

*10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325:
**Ensuring women's participation
in peace and security***

Egmont palace, Brussels, 9th of September 2010

Conference Conclusions

We, the participants of the Brussels Conference on 'Ensuring Women's Participation in Peace and Security' on the 9th of September 2010, in the presence of the representatives of governments, the European Union, the United Nations and Civil Society, are determined to strengthen our shared commitment to ensuring women's participation in peace and security and to translate this commitment into enhanced action.

10 years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we acknowledge that important steps have been taken, including significant new Security Council resolutions and actions by the European Union, civil society organizations and others. However, we remain deeply concerned about the chronic under-representation of women at all levels of peacekeeping and peace building efforts and about the fact that even though women are effective agents of peace in informal processes, they are poorly represented in formal peace negotiations. By contrast, abuse of the rights of women and girls is a dominant feature of conflict, and there has been an alarming increase in widespread and systematic sexual violence in both conflict and in periods of political instability. Meanwhile protection mechanisms and judicial responses remain weak, to the point of creating environments of relative impunity for grave crimes against women.

We recall the vital role of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace building, recovery, reconstruction and democratization processes. We reaffirm that equal participation by both women and men in peace processes contributes to more effective, inclusive and sustainable peace. It enhances state legitimacy and increases the economic foundations of peace – thereby reducing the likelihood of a relapse into conflict. A wider participation by women ensures a broader constituency and support-base for the implementation of the resulting peace agreement, and increases the likelihood that the well-being of women and children will be improved.

Therefore, given the need for urgent and sustained action to implement Resolution 1325 and the other relevant Security Council Resolutions, we:

1. Call for enhanced **accountability and monitoring of commitments at different levels**, notably at the UN level by endorsing the indicators on SCR 1325 as developed by the Secretary-General and by establishing an accountability and reporting system, for example monitored by a working group or a committee under the auspices of the Security Council. We commit to **increasing the monitoring of commitments taken by our respective organizations**, such as through the EU progress indicators adopted in July 2010.
2. Commit to achieving a **more equal participation of women and men in international peace and security missions**, throughout the different aspects of conflict resolution, post-conflict planning, DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) and SSR (Security Sector Reform), notably by implementing practical measures to include more female military and civilian personnel. We commit, from the earliest stage and prior to engaging action, to including a gender-sensitive approach in our situation analysis and fact finding missions, with particular attention to women's participation and violence against women, and to proactively liaising with local civil society organizations and women's groups before and during peace and security missions.
3. Commit to increase capacity building of women and women's groups to meaningfully **participate in informal and formal peace negotiations, peace building efforts, democratization and electoral processes** and ensure a meaningful participation of civil society, particularly women's groups, in informal and formal peace negotiations.
4. Commit to strive for **equal representation of qualified women and men at all levels of peace and security decision making**, notably as Heads of Missions, Special Representatives or Envoys, as well as within our respective organizations and institutions.
5. Commit to, facilitating the **adoption of special measures** as well as **enabling legislation and other measures to achieve a more equal participation of women in institutions** such as national parliaments and local government bodies as well as in public-sector entities **when providing support to governance institutions in post conflict settings**.

6. Commit to create incentives to enhance the **gender balance** as well as **training** on gender issues of security sector personnel such as police or military, and ensure that the protection of women and children figures among their priorities.

7. Call on the Security Council, in **the fight against impunity**, to impose targeted and graduated measures against parties to conflict who violate women's rights, including perpetrators of sexual violence as well as commanders who commission or condone the use of sexual violence. The Council should include sexual violence as a priority element of resolutions mandating its Sanctions Committees, and these should explicitly include sexual violence as a criterion for the designation of political and military leaders for targeted measures. Call furthermore to **intensify international, regional and national efforts to end impunity for perpetrators who commit gross violations of women's rights under international humanitarian and human rights law**, by strengthening legal systems and by enacting and enforcing legislation, and to provide national justice systems with the necessary resources to prosecute alleged offenders.

8. Call for **increased practical implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 at national level**, including by developing and implementing National Action Plans and policies, in consultation with civil society.

9. Call **on governments and donors** to carefully **analyze the needs of both women and men in post-conflict reconstruction** and track progress by systematically using a 'gender marker' or other indicator when funding projects in fragile or conflict affected countries or regions.

10. Commit to **working closely with and supporting the work of the new UN gender entity, UN WOMEN**, as the lead driver and lead voice advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment globally, to promote policy on women peace and security, and to monitor effectiveness of the implementation of 1325, in collaboration with other relevant UN bodies, including relevant funds and programmes, the UN Secretariat, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and important inter-agency coordination efforts such as UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict.