, the EU's latest initiative to adopt a Gender Focal Point System aims to connect the gender focal points of each CSDP mission with each other in order to exchange their expertise and best practices.

Women's empowerment at all levels is the basis for their inclusion in peacebuilding and reconciliation.

Building sustainable and resilient societies requires the real inclusion of women and men, girls and boys, across the continuum of peace. Achieving gender equality, however, needs to go beyond adding women. Empowerment of women as a means to build a fair peace can take many forms on various levels. Political empowerment might foresee women's participation as mediators, on negotiating tables and in parliamentary elections. Empowerment at the socio-economic level might take the form of education, vocational skills training programmes, mentoring and networking opportunities as well as micro-credits.

<u>Decision-making power is essential for real integration of gender aspects into peacebuilding.</u>

Including women in peacebuilding is a decisive step towards gender parity, yet falls short of realizing the broader aim of gender equality. Both women and men need not only be seen in different roles and at different levels but also to be equipped with the decision-making power to be able to effect real change. Within peace talks, including women at the negotiating table might be an honourable gesture. However, not granting them the right to influence the peace negotiations defeats the overall purpose of building inclusive and sustainable peace. Closing the gender-gap in decision-making at the leadership level will have a trickle-down effect to peace operations in the field

<u>Peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts need to uphold the zero tolerance regarding conflict-related sexual violence.</u>

A common problem in mediation processes is to focus mainly on reconciling a war-torn society. Within truth and reconciliation commissions, too little talk about the truth often results in impunity for crimes in the area of conflict related sexual violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse. Throughout the different stages of peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts, peace operations should promote the understanding of sexual violence in conflict as a

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tactic of war and terrorism for which the perpetrators need to be held accountable.

The decisive role of mothers needs to be understood, valued and embraced as a vital asset in both the prevention of conflict and in peacebuilding.

Balancing community outreach and security concerns is one of the greatest challenges peace operations face. With regards to countering terrorism and violent extremism the decisive role of mothers needs to be understood, valued and embraced. Mothers play a significant role in transmitting ideas and values to the next generation and thus enjoy a unique position as both a barrier and first responder to any form of radicalization. However, engaging mothers in the prevention of and response to radicalization must not lead to instrumentalizing and stereotyping mothers into traditional role models

Gender-responsive development aid makes a difference to the safety and security of women in (post-) conflict societies.

Gender-responsive development aid has a targeted and clear effect on the safety and security of women in the aftermath of conflict. Yet, only a small share of overall development aid is specifically dedicated to improving the situation of women in (post-) conflict societies. To overcome rigid bureaucratic structures, delegating authority to the field might enhance swifter aid delivery for women. Similarly, gender-responsive budgeting and gender main-

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streaming of development projects might lead to a more effective aid delivery. Such measures might reconcile the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (where the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) #5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) with the regional and national action plans on implementing UNSCR 1325 to channel resources more efficiently for moving both agendas forward.

<u>Women's civil society organizations taking an active part in peace building need to be appreciated and supported.</u>

Women's civil society organizations (CSOs) have been a driving force behind women's engagement in peacebuilding. This includes the promotion of women's political participation, the socio-economic empowerment of women, the promotion of gender-friendly policies and the adoption of laws protecting women's rights, all of which are crucial for the establishment of long-term peace and security. Yet, the impact and sustainability of these organizations are hampered both by a lack of political will and by insecure and inflexible funding regimes. Peace operations should strive to keep local CSOs afloat during times of crisis in order to minimize development costs in the long-term and guarantee for a durable peace.

Tackling gender issues in the medical field is essential to the recovery of conflict-torn societies.

Women in (post-) conflict societies are especially prone and most vulnerable to conflict related illnesses, injuries, and traumas. Lack of access to gender-based violence (GBV) medical service constitutes only one of many shortcomings in (post-) conflict medical care. In fact, there is little gender-specific health care. Women's health issues need to be included already at the planning stage of any peace operation. Networks of medical experts in field missions and headquarters could serve as an essential tool to increase expertise in and standards of women's health in conflict-affected societies.

Authors

Erich CSITKOVITS, Mag., LTG

was born in 1961. He attended the Theresian Military Academy at Wiener Neustadt for three years. From 1983 to 1991 he served as a leader of a light tank platoon, and as the commander of a mechanised infantry company, a light tank company and a headquarters company. Following his duties as S3 and XO of a mechanised infantry battalion, he completed General Staff Officer Training at the National Defence Academy in 1994. He served as the CO of an engineer battalion and in several managerial capacities in the Ministry of Defence. Since 2011 he has been the Commandant of the Austrian National Defence Academy in Vienna.

He also gained international training experience, *inter alia*, at the Command and Staff College of the German *Bundeswehr* in Hamburg and the NATO Defence College in Rome.

Lieutenant General Csitkovits is married with two daughters.

Günther GREINDL, DI Mag., GEN (ret)

was Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement and Observer Force (UNDOF), of the United Nations Force in CYPRUS (UNFICYP) and of the United Nations IRAQ-KUWAIT Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Later he served as Director General for Security Policy in the Austrian Ministry of Defence. In 2000 he was appointed as the first Austrian Military Representative to the European Union and as Military Representative to NATO. He is now President of the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers.

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is psychologist, teacher and scientist at the National Defence Academy Vienna, Center for Leadership and Defence Awareness, Division Coaching, Mediation and Leadership.

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Julia LECHNER, Mag., LT

Study of Sociology at the Pars-Lodron University Salzburg where she graduated in 2005. She took part in the joint study program at the Carleton University, Canada in 2002. After years in the private sector Julia joint the Austrian Armed Forces in 2008.

Since 2011 assigned at the Theresian Military Academy at Wiener Neustadt. Meanwhile on temporary duty at the National Defence Academy, Vienna, Centre for Leadership and Defence Awareness with special focus on coping strategies.

Daniela SCHEIBLHOFER

currently works as a Project Officer at the Military Policy Section of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports. At the MoD Daniela covers the areas of Protection of Civilians and the Women, Peace and Security agenda (i.e. matters related to the UN Security Council resolution 1325).

She took part in the double M.A. degree programme of Political Science between the University of Konstanz, Germany and Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey. In May 2016 she graduated with a M.A. in Political Science - Concentration in United Nations and Global Policy Studies from Rutgers University. In April 2017 she graduated from Konstanz University with a M.A. in Political Science and Public Administration.

Daniela previously interned at UN Women, where she supported the Gender Advisor in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in humanitarian action towards the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. She has gained research experience from working as a research assistant at the Department of Politics and Management at the University of Konstanz, supporting the project "Traditional Governance and Modern Statehood".

During a research internship at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip), Daniela co-authored the paper "The Essence of Peacebuilding from a Human Rights Lens" together with Dr. Jan Pospisil and Dr. Vedran-Dzihic, which was published as part of the Vienna Guidebook on Peaceful and Inclusive Societies "All Human Rights For All" (2014). While interning at the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) at the UN Office in Vienna, Daniela published the article "I Was Always the First Woman in Every Appointment", focusing on women in peacekeeping, in the magazine *The Austrian Peacekeeper.*

She is also experienced in social media management, where her expertise helped both private sector companies and NGOs to raise awareness related to their causes and to increase their visibility throughout the web. Apart from work and university life, Daniela is an active member in different UN associations such as the UN Association of the University of Konstanz and the Austrian Academic Forum for Foreign Affairs (AFA). As a MUN aficionada, she took part in several international MUN conferences and acted as Secretary-General of the Konstanz Model United Nations (KonMUN) 2015.

Next to a M.A. in Political Science, Daniela holds a B.A. in Political Science as well as a B.A. in Transcultural Communication from the University of Vienna. She is fluent in German, English and Spanish.

**Ambassador
Mara MARINAKI, EU/EEAS
Principal Advisor on Gender
and on UNSCR 1325/WPS**

Ambassador Mara Marinaki (Greece) was appointed in September 2015 by the EU HRVP Ms. Federica Mogherini as the first-ever European External Action Service (EEAS) Principal Advisor on Gender, and on the implementation on UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and all other gender-related matters.

Previously, from May 2011 until September 2015 Amb. Marinaki had served as the EEAS Managing Director for Global / Multilateral Issues and Human Rights, and among her key priorities had been the promotion of all issues pertaining to the role of Gender, Women's Empowerment. In the framework of her Global issues mandate, she was also the EEAS Coordinator on Counterterrorism and on EU external action in Countering Violent Extremism with a strong focus on gender and the role of women in combatting radicalization in local societies.

Prior to taking up her functions in the EEAS, Ambassador Marinaki served as the Permanent Representative of Greece to the OSCE in Vienna, from September 2007 till April 2011, where she also chaired the OSCE Permanent Council in 2009, during the Greek OSCE Chairmanship.

Amb. Marinaki is a career diplomat and joined the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980, has served as Political Counsellor in the Diplomatic Office of the Prime Minister (1993), Political Counsellor in the Office of the Greek MFA Secretary General (1993-1995), MFA Deputy Director for South-Eastern Europe (1999-2000), MFA Director (Ambassador) for EU/Justice, Home Affairs, Migration/Asylum and Schengen. In 2004 Ambassador Marinaki was appointed as the MFA Special Coordinator for Schengen Visas implementation during the 2004 Athens Olympics. During her diplomatic career, she has served abroad in diplomatic postings in Washington DC, Berlin, Vienna and Brussels.

Ms. Marinaki is a law graduate from the Law School of the University of Athens, and she holds an LL.M in International Law from the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki and a joint MA degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University and the JF Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Law School.

Ms Marinaki is married and speaks English, French and German, besides her native Greek.

Nasra HASSAN

worked for the United Nations for 27 years in peace-keeping; refugee & humanitarian affairs; political affairs; social development; drugs, crime & terrorism; & in public information – serving at UN Headquarters in New York & Vienna and in field postings: in the Middle East (UN Agency for Palestine Refugees); in the Balkans (as Chief of Staff of the UN Mission in Kosovo UNMIK); & in Central Asia (head of the UN Office on Drugs & Crime); as Director of the United Nations Information Service at UNHQ Vienna and simultaneously 2005-2007 she was with the UN Independent Investigation Commission on the assassination of former Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon.

Ms. Hassan lives in Vienna, Austria and is currently Director International Relations, Association of Austrian Peacekeepers; Senior Advisor, International Peace Institute; on the Faculty of Salzburg Global Seminar & on the Vienna Advisory Board of the Academic Council on the United Nations System ACUNS.

Ms Hassan continues to be active on issues related to peacekeeping and security. She carries out primary research on suicide terrorism in the Islamic world and on jihadist militancy. Some of her research data has been published and is widely cited in academic and other publications.

Nana FOSU-RANDALL

was born in Kumasi, Ghana. She holds a Bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA in finance. Nana retired from the United Nations after nearly 30 years, the last 18 years as the Chief Financial Officer. She served in countries such as Tanzania, Namibia and the Ivory Coast. She also served with the Peace Keeping Missions responsible for the rebuilding and clean-up efforts following war and conflict situations in places such as Liberia, Israel and Lebanon, and in Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf War. She saw much suffering during her service with the UN and grew to believe that there is an alternative to war – the promotion of peace, the sharing of resources and the creation of understanding among all people.

A passionate advocate for causes she champions, her life's work is driven by compassion and an experienced worldview. Nana has always believed that education leads to empowerment, peace and better lives.

During her years with the UN, she saw global gaps in educational opportunities that she wanted to try to close; thus, the John William Montessori School (JWMS) was established in Kumasi, Ghana by Nana and her husband, John, in 1997. JWMS was named for her late husband, John, a

professor, and her son, William, the "main supports" in her life.

Nana, who shares her residency between New York and Ghana, stands before audiences all over the United States and the world to deliver a message of peace and hope. Her mission is to raise awareness and assemble a coalition of helping hands to build up what war has torn down for generations of women and children.

Nana received her compulsory education in England and attended college in the United States, but her roots remain in Ghana. Her father wanted her to be a nurse, but she chose accounting. "I was good with figures," she said. For her, it's been a helpful profession of another kind. After she obtained her master's degree, she met a United Nations Ambassador, who supported her application to join the world peace organization in 1974. "They were looking for women," she says. "It was very hard at that time; there was a quota system."

Recently, Nana was honored with an appointment to the board of Tanoso Community Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana "in appreciation of (her) tremendous contribution to the hospital and the community as a whole." In 2014, Mrs. Randall was presented with a Special Recognition by the Westchester County Board of Legislators and The United Nations Association of Westchester for Women's History Month and honored for her promotion of peace for the women and children of Africa. This Special Recognition

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was visibly highlighted by the Declaration of March 28, 2014 as "Nana Fosu-Randall Day" in Westchester County, NY.

Over the years, she has been involved in community and civic organizations both in Ghana and New York. In New York, she is a past member of the Nepperhan Community Center Board of Directors in Westchester County; and a current member of the National Council of Negro Women of Hudson Valley (NCNW-HV, NY).

This is E. Nana Fosu-Randall, the visionary and humanitarian, who has and will always be sensitive to the mothers and children of Africa and the world.

It is Nana's fervent belief: *"Wars do not build nations; Wars destroy them. Wars bring unnecessary pain, hunger, distress and suffering. There is an alternative to war: the promotion of peace, the sharing of resources and the creation of understanding among all people."*

Nana Fosu Randall is the recipient of the 2018 Ralph Bunche International Medal which will be presented to her at the "Celebrating Excellence Awards Concert" in March 2018.

Viviane TASSI BELA, MBA

is working as International Consultant & Evaluator for UN agencies. She is an experienced Gender and Peacebuilding Expert who successfully worked the past 10 years in various countries in Africa (Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Cameroon, Mali) and Europe (Austria, France, Lithuania, Belgium and Germany). She used to be in charge of Gender responsive Monitoring & Evaluation of Development Programs and assessment of National Strategies rated to UNSCR 1325 and local development in (post) conflict settings.

She hold in 2010 with distinction a Master in Project Management (Austria) which thesis focused on Development Policies and Strategies between Austria and its bilateral Countries in Africa (also published as a book available via Amazon). Few years later (2012-2013), she successfully attended a Master Program on Gender and Development studies at the University of Paris Diderot (France) and since 2013, she is writing (besides her various consultancies) a Doctoral /PhD Research thesis focusing on Gender and Leadership with the University of Liverpool - UK.

Dr. Lilly Sucharipa, Honorary President of UN Women National Committee Austria

President of UN Women National Committee Austria (2011 – 2017)

Lecturer at the IPT Seminar, Burg Schleining (2000 – 2003)

Lecturer, International Law and International Relations (1985 – 2004), Vienna University;

Professorial Lecturer at SAIS, Johns Hopkins, Washington D.C. (1994 – 1999);

Adjunct Professor at NYU School of Law, New York (1994 – 1999);

Anna SCHEITHAUER, M.A.

worked as Military Policy Trainee at the Military Policy Section of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (MoD). There, she was the contact point for matters pertaining to Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (PoC). This includes assisting the works of the Ministry to advance gender equality within the MoD and the Austrian armed forces, co-coordinating the MoD's capacity building efforts on PoC with the Austrian Peace and Study Centre for Conflict Resolution (ASPR) as well as coordinating the MoD's position in response to international requests on PoC and WPS.

Anna holds an MA in Human Rights from University College London, where she focused on Conflict Resolution and Post-War Development. Next to her MA degree, Anna has a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Vienna with a concentration in Conflict Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She further holds a B.A. in Global Business and International Relations from the International University Vienna, where she was also an active member of the Human Rights Discussion Group and served as volunteer in the Student Council.

She previously interned with UNIDO, where she assisted the Gender Office with the gender mainstreaming of industrial development projects, programs and activities and with promoting gender parity and the empowerment of women in the organization. She also supported the launch of the Vienna Chapter of the International Gender Champions Initiative as well as the organization of three gender side-events at the Vienna Energy Forum. The internship also gave her an opportunity to establish a partnership between UNIDO's Gender Office and the Regional Academy on the United Nations (RAUN) to mentor a group of international students to support the Office with the writing of a technical paper on gender in industrial development.

Moreover, Anna gained research experience in the field of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by assisting the Women's and Children's Rights Section of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Human Rights in Vienna in the preparation of a good practice report of the EC-funded Daphne III Project "Access to Specialized Victim Support Services for Women with Disabilities who have Experienced Violence". She also conducted expert interviews for a joint project with GPPi on " Strengthening Child Protection in German Development Cooperation" and co-authored teaching material on "Gender-based Violence against Children and Young Adults with Disabilities" (2014)

During her internship and collaboration with ACUNS Vienna Liaison Anna assisted the Organization with the co-ordination of projects and organization of conferences on Juvenile Justice, Abolition of the Death Penalty, Equal Opportunities for Youth, the Responsibility to Protect, and ROL in Peacekeeping. She also edited the conference books "New Paths of Social Inclusion for Safer Cities" (2017) and "Equal Opportunities for Youth – Austrian and European Initiatives against Social Exclusion" (2011) as part of the series "Celebration of Diversity".

Outside of work, Anna regularly participates in international courses on topics related to International Peace and Security, Gender Equality, Human Rights, International Criminal Justice and Humanitarian Response.

She is fluent in German, and English, intermediate in French and a beginner in Swahili.

Appendix

UN Seven Point Action Plan

Report of the Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354–S/2010/466)

Tracking Progress: Seven Point Action Plan

Commitment	Measures
1. Conflict resolution UN entities will take more systematic action to ensure women's participation in and the availability of gender expertise to, peace processes.	a) Appointment of women as chief mediator/special envoy to UN-led peace processes. *[para. 28]*
	b) UN will include **gender expertise, at senior levels, in mediation support activities.** *[para. 28]*
	c) UN will invest in strategies for the inclusion of more women in negotiating parties. *[para.* 28]
	d) UN entities will assist in **establish women's CSO forums to ensure that mediation teams and negotiating teams engage in consultation with women's CSOs**. *[para. 28]*

Commitment	Measures
2. Post-conflict planning The UN system will more systematically institutionalize women's participation in (and apply gender analysis to) all post conflict planning processes so that women and girl's specific needs and gender discrimination is addressed at every stage.	a) Relevant UN entities will undertake a **comprehensive review of existing institutional arrangements for incorporating gender issues into post-conflict planning**. Principles will apply to all post-conflict strategy & planning processes. *[para. 32]*
	b) Standard procedures to be developed on donor conferences – to ensure not only that a cross-section of women's representatives from civil and political society are invited, but that they are provided access to all conference documentation, space on the agenda to present issues of concern and assistance in convening preparatory meetings and developing policy papers. *[para. 33]*

Commitment	Measures
3. Post-conflict financing The UN commits to increasing financing for gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment in post conflict situations.	a) All UN-funded projects in support of **peacebuilding must demonstrate how they will benefit men and women**. *[para. 35]*
	b) Each UN entity will initiate a process, in line with its specific institutional mandate and governance arrangements, for laying ground work and investing in systems to track gender post conflict financing, and to work toward **a goal of ensuring that at least 15 percent of UN-managed funds in support of peacebuilding is dedicated to projects whose principal objective (consistent with existing mandates) is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women**. *[para. 36]*

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Commitment	Measures
4. Gender-responsive civilian capacity Civilian capacity will include specialized skills to meet women urgent needs and expertise in rebuilding state institutions to make them more accessible to women and girls and less prone to gender-based discrimination.	UN leaders will ensure that **missions and humanitarian planners revise their procedures to improve the UN's ability to address women and girls post conflict needs**. *[para. 39]*

Commitment	Measures
5. Women's representation in post-conflict governance The UN will ensure that technical assistance to conflict-resolution processes and countries emerging from conflict promotes women's participation as decision-makers in public institutions, appointed and elected, including through the use of temporary special measures such as positive action, preferential treatment and quota-based systems, as enshrined in international human rights law	a) To build structures of inclusive governance, **the UN will ensure that technical assistance** to conflict- resolution processes and countries emerging from conflict **includes rigorous assessment of the potential value of temporary special measures, including quotas for women** *[para. 42]*
	b) As part of its assistance, the UN will ensure that **gender discrimination is addressed** at every stage in the political process. *[para. 43]*
	c) UN technical assistance to **public administrative reform** will ensure full consideration of measures, including quotas and fast-tracking promotion schemes, to increase proportion of women in state institutions at all level, and capacity-building to improve their effectiveness. *[para. 44]*

Commitment	Measures
6. Rule of Law The UN's approach to the rule of law – before, during and after conflict – will systematically promote women and girls' rights to security and justice.	a) Peace operations to initiate **immediate and longer-term efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV** as detailed in para 46 of the SG's Report on Women's Peacebuilding. *[para. 46]*
	b) **Legal Support Services (LSSs) for women and girls** – implemented early and on a scale sufficient to demonstrate commitment to ending impunity and protecting victims – will become a standard component of the UN's rule-of-law response in the immediate post-conflict period. *[para. 47]*
	c) **Minimum standards of gender-responsiveness** to be established (and options for ensuring their implementation incorporated into the technical advice activities of relevant UN actors) for **TRCs**, **reparations** programmes and related bodies. *[para. 48]*

Commitment	Measures
7. Economic recovery The UN system will ensure that women's equal involvement as participants and beneficiaries in local-development, employment- creation, frontline service-delivery and DDR programmes in post- conflict situations.	a) Where local **development and infrastructure** programs are based on a **participatory/community- development approach,** these should *require* **direct involvement of women and women** CSOs in setting priorities, identifying beneficiaries, and monitoring implementation. *[para. 50]*
	b) **Post-conflict employment programs should specifically target women as a beneficiary group**. A range-of-parity principle should be applied to ensure that neither sex receives more than 60 percent of **employment person-days.** In addition employment programmes must ensure that women workers receive daily payments directly and that barriers to equitable participation are addressed. *[para. 50]*

	c) **Women should be promoted as "frontline" service-delivery agents** – e.g., in health, agricultural extension, education, and the management of natural resources, including forests. *[para. 51]*
	d) **Ensure women's equal participation in all stages of DDR** – from negotiation of peace agreements and establishment of national institutions to the design and implementation of programmes. *[para. 52]*

UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security: 2011-2020

In 2010, on the occasion of the ten-year anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to propose a strategic framework to guide the UN's implementation of the resolution over the next ten years[1]. The strategic results framework attached here provides a joint vision for action to advance implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on women and peace and security.[2] United Nations entities commit to take concrete actions under the four goal areas listed below in order to strengthen support to national implementation, strengthen the basis on which to assess progress and improve system-wide coordination on women, peace and security.

Vision

The framework aims to advance achievement of four broad goals derived from Security Council resolution 1325 (2000):

Prevention: Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations

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[1] S/PRST/2010/22
[2] S/RES/1325 (2000), S/RES/1820 (2008), S/RES/1888 (2009), S/RES/1889 (2009) and S/RES/1960 (2010)

Participation: Women participate equally with men and gender equality is promoted in peace and security decision-making processes at national, local, regional and international levels

Protection: Women's and girls' rights are protected and promoted in conflict-affected situations

Relief and Recovery: Women and girls' specific relief needs are met and women's capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in conflict and post-conflict situations

Delivering Results

a) The **outcomes, outputs and targets** identified under each pillar of the strategic results framework (see Annex 1) are priority areas identified in UN Secretary-General's reports on women and peace and security and also build on other United Nations processes, including the seven commitments put forward in the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding[3] (in the areas of mediation, post-conflict planning, financing, civilian capacity, post-conflict governance, rule of law and economic recovery), and the efforts by the United Nations system to end sexual violence in conflict. While the main responsibility and power for change linked to results at the **outcome** level rests with Member States, the proposed actions of the United Nations system at the **output** level in

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[3] A/65/354-S/2010/466

the Framework are geared to more effectively contribute to and support national efforts. Within their own mandates, UN entities will undertake a variety of actions aimed at promoting these goals as well as the goals enshrined in inter alia resolution 1325, the Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW.

b) The **targets** are divided into intermediate targets for 2014, thus permitting an assessment of implementation in time for the proposed High-level Review by the Security Council in 2015, and longer term targets up to 2020. The targets have been set on the basis of known implementation status and planned activities, but will be revised on the basis of baseline information, which will be assembled over the next one-year period.

c) The **indicators** to assess progress against the four broad goal areas of the strategic results framework are found in Annex 2. This is the set of indicators contained in the Secretary-General's 2010 report to the Security Council.[4]

d) The **lead entity** category in the strategic results framework denotes the major UN stakeholders that will monitor achievements against these targets. Designation as 'lead' does not indicate responsibility for the outcome but rather indicates mandate and expertise on this area, a capacity to support implementation through guidance, catalytic programming in some cases, joint programming in others, and a capacity to review and monitor target achievement.

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[4] S/2010/498

Monitoring and Reporting

A High-level United Nations Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security (HLSC-WPS) has been established to oversee and monitor progress. The Steering Committee will be supported by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. The strategic results framework will not replace the monitoring and reporting arrangements established under other processes mentioned above, but serves to clarify conceptually how these efforts interrelate, to further stimulate system-wide coordination, and identify gaps and opportunities for strengthened UN response.

For instance, the seven commitments from the Secretary-General's report on women's participation in peacebuilding will be monitored and reported on as part of the broader peacebuilding agenda, which was formally agreed on by the secretary-General's Policy Committee. Entities responsible for coordinating its implementation will provide regular updates to the HLSC-WPS. Progress on the Secretary-General's seven point action plan on Women and Peacebuilding will be reflected in the reporting on the strategic results framework and vice versa. The strategic results framework is a living document. Elements can be added to reflect evolution in the implementation situation. Equally, no aspect of the Framework should be construed as limiting UN entities or agencies to these outputs alone. It is not intended to be comprehensive – it is intended to be strategic, targeting implementation gaps and driving priority agreed initiatives.

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Annex 1 : Strategic Results Framework[3]

GOAL 1: Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.[4]

OUTCOME 1.1: Women contribute to and have access to the full range of conflict prevention systems.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 1.1.1 United Nations conflict and crisis early warning systems generate reliable information on security threats women and girls face and establish means to gather information on early warning from women.[5]	• 50 per cent of United Nations early warning systems utilize gender-specific indicators	• 100 per cent of United Nations early warning systems utilize gender-specific indicators	DPKO UNDP UN Action
OUTPUT 1.1.2 Women's conflict prevention efforts, both formal and informal, are reinforced and supported by United Nations entities.[6]	• United Nations development and other integrated planning frameworks and processes (Integrated Strategic Framework, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, Integrated Mission Planning Process) include activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of women's civil society organizations working on conflict prevention in 20 per cent of crisis countries with a United Nations presence • 40 per cent of community-level conflict mediators trained by United Nations supported programmes are women	• United Nations development and other integrated planning frameworks and processes (Integrated Strategic Framework, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, Integrated Mission Planning Process) include activities aimed at strengthening the capacities of women's civil society organizations working on conflict prevention in 80 per cent of crisis countries with United Nations presence • 50 per cent of community-level conflict mediators trained by United Nations supported programmes are women	UN Women DPKO UNDP
OUTPUT 1.1.3 United Nations supported disarmament, non-proliferation arms control (A/RES/65/69) and armed violence prevention and reduction activities include regular structured consultation with and active involvement of	• Inclusive and effective consultation with and involvement of women leaders and women's groups to be included in 50 per cent of United Nations supported disarmament activities	• Inclusive and effective consultation with and involvement of women leaders and women's groups to be included in 75 per cent of all United Nations supported disarmament activities	ODA

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OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 1.1.4 Security Council missions ensure consultations on the situation of women's and girl's rights and needs, and gender equality issues.	• 75 per cent of Security Council missions (since 2011) meet with women leaders and organizations	• 100 per cent of Security Council missions meet with women leaders and organizations	DPA DPKO

OUTCOME 1.2: Mechanisms are established to systematically monitor, report on and prevent human rights violations against women and girls in conflict, including sexual violence in conflict.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 1.2.1 United Nations peace operations to initiate immediate and long-term efforts to monitor and prevent conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls and other human rights violations.	• 75 per cent of Force Commander Directives and multi-dimensional Mission Concepts of Operations[10] for military and for police, incorporate human rights and sexual and gender based violence prevention • 15 per cent increase in human rights field missions to remote areas • Women Protection Advisers are deployed to 50 per cent of countries with a peacekeeping mission with a protection of civilians mandate where sexual violence in conflict is prevalent • Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements, as requested in SCR 1960 (2010), established and rolled out to selected countries	• 100 per cent of Force Commander Directives and multi-dimensional Mission Concept of Operations, for military and for police, incorporate human rights and sexual and gender based violence prevention • 25 per cent increase in human rights field missions to remote areas • Women Protection Advisers are deployed to 100 per cent of countries with a peacekeeping mission with a protection of civilians mandate where sexual violence in conflict is prevalent • Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements in use in a selection of key countries	DPKO OHCHR UNITAR Member entities of UN Action
OUTPUT 1.2.2 All country and relevant thematic Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council provide women and peace and security analysis with concrete recommendations on prevention of violations of women's and girls' human rights.	• Secretary-General makes concrete recommendations on addressing women's and girls' rights in 50 per cent of countries and thematic issues on the Security Council agenda	• Secretary-General makes concrete recommendations on addressing women's and girls' rights in 75 per cent of countries and thematic issues on the Security Council agenda	All United Nations entities contributing to Secretary-General's reports

GOAL 2: Women participate equally with men and gender equality is promoted in peace and security decision-making processes at national, local, regional and international levels.

OUTCOME 2.1: Increased meaningful representation of women at all levels in international, regional and national institutions for the maintenance of peace and security.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 2.1.1 Increased proportion of senior positions (P-5 and higher) held by women and improved gender-responsiveness of all senior management in all United Nations entities operating in conflict and post-conflict situations. [11]	• Women comprise at least 30 per cent of senior positions (P5 or higher) in United Nations entities operating in conflict and post-conflict situations • All countries with political, peacebuilding and multidimensional peacekeeping missions have at least one gender advisor	• Women comprise at least 40 per cent of senior positions (P5 or higher) in United Nations entities operating in conflict and post-conflict situations	All United Nations system DPA DPKO

OUTCOME 2.2: Increased attention to women's priorities and gender issues in peace agreements.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 2.2.1 Increased number of appointments of women as chief mediator/special envoy to United Nations-led peace processes. [12]	• At least one woman appointed as chief mediator/special envoy to United Nations-led peace processes	• At least one in each three new appointments of chief mediators/special envoys to United Nations-led peace processes is a woman	EOSG
OUTPUT 2.2.2 Gender expertise provided to United Nations-supported mediation efforts. [13]	• 50 per cent of all United Nations mediation support activities include gender expertise	• 75 per cent of United Nations mediation support activities equipped with gender expertise	DPA DPKO UNW
OUTPUT 2.2.3 Women's representatives engage in consultations with mediation and negotiating teams during peace processes. [14]	• 50 per cent of all United Nations special envoys and mediators and mediation teams undertake regular consultations with women leaders and women's civil society organizations	• 85 per cent of all United Nations special envoys and mediators and mediation teams undertake regular consultations with women leaders and women's civil society organizations	UNW DPKO DPA

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OUTCOME 2.3: Increased representation of women at all levels as decision-makers in post-conflict countries.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 2.3.1 United Nations technical assistance to conflict-resolution processes and countries emerging from conflict includes a rigorous assessment of options for temporary special measures, including quotas for women[15], in line with recommendations by the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women and other relevant international human rights treaties.	• At least 50 per cent of electoral support programme units in requesting countries will include gender expertise	• All electoral support programme units in requesting countries will include gender expertise	DPA DPKO UNW UNDP
OUTPUT 2.3.2 United Nations ensures that technical assistance to public administrative reform includes comprehensive options for measures, including but not limited to quotas and fast-track promotion schemes, to increase proportion of women in state institutions at all levels, and capacity-building to improve institutional effectiveness[16] in line with recommendations by the Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women and other relevant international human rights treaties.	• Technical assistance or strategy on support for achieving gender balance in public administration is available to 50 per cent of countries with conflict and post-conflict situations	• Technical assistance or strategy on support for achieving gender balance in public administration is available to countries with conflict and post-conflict situations	UNW UNDP

GOAL 3: Women and girls' rights are protected and promoted in conflict and post-conflict situations.

OUTCOME 3.1: Institutional mechanisms and structures ensure the security, safety and health of women and girls.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 3.1.1 Women's and girls' rights are integrated into all operational guidance on protection of civilians and rolled out in relevant missions.	• Operational guidance reflecting women's and girls' rights implemented in 50 per cent of countries with integrated missions with protection of civilian mandates.	• Operational guidance reflecting women's and girls' rights implemented in 100 per cent of countries with integrated missions with protection of civilian mandates.	DPKO OHCHR
OUTPUT 3.1.2 Special measures[17] to increase security of female internally displaced persons and refugees and promote women's representation in all camp committees and to ensure multi-sectoral prevention and response mechanisms for sexual and gender based violence in camp and non-camp settings.	• Special measures to protect displaced women and girls operationalized in 50 per cent of United Nations managed responses to displacement	• Special measures to protect displaced women and girls operationalized in 75 per cent of United Nations managed responses to displacement.	UNHCR Protection Cluster and sub-cluster United Nations Members DPKO

OUTCOME 3.2: Security Sector Reform and Community Security and Arms Control programmes respond to threats faced by women and girls and promote women's meaningful participation in reform processes and activities related to disarmament, non-proliferation arms control (A/RES/65/69) and armed violence prevention and reduction activities.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 3.2.1 The United Nations provides technical and advisory support and capacity development to strengthen gender-responsive mechanisms for the control of small arms and light weapons.[18]	• 75 per cent of United Nations sponsored and United Nations-led disarmament and arms control programmes mainstream gender throughout programme design and delivery	• 100 per cent of United Nations-sponsored and -led disarmament and arms control programmes mainstream gender throughout programme design and delivery	UNDP ODA UNITAR
OUTPUT 3.2.2 United Nations supports national efforts to ensure gender-responsive security sector reform through capacity development and advocacy.[19]	• 20 per cent of participants in security sector training activities are women • Gender considerations effectively mainstreamed in United Nations supported national security policies, strategies, plans and programmes	• 30 per cent of participants in security sector training activities are female	DPKO UNDP Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force

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OUTCOME 3.3: Increased access to justice for women and girls whose rights are violated.

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 3.3.1 Relevant United Nations entities promote, support and provide technical assistance to judicial and corrections reform and legal support services (both formal and informal) to protect and enforce women's and girls' human rights consistent with international standards, with specific attention to sexual and gender based violence survivors and other vulnerable women.[20]	• 15 per cent of funding of rule of law and access to justice programming is dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	• 30 per cent of funding of rule of law and access to justice programming dedicated to gender equality and women's empowerment	DPKO/UNCT UNDP

GOAL 4: Women's and girls' specific relief needs are met and women's capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in conflict and post-conflict situations.

OUTCOME 4.1: Planning and funding of relief and recovery initiatives in conflict and post conflict situations respond to the needs of women and girls, especially vulnerable groups (internally displaced populations, sexual and gender based violence and war crimes victims, disabled, female heads of households, female ex-combatants, refugees and returnees, women living with and affected by HIV).

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 4.1.1 Fund-tracking mechanisms to assess attention to gender equality issues developed by all United Nations and Multi-Donor Trust Funds with programming mandates working in conflict and post conflict situations.[21]	• Gender Equality Programme Funding tracking mechanisms (e.g. gender marker) established and operational in 40 per cent of United Nations entities operating in conflict contexts.	• Gender Equality Programme Funding tracking mechanisms (e.g. gender marker) established and operational in 100 per cent of United Nations entities operating in conflict contexts	All United Nations entities

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OUTPUT 4.1.2		Lead Entity
United Nations-led planning processes in conflict and post-conflict situations (including humanitarian and peacebuilding processes) are gender-responsive.	• At least 70 per cent of United Nations-led planning documents and resulting projects and programmes in conflict and post-conflict situations respond to the distinct needs and capacities of girls, boys, women and men, especially vulnerable groups • Rosters for technical surge capacity for conflict and post-conflict situations include gender experts in each of the relevant areas (i.e. camp management, natural resources, etc.) • At least 50 per cent of all United Nations-led local development and community infrastructure rehabilitation programmes include institutionalized mechanisms to ensure informed and effective participation of women's groups at the community and local level (i.e. setting of priorities, identification of beneficiaries, monitoring implementation)	• 100 per cent of United Nations-led planning documents and resulting projects and programmes in conflict and post-conflict situations respond to the distinct needs and capacities of girls, boys, women and men, especially vulnerable groups • All United Nations-led local development and community infrastructure rehabilitation programmes include institutionalized mechanisms to ensure informed and effective participation of women's groups at the community and local level	All United Nations entities with programmatic mandates International Civilian Capacities Review Team OCHA UNHCR PBSO UNW UNDP

OUTCOME 4.2: Post-conflict institutions and processes of peace consolidation fully engage women and acknowledge their roles in conflict and their right to redress for injustices. [22]

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 4.2.1 Women equitably participate in all stages of United Nations-supported Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration – from negotiation of peace agreements and establishment of national institutions to the design and implementation of programmes in order to ensure the specific needs of male and female ex-combatants are addressed, as well as of women, men, boys and girls associated with armed forces.	• At least 15 per cent of Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration programme funds are dedicated addressing specific gender needs, including the gendered dimensions of violence • Adequate and sufficient gender expertise available in 75 per cent of United Nations-supported Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration programmes at management and implementation levels	• At least 20 per cent of Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration programme funds are dedicated addressing specific gender needs, including the gendered dimensions of violence • Adequate and sufficient gender expertise available in 95 per cent of United Nations-supported Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration programmes at management and implementation levels	UNDP DPKO

OUTPUT 4.2.2		Lead Entity
Minimum standards of gender-responsiveness established (and options for ensuring their implementation incorporated into the technical advice activities of relevant United Nations actors) for Truth and Reconciliation Commissions, reparations programmes and related bodies.[23]	• At least 15 per cent of funding on transitional justice programmes (including reparations projects) is specifically dedicated to gender equality	• At least 30 per cent of funding on transitional justice programmes (including reparations) is specifically dedicated to gender equality. Of the rest, at least 50 per cent incorporates gender equality issues	OHCHR UNW UNDP DPKO

OUTCOME 4.3: Women and girls have equitable access to livelihood support services.[24]

OUTPUTS	TARGET BY 2014	TARGET BY 2020	Lead Entity
OUTPUT 4.3.1. Economic recovery and temporary employment[25] programmes specifically target women and girls as participants.	• At least 15 per cent of funding on economic recovery programmes is specifically dedicated to gender equality • At least 30 per cent of participants in economic recovery, temporary employment and post-conflict poverty reduction programmes are women	• At least 30 per cent of funding on economic recovery programmes is specifically dedicated to gender equality, with 50 per cent of the rest explicitly responding to different needs of men and women, girls and boys • At least 40 per cent of participants in economic recovery, temporary employment and post-conflict poverty reduction programmes are women	UNDP UNW UNCT

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This proposed set of indicators was developed at the request of Security Council resolution 1889 (2009, paragraph 17) by an interagency working group established specifically for this purpose, and presented to the Security Council in October 2010 as an annex to the Secretary-General report on women and peace and security (S/20120/498).[7] The Security Council, in its presidential statement S/PRST/2010/22, supported taking forward the indicators and encouraged Member States to take the indicators into account, as appropriate, in implementing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women and peace and security. The set of indicators is organized in four goals, aligning therefore with the proposed UN Strategic Results Framework.

GOAL 1: Prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations

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[7] The set was originally presented to the Security Council in April 2010 (S/2010/173); the Security Council, in its presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/8) noted that the indicators would need technical and conceptual development before becoming operational and requested a inclusion of a reviewed comprehensive set of indicators in the next report to the Council on women and peace and security due in October 2010.

INDICATOR

1a   Prevalence of sexual violence

1b   Patterns of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations

2   Extent to which UN peacekeeping and special political missions include information on violations of women's and girls' human rights in their periodic reporting to the Security Council

3a   Extent to which violations of women's and girls' human rights are reported, referred and investigated by human rights bodies

3b   Number and percentage share of women in governance bodies of national human right bodies

4   Percentage of reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by uniformed, civilian peacekeepers and/or humanitarian workers that are acted upon out of the total number of referred cases

5a   Extent to which measures to protect women's and girls' human rights are included in directives issued by heads of military components and heads of police components of peacekeeping missions

5b   Extent to which measures to protect women's and girls' human rights are included in national security policy frameworks

6   Number and type of actions taken by the Security Council related to resolution 1325 (2000)

7   Number and percentage share of women in executive positions of relevant regional and sub-regional organizations involved in preventing conflict

GOAL 2: Women participate equally with men and gender equality is promoted in decision-making processes for conflict prevention, management and resolution at national, local, regional and international levels

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INDICATOR
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8   Percentage of peace agreements with specific provisions to improve the security and status of women and girls

9   Women's share of senior positions in UN field missions

10   Percentage of field missions with senior gender experts

11a Representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations

11b Women's participation in official observer status, at the beginning and the end of formal peace negotiations

12a Women's political participation in parliaments and ministerial positions

12b Women's political participation as voters and candidates

13   Extent to which Security Council missions address specific issues affecting women and girls in the terms of reference and mission reports

GOAL 3: Women and girls' are protected in conflict-affected situations

INDICATOR

14 Index of women's and girls' physical security

15 Extent to which national laws to protect women's and girls' human rights are in line with international standards

16 Level of women's participation in the justice, security and foreign service sectors

17 Existence of national mechanisms for control of illicit small arms and light weapons

18 Percentage of benefits from temporary employment in the context of early economic recovery programs received by women and girls

19 Percentage of referred cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls that are reported, investigated and sentenced

20 Hours of training per capita of decision-making personnel in security and justice sector institutions to address cases of sexual and gender-based violence

GOAL 4: Women and girls' specific relief needs are met and women's capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in conflict and post-conflict situations.

INDICATOR

21a Maternal mortality rate

21b Net primary and secondary education enrolment rates, by sex

22a Proportion of budget related to indicators that address gender equality issues in strategic planning frameworks

22b Proportion of budget related to targets that address gender equality issues in strategic planning frameworks

23a Proportion of total disbursed funding to civil society organizations that is allocated to address gender equality issues

23b Proportion of total disbursed funding to support gender equality issues that is allocated to civil society organizations

24a Proportion of disbursed Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) used to address gender equality issues

24b Proportion of total spending of the UN system used to support gender equality issues

25 Extent to which Truth and Reconciliation Commissions include provisions to address the rights and participation of women and girls

26a Percentage of benefits from reparation programmes received by women and girls

26b Percentage of benefits from DDR programmes received by women and girls

Sustainable Development Goals[5]

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty**, **protect the planet** and **ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.

Do you want to get involved? You can start by telling everyone about them. We've also put together a list of actions that you can take in your everyday life to contribute to a sustainable future.

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[5] https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/; cf. goal #3, 4, 5, 16

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3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality. Major progress has been made on increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, many more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues.

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GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING – WHY IT MATTERS (PDF)

| Facts and figures | Goal 3 targets | Links |

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

- By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

- By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

- Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

- Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

- Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

- Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

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#3: HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: WHY IT MATTERS

What's the goal here?

To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Why?

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages is important to building prosperous societies.

However, despite great strides in improving people's health and well-being in recent years, inequalities in health care access still persist. More than six million children still die before their fifth birthday each year, and only half of all women in developing regions have access to the health care they need.

Epidemics like HIV/AIDS thrive where fear and discrimination limit people's ability to receive the services they need to live healthy and productive lives.

Access to good health and well-being is a human right, and that is why the Sustainable Development Agenda offers a new chance to ensure that everyone can access the highest standards of health and health care – not just the wealthiest.

What progress have we made so far?

Major progress has been made in several areas, including in child and maternal health as well as in addressing HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Maternal mortality has fallen by almost 50 per cent since 1990; measles vaccines have averted nearly 15.6 million deaths since 2000; and 13.6 million people had access to antiretroviral therapy by the end of 2014.

We may have come a long way, but we still have a longer way to go. Real progress means achieving universal health coverage; making essential medicines and vaccines affordable; ensuring that women have full access to sexual and reproductive health care; and ending all preventable deaths of children.

How much will it cost to achieve these targets?

Ensuring healthy lives for all requires a strong commitment, but the benefits outweigh the cost. Healthy people are the foundation for healthy economies.

For example, if we spent $1 billion in expanding immunization coverage against influenza, pneumonia and other preventable diseases, we could save 1 million children's lives each year. In the past decade, improvements in health and heath care led to a 24 per cent increase in income growth in some of the poorest countries.

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The cost of inaction is greater millions of children will continue to die from preventable diseases, women will die in pregnancy and childbirth, and health care costs will continue to plunge millions of people into poverty. Noncommunicable diseases alone will cost low- and middle-income countries more than $7 trillion in the next 15 years.

What can I do to help?

You can start by promoting and protecting your own health and the health of those around you, by making well-informed choices, practicing safe sex and vaccinating your children.

You can raise awareness in your community about the importance of good health, healthy lifestyles as well as people's right to quality health care services.

Take action through schools, clubs, teams and organizations to promote better health for all, especially for the most vulnerable such as women and children.

You can also hold your government, local leaders and other decision-makers accountable to their commitments to improve people's access to health and health care.

To find out more about Goal #3 and the other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⚪ALS

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Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

Obtaining a quality education is the foundation to improving people's lives and sustainable development. Major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and increasing enrolment rates in schools particularly for women and girls. Basic literacy skills have improved tremendously, yet bolder efforts are needed to make even greater strides for achieving universal education goals. For example, the world has achieved equality in primary education between girls and boys, but few countries have achieved that target at all levels of education.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

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QUALITY EDUCATION – WHY IT MATTERS (PDF)

Facts and figures	Goal 4 targets	Links

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes

- By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education

- By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

- By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

- By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

- By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

- By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

- Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

- By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

- By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

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#4: QUALITY EDUCATION: WHY IT MATTERS

What is the goal here?

Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning.

Why does education matter?

Education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved. When people are able to get quality education they can break from the cycle of poverty. Education therefore helps to reduce inequalities and to reach gender equality. It also empowers people everywhere to live more healthy and sustainable lives. Education is also crucial to fostering tolerance between people and contributes to more peaceful societies.

So through education, people can get better jobs and have better lives?

Yes, education reduces inequality. Using data for 114 countries in the

1985 – 2005 period, one extra year of education is associated with a reduction of the Gini coefficient by 1.4 percentage points.

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But hasn't a lot of progress been made over the last few years on education?

Yes, enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91 %. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS Data Centre), between 2000 and 2012, the percentage of out-of-school children among primary-school-age children has declined from 40 % to 22 % in sub-Saharan Africa and from 20 % to 6 % in South Asia.

Where are people struggling the most to have access to education?

More than half of children that have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa, which makes it the region with the largest number of out-of-school children in the world. And this region has a very young population so it will have to provide basic education to 444 million children between the ages of 3 and 15 in 2030, which is 2.6 times the numbers enrolled today.

Are there groups that have a more difficult access to education?

Yes, women and girls are one of these groups. About one-third of countries in the developing regions have not achieved gender parity in primary education. In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school. These disadvantages in education also translate into lack

of access to skills and limited opportunities in the labour market for young women.

What can we do?

Ask our governments to place education as a priority in both policy and practice.

Lobby our governments to make firm commitments to provide free primary school education to all, including vulnerable or marginalized groups.

Encourage the private sector to invest resources in the development of educational tools and facilities

Urge NGOs to partner with youth and other groups to foster the importance of education within local communities

To find out more about Goal #4 and other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

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Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

While the world has achieved progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment under the Millennium Development Goals (including equal access to primary education between girls and boys), women and girls continue to suffer discrimination and violence in every part of the world.

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

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GENDER EQUALITY – WHY IT MATTERS (PDF)

Facts and figures	Goal 5 targets	Links

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decisionmaking in political, economic and public life
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

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#5: GENDER EQUALITY: WHY IT MATTERS

What's the goal here?

To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Why?

Women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. But, today gender inequality persists everywhere and stagnates social progress.

As of 2014, 143 countries have guaranteed equality between men and women in their Constitutions but 52 have yet to take this step.

What happens if gender equality is not ensured?

Inequalities faced by girls can begin right at birth and follow them all their lives. In some countries, girls are deprived of access to health care or proper nutrition, leading to a higher mortality rate.

As girls move into adolescence, gender disparities widen. Child marriage affects girls far more than boys. Globally, nearly 15 million girls under age 18 are married every year – or 37,000 each day.

Marrying young also affects girls' education. About one third of developing countries have not achieved gender parity in primary education. In sub-Saharan Africa, Oceania and Western Asia, girls still face barriers to entering both primary and secondary school.

How does gender inequality affect women?

Disadvantages in education translate into lack of access to skills and limited opportunities in the labour market.

Women's and girls' empowerment is essential to expand economic growth and promote social development. The full participation of women in labor forces would add percentage points to most national growth rates double digits in many cases.

Are there any other gender- related challenges?

Yes. Worldwide, 35 per cent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.

An estimated 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation/cutting in the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East, where the harmful practice is most common with a high risk of prolonged bleed-

ing, infection (including HIV), childbirth complications, infertility and death.

But, why should gender equality matter to me?

Regardless of where you live in, gender equality is a fundamental human right. Advancing gender equality is critical to all areas of a healthy society, from reducing poverty to promoting the health, education, protection and the well-being of girls and boys.

Investing in education programmes for girls and increasing the age at which they marry can return

$5 for every dollar spent. Investing in programs improving income generating activities for women can return $7 dollars for every dollar spent.

What can we do to fix these issues?

If you are a girl, you can stay in school, help empower your female classmates to do the same and fight for your right to access sexual and reproductive health services.

If you are a woman, you can address unconscious biases and implicit associations that can form an unintended and often an invisible barrier to equal opportunity.

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If you are a man or a boy, you can work alongside women and girls to achieve gender equality and embrace healthy, respectful relationships.

You can fund education campaigns to curb cultural practices like female genital mutilation and change harmful laws that limit the rights of women and girls and prevent them from achieving their full potential.

To find out more about Goal #5 and other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

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Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals is dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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Facts and figures   Goal 16 targets   Links

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

- By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

- Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

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#16: PEACE, JUSTICE, ANDSTRONG INSTITUTIONS: WHY THEY MATTER

What's the goal here?

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Why?

Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). People everywhere need to be free of fear from all forms of violence and feel safe as they go about their lives whatever their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation.

In order to advance the SDGs we need effective and inclusive public institutions that can deliver quality education and healthcare, fair economic policies and inclusive environmental protection.

What needs to be done to address this?

To achieve peace, justice and inclusion, it is important that governments, civil society and communities work together to implement lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, combat corruption and ensure inclusive participation at all times.

Freedom to express views, in private and in public, must be guaranteed. People must be able to contribute to decisions that affect their lives. Laws and policies must be applied without any form of discrimination. Disputes need

to be resolved through functioning political and justice systems.

National and local institutions must be accountable and need to be in place to deliver basic services to families and communities equitably and without the need for bribes.

How does this goal apply to me, wherever I live?

Crimes that threaten the foundation of peaceful societies, including homicides, trafficking and other organized crimes, as well as discriminatory laws or practices, affect all countries. Even the world's greatest democracies face major challenges in addressing corruption, crime and human rights violations for everyone at home.

What would be the cost of not taking action now?

Armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long-standing grievances among communities.

Violence, in all its forms, has a pervasive impact on societies. Violence affects children's health, development and well-being, and their ability to thrive. It causes trauma and weakens social inclusion.

Lack of access to justice means that conflicts remain unresolved and people cannot obtain protection and redress. Institutions that do not function according to legitimate laws are prone to arbitrariness and abuse of power, and less capable of delivering public services to everyone.

To exclude and to discriminate not only violates human rights, but also causes resentment and animosity, and could give rise to violence.

What can we do?

Take a genuine interest in what your government is doing. Raise awareness in your community about the realities of violence and the importance of peaceful and just societies, and identify how you can pursue the SDGs in your daily life.

Exercise your right to hold your elected officials to account. Exercise your right to freedom of information and share your opinion with your elected representatives.

Be the change – promote inclusion and respect towards people of different backgrounds, ethnic origins, religions, gender, sexual orientations or different opinions. Together, we can help to improve conditions for a life of dignity for all.

To find out more about Goal #16 and other Sustainable Development Goals, visit:

http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment

Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

3 December 2008

The delegations will find attached the revised version of the operational paper "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of ESDP" (doc.11932/2/05), merged with the "Check list to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of ESDP Operations" (doc. 12068/06). If agreed, this document will supersede the two previous documents (doc.11932 /2/05 and doc 12068/06) and takes into consideration new developments, notably the adoption of UNSCR 1820.

As indicated in the document" Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of ESDP", the Council General Secretariat has conducted a review of its implementation.

References

Ref A: Resolution 1325 (2000) of the United Nations Security Council concerning women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325)

Ref B: Council conclusions on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management (doc. 14884/1/06 REV 1)

Ref C: Resolution 1820 (2008) of the United Nations Security Council on women peace and security - violence against women (UNSCR 1820)

Ref D: Compilation of Documents: Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender into European Security and Defence Policy (doc. 11359/07 EXT 1)

Ref E: Compilation of Documents: Mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender into European Security and Defence Policy, Brussels, 2008

(http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/hr/news144.pdf)

Ref F: Comprehensive approach to EU Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security (doc. 15671/08)

I. Introduction

In February 2005, the EU Ministers on Gender Equality reaffirmed their commitment to implement and encourage initiatives, policies and programmes, following the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 concerning women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325). In May 2005, the GAERC encouraged its competent bodies to carry out further work in areas related to the implemen-

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tation of specific aspects of UNSCR 1325. On 7 November 2005 the Council noted the document "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of ESDP", focusing on practical measures for taking work forward on UNSCR 1325 in an ESDP context, contributing at the same time to the application of the EU's general approach to gender mainstreaming. The "Checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of ESDP operations", (doc. 12068/06) was finalised by PMG on 27 July 2006.

UNSCR 1325 calls for increased involvement of women, at all decision making levels, in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction. UNSCR 1325 clearly identifies women as important actors in peace-building and conflict mediation. It seeks to expand the contribution of women to field based operations and strives to increase consultation with local and international women's and human rights groups. UNSCR1325 stresses the importance of including gender related issues in training programmes for military and civilian personnel in preparation for deployment.

Gender equality is a fundamental principle of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and as such also a central consideration for crisis management capacity. Gender mainstreaming in the area of ESDP is not a goal in itself; the ultimate objective is to increase the EU's crisis management efficiency.

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Gender mainstreaming concerns both sexes, and requires the commitment and participation of both men and women.

Sexual violence when used and commissioned as a tactic of war, constitutes an important factor contributing to exacerbation of conflict situations and obstructs the restoration of enduring peace and security. UNSCR 1820 calls for an immediate and complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians with immediate effect. It underlines that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, and therefore calls for the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes.

UNSCR 1820 underlines the need for continuation and strengthening of the efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations. It urges troop and police contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action, including pre-deployment and in-mission awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel.

II. Aim

According to the document "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of ESDP", the Council General Secretariat was to initiate a review of the implementation

of its provisions. Responding to this, and taking into consideration new developments, notably the adoption of UNSCR 1820 and the vast expansion of EU's crisis management activities, this document outlines the state of play and the future challenges in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP. It is also aimed at revising the provisions of the "Checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of ESDP operations" (doc. 12068/06), drawing on experiences from the ESDP missions/operations. This document seeks to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 from the early planning to the conduct of ESDP operations, including their follow-up. The document should be used by all actors involved in planning and conducting ESDP missions/operations. It should serve as a reminder and provide concrete examples of what can be done during the different stages of planning, conducting and drawing lessons from ESDP missions/operations.

III. Measures to implement UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 - Checklist

Measures to increase women's representation at all decision-making levels

Strategic level:

- Improve the gender balance in all relevant bodies involved in preparing ESDP missions/operations;

- Generate a larger pool of potential female candidates for upcoming international assignments and vacancies, in particular senior ESDP positions. To this end, increase the awareness among women of the recruitment opportunities in the ESDP missions/operations;

- Improve the gender balance in ESDP missions/operations, particularly in the components that have direct contact with the local population. Calls for contribution and force generation conferences should specifically take this into account. While candidate selection will be based on qualifications, it should also consider gender balance. To this end, a follow up of women's representation in ESDP missions/operations, has already been ensured, by i.a. sex-disaggregated data and statistics provided by the EU Member States participating in missions/operations. In this context, with full regard to operational requirements, Member States are encouraged to further promote an appropriate gender balance in all ESDP relevant areas. National best practices on achieving a gender balanced structure in all areas should be shared (e.g. in gender mainstreaming conferences);

Operational level:

- Promote the role of women as actors in peace building through their participation in peace negotiations as well as in establishing transitional governments and reconciliation structures (e.g. through the involvement of EUSEC and EUPOL DRC, the input of the local women's

groups was facilitated in the Round Table on DRC SSR deliberations).

Planning and conduct of ESDP missions/operations

1) ADVANCE PLANNING

Early Warning and Situation Analysis EU Watch List

· SITCEN and EUMS is to consider gender, including in the context of sexual and gender- based violence, as a factor in situation analyses and be encouraged to liaise and to share information with other organisations i.a. relevant UN agencies, the OSCE, as well as NGOs, who could have valuable information and experiences. The specific situation of both men and women need to be analysed.

Exploratory missions, Fact Finding Missions and Planning Teams

· Exploratory missions, Fact Finding Missions, planning teams and all other planning activities are to consider gender issues and enlist, where appropriate specific gender expertise for the purpose of the mission. A section on gender issues, including as appropriate sexual and gender-based violence aspects, should be included in the reports of the missions.

· The EU Human Rights Fact Sheet should be used when preparing the mission. As appropriate, information should be collected on gender dimensions in all functional

areas covered by the assessment. The specific situation of both men and women need to be analysed.

· Depending on the purpose of the mission and the political context, the Fact Finding Mission and planning teams should meet with local and international non-state actors promoting human rights and gender issues in the area of operation, to assess specific issues related to the situation of women. Where applicable, meetings with women in decision-making functions should also be held.

· The Personal Representative of the SG/HR for human rights or an OHQ gender adviser will provide advice throughout the planning process.

Crisis Management Concept/Strategic Options/ Initiating Military Directive

· Situation assessments should include a summary of gender related issues, including the possible threat of the use or the actual use of sexual and gender-based violence in the area of operation.

2) JOINT ACTION ESTABLISHING AN ESDP MISSION/OPERATION – FINANCIAL ASPECTS

· Budgetary provisions for gender and human rights expertise and outreach activities should be made, according to the mandate of the mission, in order to raise awareness of these issues and promote better commitment from the missions/operations.

3) OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Concept of Operations CONOPS

·   If specific concerns and priorities have been identified in the Crisis Management Concept and if it has been agreed that they should be taken into account by the EU mission/operation, the concept of operations should address this by way of appropriate identification of related tasks.

·   During the development of the CONOPS, the need for a dedicated and adequately trained (prior to deployment) gender adviser needs to be assessed, depending on the mandate and size of the mission/operation.

Operation Plan OPLAN

·   The OPLAN for every ESDP mission/operation must include an annex including specific standards of behaviour, based on the agreed generic standards of behaviour (doc. 8373/3/05) and taking into account the specific situation in the area of operation.

·   Where relevant, the OPLAN should contain guidance on gender issues, in line with the mandate, developing the tasks identified in the CONOPS. The OPLAN should also include a requirement to report on gender related aspects, including - as appropriate - issues related to sexual and gender-based violence.

4) FORCE GENERATION/CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

· As a general rule, within the EUSR staff and ESDP missions/operations personnel with responsibility for gender issues are to be identified or included. Where relevant, such staff will serve as focal points and technical expertise. Gender expertise should be identified at all levels, including senior decision-making level, as early as possible in order to make the best use of the expertise during the detailed planning of the mission/operation.

· All calls for contributions and invitations to Force Generation Conferences should include the following sentence: "The EU strives for an improved gender balance in ESDP missions/operations, in conformity with UNSCR 1325. The General Secretariat (Head of Mission/The Operation Commander) encourages Contributing States and European Institutions to take this into account when offering contributions". The call for contributions should also stress any specific needs related to gender issues (e.g. the need for both men and women in border controls, male and female soldiers at check points, male and female personnel at field hospitals, male and female police and prisons officers, the need for both men and women in Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC), Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) and Human Intelligence (HUMINT) teams, as well as in normal patrols, etc).

5) CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS

· The Chain of Command is to ensure the implementation of the gender related tasks set out in the OPLAN and consider how each component of the mission might take account of gender issues, including on the issues related to possible use of sexual and gender-based violence (in the area of operation).

· The gender adviser (or another member of the mission/operation in cases where there is no gender adviser) should be in charge of following up on reports from the mission/operation reporting sexual and gender-based violence. On the basis of direction given by the chain of command, the gender adviser should be encouraged to contact the appropriate actors on the ground (EU or other) in order that they take action about the reported sexual and gender based violence.

· A gender perspective is to be integrated into policies, programmes and projects, the information strategy of the mission/operation and when conducting different outreach projects to the local community, monitoring and data collections, depending on the mandate.

· Gender advisers should be able to communicate on specific gender issues directly with appropriate structures within the Council and the Commission services, in accordance with the directions of the mission's/operation's Chain of Command.

Reporting

· As a general rule, gender related aspects, including information on sexual and gender based violence as well as local women's role as actors should be included in the regular and frequent reports by the EUSRs, HoMs or Commanders, as well as in the reports provided by each component of the mission/operation, to their Chain of Command.

· The Member States should inform the Chain of Command on the gender ratio in their force contributions so as to allow their inclusion in the reports.

· The reports should include information on consultations with local and international non-state actors promoting human rights and gender equality, when it is part of the mission/operation.

· Reporting should also include a reference to achievements with regard to gender equality of the local counterparts (police, military, local authorities, etc.) when it is a part of the mandate of the mission/operation.

· The HoMs or Commanders should be encouraged to cover in their briefings to the relevant Council bodies the mission-specific gender mainstreaming issues. Briefings on the missions' gender issues, could be provided as a useful tool to sensitise the relevant committees and working groups to the issue concerned.

· EUSRs, HoMs and Commanders are to ensure that breaches of the agreed standards of behaviour are reported within the EU Chain of Command.

Reviews

· Gender and standards of behaviour should be included in the regular mission reviews. This should be done as a routine and not only when problems have occurred.

· If possible, the contribution of EUSR's work and ESDP missions/operations on the situation of men and women in the area of operation should be assessed.

· If possible, the contribution of gender mainstreaming to the effectiveness of the ESDP mission/operation should be assessed.

Supervision and disciplinary matters

· In line with the Generic Standards of Behaviour, all ESDP missions should have clear and appropriate provisions for the handling of gender-related complaints, including sexual assault and sexual harassment. The Force Commanders/HoMs must ensure that their personnel are aware of complaint procedures. The officer to whom the complaints are to be reported, should not be the same person as the gender adviser.

Contact with local and international non state actors promoting human rights and gender equality (or govern-

mental and non governmental organisations promoting women's rights)

In addition to the work conducted by the force, in the area where an EU operation/mission is deployed, the EU should:

·   work closely together with the national and local authorities and civil society in order to promote the importance of gender equality, including actions against the use of sexual and gender-based violence, taking into account each specific situation. As part of the wider process of consultation, with all relevant parties the EU should ensure that it solicits and incorporates the views of women and women rights groups in order to promote their participation.

·   coordinate with local and international non-state actors promoting human rights and gender equality: a list of local women's groups working and international women's groups present in the area of operation should be compiled, regular meetings should be held in order to identify issues of concern, contacts should be sought, where applicable, with women in decision- making positions.

·   stress the importance attached to gender mainstreaming and further actions against the use of sexual and gender-based violence and encourage local authorities to implement a gender sensitive policy, depending on the mandate. If the EUSR and/or the ESDP mission/operation

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is involved in peace negotiations and reconciliation processes, the active involvement of local women in these processes should be encouraged.

Within the confines of the mandate as defined in the planning documents the EU operation/mission should support these efforts. In particular the gender adviser should be asked to establish the necessary contacts as directed by his/her Chain of Command.

Measures to protect women and girls affected by conflict

· In the area of an ESDP mission/operation the EU should call on all parties to take special measures to protect civilians, in particular women and girls, from sexual and gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, forced labour, trafficking and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict environment.

· ESDP personnel should be fully informed and trained on the Generic Standards of Behaviour for ESDP Operations.

Training

· As a general rule and in addition to regular training the HoM/the Operation Commander should, before taking up his/her duties, be briefed by the relevant Council and Commission services on the EU policies and concepts relative to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UN-

SCR 1820.

· Pre-deployment training should include gender, UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 training. Member States should be urged to develop and offer training courses on gender in ESDP missions/operations complementing their broader human rights training. The ESDP training activities under the responsibility of the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) are to reflect the gender perspective.

· During ongoing missions, mission personnel should receive training on gender issues including on sexual and gender based violence (GBV) (i.a. in EUPOL DRC, GBV has been included in the future training curricula for the police, in the training for investigation police and specialised GBV units in the project of the pilot commissariat of the Committee of Police Reform). In-mission training should also ensure adherence to the standards of behaviour as well as emphasise zero tolerance for abuse and misconduct.

· An increased participation of women in the missions/operations training activities for the local population should be encouraged (e.g. the experience of EUJUST Lex – in training 20 female judges and 47 female penitentiary officers – shows that consolidated efforts on the part of the Mission have proved to be an efficient method to raise the awareness of gender issues of the local authorities).

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· The use of UN and other external gender experts to assist in preparing training materials and as visiting lecturers to EU training activities in ESDP programmes should be considered, as well as the use of the UN's Gender Resource Package for Peace Keeping Operations.

6) LESSONS IDENTIFIED

· Gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 should be included (and evaluated) as a specific item in the lessons processes.

· Networking among the gender advisers on the ground should be encouraged (e.g. by creation of mailing lists, or in the format of networking conferences) to exchange best practices and lessons from all missions, whilst fully respecting the Chain of Command of each operation/mission. The Council Secretariat should facilitate these efforts, as appropriate.

7) OTHER PROVISIONS

· Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes should include ex- combatants of both sexes and their families on equal terms, taking into account the particular role played by women and girls in contemporary armed conflicts and the impact of conflicts on them (see: 'EU Concept for support to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)', European Commission and Council of the European Union, Brussels, 2006);

· EU engagements in support of the security sector reform (SSR) should take into account implementation of UNSCR1325 and UNSCR 1820 (see: Concept for ESDP support to Security Sector Reform - adopted in November 2005, A Concept for European Community Support for Security Sector Reform);

· Policies aimed at the protection and reintegration of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) should take gender issues, including the possible issue of sexual and gender- based violence, into account;

· Cooperation, information sharing and exchange of best practices with international organisations such as the UN, the OSCE, NATO, ICRC, ICC and international NGOs should be increased, and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 included in the regular dialogue with these organisations;

· Promote the importance of gender and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence issues in the framework of EU relations with third countries or regional organisations in the field of ESDP;

· Ensure that aspects of gender and aspects with regard to sexual and gender-based violence are further reflected in public information on ESDP;

· Exchange best practices among Member States on gender mainstreaming in security and defence, as well as measures against the use of sexual and gender-based violence in crisis situations, including the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820.

National Action Plan – Austria

Introduction

Resolution 1325 was unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on 31 October 2000. It is the first resolution by the United Nations (UN) that stresses the significant and active role of women in all efforts aimed at promoting peace – from peace negotiations to the rebuilding of destroyed societies – and that specifically addresses the special impact of conflict on women.

Resolution 1325 calls on the system of the United Nations and the UN Member States to firmly establish issues of concern to women in all aspects of their work related to peace and security. The Resolution also aims to increase the involvement of women in political decision-making positions as well as in civilian and military peace operations.

Since 2000, the UNSC has adopted four follow-up resolutions to Resolution 1325. These resolutions – 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010) – particularly aim at increasingly involving women in conflict prevention and resolution as well as promoting their active participation in post-conflict situations and in the field of peace building. In this context, special consideration is given to strengthening measures and activities to fight sexual violence against women in armed conflict. In line

with a mandate given by Resolution 1889, the UN Secretary-General in 2010 – assisted in this task *inter alia* by Austria – developed a set of Indicators for Tracking Implementation of Resolution 1325. The indicators facilitate the measurement of progress made in implementing Resolution 1325 thus making such progress more quantifiable, traceable and transparent. An important role is played in this context by the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) which became operational in 2011.

In 2010, the international community celebrated the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Resolution 1325 and launched new measures towards strengthening its implementation. In a Presidential Statement the UNSC supported the use and application of these 26 indicators. Under its Comprehensive Approach to the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 the European Union (EU) has likewise developed indicators. Austria also used this anniversary to take further steps and resolved to undertake a review of its national targets and activities aimed at implementing Resolution 1325. The Revised National Action Plan at hand is the outcome of this review process.

The Austrian National Action Plan

The Austrian National Action Plan on Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reflects the commitment of the Austrian Federal Government to implementing Resolution 1325 in the context of Austria's hu-

manitarian, diplomatic, peacekeeping and development policy activities and strengthens inter-ministerial cooperation on this topic. The Action Plan takes account of the follow-up resolutions and the indicators prepared by both the UN and the EU; Resolution 1325, however, continues to serve as the fundamental guideline adhered to in the Action Plan.

The most important **objectives of the National Action Plan** are as follows:

Increasing the representation of women as well as enhanced consideration of the objectives defined in Resolution 1325 in training activities for international peace operations;

Strengthening the participation of women in peace promoting and conflict resolving activities, especially by promoting local peace initiatives by women and increasing the share of women in decision-making positions in international and European organisations;

Preventing gender-specific violence and protecting the needs of women and girls within the scope of peace missions, humanitarian operations and in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

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The **measures to be taken** to this end include:

Specific human resources management with the aim to increase the representation of women among personnel deployed by Austria; making the objectives of Resolution 1325 a regular topic of training and education activities; consistently pursuing a "zero-tolerance policy" on sexual abuse and forced prostitution;

Continuing Austria's relevant political commitment at international and regional levels;

Launching concrete activities aimed at supporting women and girls in conflict and post-conflict regions.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored and supervised by a working group led by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEIA) and composed of representatives of all relevant ministries as well as the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). This working group reviews the Action Plan's implementation and further development and documents its findings in an annual report that is taken note of by the Austrian Council of Ministers and forwarded to Parliament. The annual report will be prepared following consultations with civil society representatives with relevant experience (non-governmental organisations, research institutions etc.), in particular during a joint meeting to be held at least once a year. The civil society representatives will furthermore be asked to give ad hoc advice on specific cases. The Action Plan's effectiveness will be reviewed in 2016 in coopera-

tion with civil society. On this basis, the working group will adapt the Action Plan to the latest developments and amend or complement the relevant measures and activities.

The Action Plan has been developed jointly by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEIA), the Federal Chancellery (FCH, Directorate-General II), the Federal Ministry of the Interior (FMoI), the Federal Ministry of Justice (FMoJ), the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports (FMoDS), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and civil society representatives. In the course of this process an overview of existing activities was prepared, the objectives to be achieved and the relevant activities to be taken were defined and indicators as well as a timeline for their review were established.

The Action Plan shall be made accessible to the public. Reference is also made to the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking, whose content overlaps regarding the situation of girls and women in (post-) conflict regions, and the Strategic Guideline on Security and Development in which the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820 is a thematic field of action.

The Austrian Government confirms its commitment to the objectives of the present Action Plan and will support and promote all measures provided therein within the means available in its work in Austria, in regard of deployments, in bilateral contacts and in European and inter-

national fora. The ministries involved will give priority to the implementation of the Action Plan. Financing of the activities resulting from implementation of the Action Plan will be ensured by the responsible ministries within the funds available in their respective budgets.

Activities in Austria

Coordination, Monitoring and Reporting

An inter-ministerial working group is charged with promoting and monitoring the implementation and continuous further development of the National Action Plan (NAP) and with reporting once a year on its implementation. Prior to preparing this annual report, the working group is to invite civil society representatives for an exchange of experiences and views on the implementation of the NAP. While this meeting is held at least once a year, additional ad-hoc meetings are convened as required. Moreover, appropriate measures are to be taken to contribute towards raising public awareness of the implementation of Resolution 1325.

For table of activity, responsibility, status quo, indicators and time frame please check pdf *Austria Revised NAP (2012 – 2016)*: http://www.peacewomen.org/nap-austria

Recruitment for International Peace Operations, Nominations for Leadership Positions in International Organisations and for Election Monitoring Missions

At human resource management level, the relevant ministries are specifically committed to creating the necessary prerequisites and positive incentives aimed at increasing the representation of women in peace operations in which Austria participates. This representation is to be at least equal to the number of women employed in the specialised staff of the police force/Federal Armed Forces/judiciary/administration of justice/prison officers in Austria. Furthermore, the respective ministries are committed to nominating female Austrians to leadership positions in international organisations and ensuring that the ratio between male and female Austrians in election monitoring missions is balanced. Austria regularly considers and examines opportunities for deploying gender experts, junior professional officers (JPO) and other experts on women's rights and on Resolution 1325.

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Training/Code of Conduct

Austrian personnel participating in peace operations and humanitarian missions take responsibility for respecting and actively implementing the objectives of participation of women and protection of women and girls in the area of operation. In this context it is essential to develop and consistently communicate hands-on and state-of-the-art education and training methods and to conduct regular

awareness-raising activities for all staff members. To this end education and training methods as well as codes of conduct are regularly adapted to existing international and European standards also taking account of national experiences. The individual ministries regularly coordinate their respective training modules amongst each other.

The focus is on ensuring that all staff working at the relevant ministries and at ADA, especially those in senior decision-making positions, are familiar with the content of the codes of conduct and/or training modules and consistently and regularly apply them in their daily work.

Education, training and awareness-raising activities are to primarily convey the following aspects:

Implementation of Resolution 1325 and follow-up resolutions as a fundamental concern of Austria in the context of peace operations;

Benefits of the participation of women in the deployment country in terms of fostering the mission's efficiency and access to civilians;

Importance of the equitable participation of women in conflict resolution and sustainable peace building;

Importance of the protection of women and girls in the area of operation with a view to sustainable peace building, and particularly to the special situation of women and girls with disabilities;

Implications of the spread of prostitution in conflict areas (trafficking in women, organised crime, sexual abuse, protection of minors);

Threat of disciplinary, as applicable, criminal sanctions in case of violations.

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Austrian Activities in International and Supranational Organisations and in Bilateral Contacts

In all bilateral and multilateral contacts, Austria is committed to promoting the increased involvement of women in all stages of peace processes and conflict prevention, to incorporating a gender perspective in all peace-building activities of international and regional organisations and to promoting the increased recruitment of women in decision-making positions in these organisations and as international mediators.

United Nations

Austria calls for increased recruitment of women in decision-making positions at the United Nations, in particular for positions as Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the UN Secretary-General both in terms of quantity (number of women) as well as quality (type of activity, area of activity/operation, i.e. also for conflict and post-conflict situations), and for increased recruitment of

women with regard to UN peace operations. The goal is to ensure that all UN bodies, units and organisations routinely consider the concerns of Resolution 1325 in their work.

For table of activity, responsibility, status quo, indicators and time frame please check pdf *Austria Revised NAP (2012 – 2016)*: http://www.peacewomen.org/nap-austria

European Union

The Checklist for Implementing Gender-specific Aspects, prepared by Austria, was adopted by the Political and Security Committee (PSC) on 22 September 2006. In November 2006, the EU Council of Foreign Ministers adopted Conclusions that confirm the EU Member States' commitment to comprehensively implement the provisions of Resolution 1325 in the Common European Security and Defence Policy (CSDP missions, election monitoring missions, Stability Instrument, DDR and SSR programmes, etc.). On 1 December 2008, the PSC adopted the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 under which the EU commits itself to supporting the implementation of Resolution 1325 in its external actions. An informal EU working group (Task Force 1325) is responsible *inter alia* for monitoring the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach. In the context of this Comprehensive Approach, indicators for the improved measurement of progress made in implementing Resolution 1325 were developed in 2010.

In the EU bodies, Austria is committed to supporting the comprehensive use and further development of the Checklist and the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach as well as other relevant EU standards in all stages of CSDP missions. Furthermore, Austria strives to achieve the enhanced consideration and incorporation of the objectives and measures defined in Resolution 1325 in the context of the Instrument for Stability.

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OSCE

Austria supports the implementation of Resolution 1325 in all OSCE dimensions. Efforts shall aim, among other things, at the equal nomination of women in decision-making positions and deployments, both in terms of quantity (equal number of women) as well as quality (in all decision-making positions).

For table of activity, responsibility, status quo, indicators and time frame please check pdf *Austria Revised NAP (2012 – 2016)*: http://www.peacewomen.org/nap-austria

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NATO/EAPC/PfP

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Bilateral Contacts

In their bilateral contacts with states in conflict and post-conflict situations as well as with other states playing a key role in peace processes, high-level representatives of Austria will stress the need for involving women in these peace processes and offer Austrian expertise in order to support other states in implementing Resolution 1325. They will also meet regularly with representatives of civil society and women's organisations from or in these countries in order to recognise and promote their contribution to the peace process. Austria will also support the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular Section E on "Women and Armed Conflict".

Activities in the Field of Development Cooperation

Austria pursues the implementation of the objectives of Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions in all areas of international cooperation. To this end, Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), represented at the multilateral and bilateral level by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), promotes activities aimed at strengthen-

ing the role and participation of women in peace processes and improving the security situation and the consideration and incorporation of the specific needs of women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. In the context of achieving the objectives of Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions, an important role is attached to promoting the political involvement of women, raising awareness within society at large and building up rule of law structures. Austria also takes special account of the key role played by cooperation with civil society, especially with local women networks and organisations, in effectively implementing these objectives. The ADC Guidelines on "Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention", "Human Rights", "Governance" and "Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women" and the accompanying manuals serve as a basis for the relevant ADC activities.

The projects and programmes supported by ADC are allocated to the three core areas of "participation", "prevention" and "protection, security and human rights". This allocation is guided by the 26 UN Indicators for Tracking Implementation of Resolution 1325. The measures and the indicators chosen are also guided by the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and contribute to the operationalisation of the implementation of the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation.

Participation involves all measures aimed at the inclusion of women in decision-making functions and consideration of their interests in the context of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

Prevention involves all measures aimed at preventing a relapse in a violent conflict and all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence.

Protection, Security and Human Rights involves all measures aimed at protecting women and their physical and mental health, economic security and respect of human rights.

Support for Projects and Programmes run by Regional and International Organisations

Under its multilateral cooperation and development cooperation Austria collaborates closely with international organisations in implementing Resolution 1325. In this context, the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), which became operational as of 1 January 2011, plays a pivotal role. Furthermore, numerous projects and programmes run by other regional and international organisations, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Office of the High Commissioner for

Human Rights (OHCHR), and among others by the EU and the African Union (AU) contribute to the implementation of Resolution 1325. Austria pays particular attention to the application of the UN Indicators for Tracking Implementation of Resolution 1325.

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Support for Projects and Programmes in Fragile States, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations

In the field of bilateral cooperation, ADC on the one hand cooperates with international and local civil society organisations and on the other hand supports relevant government-level programmes and sectors in the partner countries. In order to effectively and sustainably strengthen, empower and involve women affected by conflict, it is necessary to take support measures at both the individual and structural levels, to focus on supporting local networking of women and to engage in advocacy work. Special importance is attached to achieving new findings and developing new approaches based on a cross-regional exchange of best practices.

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Overview of Follow-up Resolutions to Resolution 1325

Resolution 1820 of June 2008 defines the connection between the use of sexual violence in armed conflict as a tactic of war and the maintenance of international peace and security. The resolution calls upon all parties to a conflict to protect civilians from sexual violence and affirms the Security Council's intention to consider targeted sanctions against perpetrators. The resolution calls upon the UN Secretary-General to develop guidelines and strategies for UN peacekeeping missions aimed at enhanced protection of civilians from sexual violence and to systematically include measures aimed at strengthening the fight against sexual violence in his reports to the UNSC.

Resolution 1888 of September 2009 creates the position of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. The resolution also provides for the stronger consideration of sexual violence in adopting targeted sanctions by the UNSC and for the establishment of a team of experts tasked with assisting national authorities of countries in conflict situations with prevalent sexual violence in strengthening the rule of law.

Resolution 1889 of October 2009 focuses on strengthening the role of women and promoting the empowerment of women in the field of peacebuilding and reconstruction of post-conflict areas. The resolution calls

upon all UN Member States, UN entities, donors and civil society to take account of the equal participation of women, women's issues and their protection. Resolution 1889 calls upon the Secretary-General to develop Indicators for Tracking Implementation of Resolution 1325. By summer 2010, a total of 26 indicators had been developed.

Resolution 1960 of December 2010 calls for the setting-up of a "Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting" arrangement. It encourages the UN Secretary-General to include in his annual reports on sexual violence in armed conflict submitted to the UNSC a list of those parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence. In order to be deleted from this list prepared by the UN Secretary-General, such parties must undertake concrete commitments the implementation of which is systematically monitored by the UN Secretary-General and reported to the UNSC.