



Report

EU Member States annual meeting on UNSCR 1325, Brussels, 4 July 2014

'Linking post-2015 to women, peace and security'

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'15 years of UNSCR 1325 – looking ahead to 2015'

The 'Comprehensive EU approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820' foresees that "an open exchange among EU Member States on national implementation of Resolution 1325 will be organised once a year in view of sharing best practices and identifying joint interests". This exchange, organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS), also provides a platform for civil society representatives, UN and regional organisations to engage on their priorities and progress made towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and follow-up resolutions: UNSCR 1820 (2008), UNSCR 1888 (2009), UNSCR 1889 (2009), UNSCR 1960 (2010), UNSCR 2106 (2013) and UNSCR 2122 (2013).

This year's meeting focussed on the two topics of 'Linking the post-2015 agenda to women, peace and security' and '15 years of UNSCR 1325 – looking ahead to 2015'. The morning session examined how to better integrate, in a strategic manner, peace and security issues in the post-2015 development framework. During the afternoon, participants focussed on the up-coming 15th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and how to improve implementation at EU and Member State level.

Session I: Linking post-2015 to Women, peace and security

The post-2015 framework - an introduction

The **European External Action Service (EEAS)** informed participants about the ongoing process of elaborating the Post-2015 Framework, and gave an update on developments in the **Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals (OWG)**. The Post-2015 framework is the major UN process for the moment, and is expected to merge the sustainable development (Rio+20) and poverty eradication (Millennium Development Goals) agendas into one framework to be adopted at Summit-level in September 2015. In addition, the framework is to set the focus on global attention and resources

over the coming 15 years. We are now defining the next road-map for 2015 – 2030. Participants were encouraged to bear in mind the great opportunity we have in front of us to collectively define a new global agenda, especially with gender issues high on the agenda. One of the changing paradigms is that it will be a universal agenda: there will be roles and responsibilities for all, universally implementation and all to be held accountable for it. It will address both the unfinished business from the MDGs, but also those issues that will make the framework truly transformative, such as gender, rule of law, peace and governance. In the introduction to this session the EEAS explained how the EU so far has worked to introduce gender in the zero draft of the OWG, which is to introduce it from two different angles: a) mainstreaming gender into different goals (education, energy, financing etc.) and particularly insisting, in the same vein as Amina Mohamed (adviser on Post-2015 to the UNSG) on the data revolution, that is to insist b) having disaggregated data, which will be key for the measurability of this Framework. The EU aim is to ensure that the OWG identifies the right policy areas that will be transformational, like gender, which is the same kind of reasoning / approach the EU is following for Goal 16, "peaceful societies". It is important not to have a final negotiation position at this stage, but rather to have the right goals and targets approach, with the appropriate priorities to achieve this transformation. Measurability will be key, also in terms of accountability, "measure what you treasure", even if we do not have the right instruments yet, but they will be developed.

Opportunities and challenges in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the post-2015 framework

In this presentation, **UN Women** focused on linking the Post-2015 Framework with UNSCR 1325, and on the need to ensure convergence between the two. UN Women's position on the Post-2015 framework was recalled, in that they advocate for a **stand-alone goal on gender for women's empowerment and rights**, and call for robust mainstreaming of gender issues through all the goals. They also emphasized that there are, areas which have not been covered by the MDGs, like inequalities between men and women. The importance of focusing on conflict and post conflict countries was underlined, as experience has shown that no low income conflict affected country has achieved a single MDG.

Although Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) was in the zero draft of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals, negotiations will be difficult when it comes to specific targets. Rule of law and security issues should be included, but UN Women advocate having gender issues in this area, as well. The major challenge now is that the Sustainable Development Goals are meant to be universal and that progress should be made by all countries. For this reason, global monitoring is key, and the identification of appropriate indicators will be a challenge. Focus on training, prevention and participation of women in public institutions, including national security systems, involvement of women in local governments and equal access to land, natural resources etc. will be essential. As regards monitoring, UNSCR 1325 indicators, which are used to measure implementation of this resolution and capturing conflict specific issues, may be useful for the post 2015 context.

Women and girls' contribution to peace and security should be given adequate attention, both in the Post-2015 Framework and in the women, peace and security agenda. These agendas need to complement each other. It was recalled that 2015, when the review of the UNSCR 1325 would take place, will also be the time to look into progress and gaps. This review should inform discussions of future strategies. 2015 would be the opportunity to create momentum, to fully reflect the role of women in peace and security, to include and reinforce priorities, and to advocate for adequate financing. UN Women proposed several partnerships for technical support, bilateral cooperation and cooperation with the private sector.

Gender, violence and peace in the post-2015 agenda

The non-governmental organization **Saferworld UK** gave a presentation of their work on gender, peace and security in the post-2015 context. It was underlined that in addressing gender, violence and peace and security issues, the Post-2015 Framework is one way forward, but not the whole solution. Work should not be unnecessarily duplicated. Many more studies need to be undertaken to truly understand the causes of inequality and to tackle one of the most prevalent forms of inequality: gender inequality. **Gender inequality was identified as fuelling violence, while violence in turn fuels gender inequality.** South Sudan was given as an example, where in order to address conflict it is vital to also address gender issues. Thus, further research was needed on how gender equality supports peace. A first good step to do this would be to have a gender equality goal. A transformative goal would not only be a women's issue, but also promote a change in attitudes between men and women especially regarding their roles and identities therefore indicators focusing on attitude are also essential. However, a stand-alone goal is not enough. Mainstreaming of gender issues, including through disaggregated data, which is key for measurability, is also needed and we should not forget women's participation at all levels as a key target.

The fact that EU priorities for UNGA69 call for a rights based approach with a strong focus on women and girls was welcomed, also recognizing the context of fragility when achieving the SDGs. It was acknowledged that there is consensus on a stand-alone goal for gender, but that maybe the challenge would be at target- and indicators level, and getting the right transformational language would make the change. It was not so much about integrating one agenda into the other (WPS into post-2015), but to align ideas and not duplicate work. The importance of data was also emphasized, along with perceptions of people living in different countries, and gathering disaggregated data, not just by gender, but also regarding other inequalities. Saferworld concluded by saying that the basic definition of conflict and security was very much about human security, and that there were already a lot of regional reports highlighting what peace means to people. The absence of armed conflict is not enough: a key is also to have peace "at my home". UN Women underlined this by citing the example of 129 women being killed in Turkey in the first half of this year, which is not a conflict country. They agreed that the best indicator for conflict and violence in a country is the level of violence that is tolerated against women.

In the ensuing discussion, participants asked how the speakers see the chances for getting to a result along the desired lines, and the importance of countries affected by conflict also advocating for these issue was underlined. One participant was somewhat pessimistic about having too high standards and setting ambitious goals, which may not be achieved, thus preparing us for failure. Another question

pertained to measurability. Replies were fairly optimistic, also considering the implementation of several national action plans on UNSCR 1325. Both speakers emphasized that we need to set ourselves ambitious objectives, and that the key would be to have an effective accountability mechanism, also creating peer pressure. In many instances important objectives have been achieved, because of being optimistic.

How to introduce Women, Peace and Security in post-2015 - development of arguments. Presentations by the Netherlands, Ireland and Austria

The **Netherlands** outlined various national activities in support of gender policy such as increased contribution to the UN Trust fund for the Elimination of Violence against Women (\$ 8 million) and other funding in support of combatting violence against women and enhancing women's political and economic empowerment. The Dutch National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, co-signed by 50 Dutch civil society organizations, is **focused on the role of women as political actors in conflict prevention, resolution, and recovery**. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda must be an integral part of the overall comprehensive stabilization policy and must figure in key processes such as the Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Justice Sector reform.

Elimination of violence against women and tackling the root causes were missing in the current MDG framework. Prevention, protection and participation aspects should all be covered in the Post-2015 Framework. In the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs, in a troika with UK and Australia, the Netherlands supported the establishment of a stand-alone goal on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls as well as the inclusion of the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as a key target under this goal. WPS would further benefit from including a target on ensuring full and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision making in the public and private spheres and an indicator on women's participation under this target. Under goal 16, the Netherlands would prefer two goals on peaceful and inclusive societies and rule of law, which is supported by the Group of Friends of WPS. Target 16.4 of the revised zero-draft should also offer possibilities for the participation of women in peace processes.

The representative from **Austria** listed items linked to the WPS agenda that had been dropped under goal 16: prevention targets (in particular on reducing illicit arms trade and strengthening formal and non-formal dispute resolution mechanisms) but also protection targets (on IDPs and refugees, implementation of security sector reform, gender training for humanitarian and security personnel, and relief and recovery services). On the other hand, some aspects relevant to the WPS Agenda had been included in the current version of the zero-draft: in the Chapeau (Charter, Beijing, freedom, peace and security, respect for HR, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) and one general reference to countries in conflict. A non-exhaustive overview of pertinent paras under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), e.g. under proposed Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all; Target 4.5. on elimination of gender disparities and equal access to all levels of education; under proposed Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, in particular target 5.2 on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces and ending trafficking and sexual exploitation etc., was also provided.

As significant resistance from some UN Member States to introduce targets that are too conflict or post-conflict specific exists, who believe the focus should be on a conflict prevention approach that strengthens gender equality and peace, including promotion of peaceful societies. This approach can be universally applied (including to the EU) and provides a meaningful interface between the two agendas / frameworks. It is therefore important to push for bringing back targets related to “prevention” (reducing illicit arms trade, strengthening dispute resolution mechanisms) into the text. Additionally, strengthening these preventive aspects through the proposal of new targets, such as ratifying and implementing the Arms Trade Treaty (or reducing excessive military spending) could be considered. Furthermore, it would be important to bring back a gender dimension to goal 16 targets (Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

The case was also made for including WPS in the Means of Implementation (proposed Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) by stating that we can build on the existing commitments of UN MS that relate to the WPS-agenda (i.e. political commitments such as Beijing Platform for Action “Women in armed conflict” and WPS resolutions and legal commitments such as, in particular, the CEDAW Convention of 1979 – signed by 188 MS). As the negotiations are entering its final stage, it was cautioned against suggesting new, additional targets, rather, the focus should be on reformulation of the current ones, or, alternately, deleting other targets when additional targets are introduced. Ideas were presented on how to pursue relevant WPS aspects in the post-OWG phase such as: **explore how relevant aspects of 1325 can be introduced into indicators; strong input by UN entities (e.g. UN Women) to the SG's General Synthesis report on the SDGs as well as SG's general report on 1325**. It should be ensured that SDGs and targets will be implemented and monitored also in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The issue of representation in our own EU-internal structures (such as the Political and Security Committee, COREPER II) is crucial and important when working with third parties. **Ireland** asked **how we can 'preach' gender equality when our own ranks seriously lag behind?** A number of recommendations were made, including adding an additional target under goal 16 to "ensure full and effective participation of women" and split goal 16 into two and concern was expressed about a lack of reference to civil society space and freedom of expression. The need for persistence on the WPS issues that are not getting traction, was underlined.

To sum up the session, 2015 will be an important and epochal year with the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325, the setting of the post-2015 agenda and Beijing+20 coming up. The morning session established that the EU needs to continue to fight any back-tracking on gender issues in the post 2015 agenda. The EU wants to see a framework that is universal, with relevance and responsibilities, for all countries. Looking at the women, peace and security agenda and how it fits into this new framework, it was noted that it might not be feasible or desirable to have full integration, but it is essential to capture its main ideas. So post-2015 needs to address protection and participation of women as well as prevention, and retain those main concepts. A people-centred approach is needed, really impacting the

lives of women and girls. Both, the WPS and the post-2015 agendas need to be firmly grounded in the reality of women's lives.

Session II: 15 years of UNSCR 1325 – Looking ahead to 2015

The afternoon session of the meeting focussed on another aspect of Women, Peace and Security in keeping with the historic momentum of next year's 15th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325, starting with a presentation by UN Women on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, focussing on National and Regional Action Plans, and the up-coming report of the UNSG on the status of the implementation of UNSCR 1325, to be published 2015.

Review of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 – focus on National and Regional Action Plans & the Report of the UNSG on the status of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 – looking ahead to 2015

In the first intervention, **UN Women/Brussels Office**, linked the three different events coming up in 2015 (post2015 development agenda, 15th anniversary of 1325, and Beijing+20), culminating next year to create unprecedented momentum to advance questions of gender and women, peace and security, providing an opportunity for transformation. Only one day after the post-2015 Summit in September 2015, UN Women will organise a Global Leaders' Commitment Forum on Beijing+20, aimed to push the agenda forward and to invite pledges from Heads of State on countries' commitments on Beijing+20.

Explaining the review process in 2015, UN Women recalled that the UNSC had invited the Secretary General to commission a global study, which presents an invaluable opportunity to identify gaps, lessons learned and good practices. The study presents a timely opportunity to revisit the agenda and in particular its impact, **by focussing on regional and local change**. The study is undertaken through consultations with the inter-agency-standing committee and UN Member States, as well as civil society partners, in order to ensure a strong focus on impact and real change in the lives of women and girls. Radhika Coomaraswamy, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict, will be the leading expert for the study and has started her work this week. A high-level advisory group is also under discussion to ensure broad impact and high visibility, whose composition will be decided soon. Results expected are: the articulation of the future global policy agenda, a commemoration, and a demand for increased attention. As for the time-line, the first draft is to come out early 2015, reviewed by an expert group, and the second draft will be presented between June and August 2015. A summary and recommendations will be pulled from these, also to be included in the annual report by the UNSG on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In addition, policy-focused research papers will be commissioned. An open debate is to be held again in 2015 on WPS, and the Netherlands will host an event in December 2014. June 2015 will be the month dedicated to the action area of Beijing+20, which is linked to WPS: "Women and Armed Conflict". As far as Member States contributions are concerned (including the EU), the following would be helpful: committed financial resources, but also secondments, sponsorships of consultations in the Global South, commissioning of research, and mapping of civil society engagement. Online consultations will take place and consultations carried out with Member States on how they are using the indicators, how useful they are and how to possibly edit

them. UN Women recalled that Beijing, in 1995, represented a major shift, which, for the first time, put the women, peace and security agenda on the table, resulting in the area of focus “women in armed conflict”. As far as the Commission on the Status of Women 59 (March 2015, devoted to Beijing+20) is concerned, the SG's report would focus on progress made and identifying gaps and linking it to the broader development agenda. All of these events and reports would be linked to the post-2015 framework.

Reflections from civil society - experiences of working with women, peace and security

The representative from the **European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)**, presented reflections from civil society on experiences of working with women, peace and security, based on results from a collection of 20 case-studies on National Action Plans (NAPs) drawn from EU member states, and Switzerland and Norway. Europe is the region with the most NAPs (23), and the European Union's own 1325 policy (Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security - 2008) is already in its second implementation cycle. The speaker pointed to a great potential for EU and EU MS engaging in conflict-affected countries, to enhance coordination and consultation work on 1325. However, the case-studies found that NAPs tend to be quite outward-looking, **while remaining relatively silent on what is happening nationally**. This was perceived as a missed opportunity, since more policies should be rooted in EU experience in overcoming conflicts. Overall, broad-based consultations with civil society were on the rise, but should happen more consistently and NAPs should not exist in a vacuum. They should be linked to other policies, such as the UK's security over-seas strategy which includes a WPS perspective. State-focused approaches should be replaced **by a human-security perspective**, including on issues such as demobilisation and reintegration, small-arms and light weapons, and in the fight against sexual violence. Monitoring and evaluation suffers from a lack of effective accountability frameworks and should be learning processes, not only enumerating successes, but also identifying challenges. Ireland and Estonia have made their evaluations public. The increased involvement of Parliaments was seen as an encouraging and useful practice.

An independent **Gender Consultant** from Belfast introduced reflections on WPS based on two key experiences: 15 years of working with victims of domestic violence in the background of the conflict in Northern Ireland, and working on the mid-term review of the Irish NAP. She described efforts of women in Northern Ireland to get organised and advance the peace process, which led to the Good Friday Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland was described as an "armed patriarchy" during the conflict and a highly militarised society without any gender sensitive legislation and a security sector very much dominated by the conflict. It was seen as a challenging culture for women's organisations, which, however, grew remarkably strong despite this environment. A much politicised women's civil society developed and built up an expert, legitimate voice, often in an informal way. This helped to embed the resolution of the conflict. When men started coming back out of prison looking for reaffirmation, trying to find new leadership roles, women were being undermined and obscured, again in a hostile political culture. The speaker described Ireland's NAP as a **model of good practice in terms of involvement of civil society**, including cross-cutting learning trips to Northern Ireland, Timor Leste and Liberia, all-Ireland-wide consultations before drafting the NAP, and civil society organisations (CSOs) being recognised as

crucial implementing partners. The mid-term review therefore acknowledged that the NAP was well-informed and grounded in the realities of women's lives. What was needed was a greater understanding of the distinctive roles of Member States and CSOs, strengthening the voice of grassroots (thereby empowering them, so the process could already be an end in itself). Providing a strengthened advocacy role of women's organisations and an opportunity for them to share their expertise was underlined as an important recognition, which is often critical to counter a strong sense of isolation. **The big focus on women as victims, rather than collaborators and instigators of change, remains a challenge. Greater clarity in defining the respective roles of CSOs and States was another challenge.** There is an enormous reservoir of skills that need tapping into through collaborative action by government departments, security and defence forces and civil society.

In the subsequent discussion, speakers stressed that some EU MS are currently in the process of developing National Action Plans. Possible ways in which the EU could encourage and support the development of NAPs and tapping into the great expertise available within EU MS, and realizing the great potential for mutual learning, were underlined. Some called for the EU Member States Task Force on 1325 (http://eeas.europa.eu/special-features/working-with-women/article21_en.htm) to put greater pressure on those EU MS that are still neither engaged in the Task Force nor in developing their own NAPs. It was underlined, however, that having a NAP was not the only way of having policies and legislation on these issues. The example of Germany was cited, which had extensive national policies in place to advance the 1325 agenda before developing its first NAP two years ago. In addition, it can be difficult in government structures to assert 1325 as relevant for the domestic policy agenda, instead of understanding it mainly as relating to conflict-affected states. Civil society also needs to convince governments that it is worth consulting them to provide genuine expertise and ideas, and to make it a meaningful experience instead of just "ticking a box". Governments need to be convinced that "if you involve the right civil society organisations you will get a much better National Action Plan". Some participants called for human and financial resources being specifically allocated to implementing NAPs. The meeting of gender focal points from Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions of 30 June was recalled to underline the EU's engagement for 1325, also at this concrete implementation level.

EU Member States on the implementation, successes and remaining challenges of National Action Plan on 1325.

During this session four EU Member States (Finland, Austria, Germany and Belgium) presented experiences with their National Action Plans (NAP) on implementation of the UNSC resolution 1325, and a NATO representative informed about the new Action Plan for the implementation of the NATO/ Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) Policy on Women, Peace and Security of 25 June 2014.

Finland adopted its 2nd NAP in 2012 for the period of 2012-16. The NAP covers a broader scope, including human rights, development cooperation, twinning projects and the role of the civil society. Among its objectives are to **increase of the number and share of women in crisis management and strengthen the implementation of 1325 objectives both nationally and in international organisations and operations engaged in crisis management tasks, to support women's economic and political participation and empowerment in conflict prevention and women's participation in peace**

negotiations, mediation, peacebuilding and humanitarian aid. This support is materialized i.a. through Finland's role as a co-chair in the negotiation of the UNGA resolution on mediation and support of NGOs working on mediation. Finland financially supported the organization of the UN High Level seminar on gender and inclusive mediation processes in Helsinki in May 2014. Civil society organizations pushed for the development of the NAP and they participate in the Follow-up Group on its implementation. Currently, 40 % of Finnish experts in civilian missions are women, but only 5 % in military missions are women. Finland provides seconded gender experts to crisis management missions, also to NATO operations, even if Finland is not a member of NATO. Finland supports initiatives on ending sexual violence in conflict, such as the London conference in June 2014, and welcomes the discussion on this issue in the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC). Finland is a big supporter of UN Women, also through financial contributions. In the framework of twinning partnerships, Finland collaborates with Kenya, Afghanistan and Nepal, helping them to develop and implement their NAPs. Based on the reporting of the responsible parties and the work of the Follow-up Group, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs drafts a yearly report to Parliament (the Foreign Affairs Committee) on the implementation of the NAP. The report is also submitted to the EU and UN. More comprehensive evaluations will be prepared when the Action Plan's programme period is halfway and at the end of the period. It is challenging to use the indicators included at the end of the NAP properly. As no specific funds are earmarked to the planned actions, funding for the long-term development cooperation is used, but more flexible tools are needed.

Regarding work in the Political and Security Committee, the EU common indicators on UNSCR 1325 should be taken into account in preparing and conducting EU Common Security and Defence Policy missions. Gender advisors should have direct access to the hierarchy of a CSDP mission. Mainstreaming of UNSCR 1325 into CSPD missions requires adequate resources. The number of women in leadership positions in CSDP mission and also in the EEAS, PSC and COREPER has to increase. In this context, EEAS informed about the EEAS women's network established with the aim to promote and mentor women working in the EEAS.

The **Austrian** NAP was first adopted in 2007 and was revised in a second version in January of 2012. An inter-ministerial working group is charged with monitoring the implementation and continuous further development of the NAP, and reports once a year on its implementation. Prior to preparing the annual report, the working group invites civil society representatives for an exchange of experiences and views on the implementation of the NAP. The annual reports are adopted by the Council of Ministers and sent to Parliament, Austrian embassies and coordination offices of the Austrian Development Agency. The next review of the NAP is envisaged in 2016. The most important objectives is **to increase the representation of women in international peace operations as well as enhanced consideration of the objectives defined in UNSCR 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.** The structure of the NAP, responsibilities for proposed activities and indicators has proved workable. The number of

women in peace missions has increased. The implementation of the NAP contributed to raising awareness and increased political activity. Austria promotes implementation of UNSCR 1325 at NATO with Finland as well as at OSCE, however an OSCE-wide Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 has not yet been adopted. Austria financially supports projects on UNSCR 1325, e.g. it has recently supported the elaboration of the Global study on implementation of UNSCR 1325 led by UN Women, and it prepares an international conference on Women, Peace, Security and Gender in Vienna in November 2014, which would provide substance to the UN global study on UNSCR 1325 e.g. on early warning, gender sensitive conflict analysis or role of new media. As there is no extra budget allocated for implementation of the NAP, it was challenging to find resources for organising the conference on UNSCR 1325 in Vienna. A challenge also poses how to refine indicators in the NAP in order to measure not only quantity, but also quality e.g. of training. The twinning countries Mozambique and Albania were not very interested in implementation of UNSCR 1325, rather to develop an action plan on preventing violence against women. Therefore, Austria would like to cooperate with other countries where civil society is pushing for establishment of a NAP. It is difficult to generate sufficient awareness and commitment at political level to implement UNSCR 1325.

Germany adopted its first NAP for the period 2013 -2016 in December 2012, however, already the 3rd report on implementation of UNSCR 1325 was presented to the German Parliament, the EU and UN at that time. A NAP is not the only way to implement 1325. Many measures, e.g. pre-deployment training on UNSCR 1325, had already been carried out before the development of the NAP. The NAP deals with prevention, participation, protection, preparation of operations, reintegration/reconstruction, and criminal prosecution and thus covers foreign and security policy and development cooperation. The fourth report on implementation of the NAP will be submitted to Parliament, EU and UN soon. Germany has funded projects on UNSCR 1325 for € 240million. **Six competent ministries have to fund projects from their respective budgets, because no specific resources are allocated for the NAP implementation.** Civil society was recently consulted on the draft report on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In the framework of these consultations, a visit of the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) UN Training Centre with the civil society organisations was organized. The inter-ministerial working group on UNSCR 1325 is still discussing a possible evaluation mechanism on implementation of indicators. It is difficult to measure long-term impact of projects. The next review will be done in 2016. The Federal Foreign Office coordinates the work of other ministries on UNSCR 1325. It follows various initiatives related to UNSCR 1325 at international organizations (EU, NATO, OSCE, UN HRC, UNGA 1st (Disarmament) Committee, etc.).

In **Belgium**, the revised NAP 2013-2016 was approved by the Belgian Council of Ministers in July 2013 after evaluation of the previous NAP (2009-2012) and consultations with civil society. The NAP has 6 priorities: **international normative framework, gender mainstreaming into other policies, protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual violence, participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes, support to implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the NAP, and follow-up, reporting and monitoring.** It contains 37 goals with lines of action and responsible bodies, which contributes to enhancing transparency and accountability. It is more action oriented than the previous NAP and it was inspired by the EU and UN indicators for UNSCR 1325 implementation. Belgium helps to

implement the UNSCR 1325 in Afghanistan, DRC and Mali. The NAP envisages annual reporting on its implementation to the Parliament as of the beginning of 2015. An assessment of the first NAP was attached to the revised NAP submitted for adoption by the Council of Ministers, which constitutes a good base line for showing progress made on UNSCR 1325 to civil society and the Parliament. Monitoring of indicators, financial issues (also not a specific budget for the NAP) and better coordination and outreach were mentioned among the challenges.

NATO adopted its new Action Plan for implementation of the NATO/EAPC policy on Women, Peace and Security 2014-2016, in June 2014. Contrary to the 2010 Action Plan, which focused only on NATO missions, the new Action Plan covers all NATO military and political actions. The NATO Secretary General was requested to provide a public annual report on the implementation of the Policy on Women, Peace and Security and to carry out a biennial independent assessment on the implementation of the Action Plan. **The Action Plan envisages e.g. to deploy trained and full-time Gender Advisors to operations and missions at strategic, operational and tactical level and to put in place a structure of Gender Focal Points to support the efforts of the Gender Advisors. For the first time, civil society also had the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Action Plan.** Consultations with civil society organizations were held in Brussels in June 2014. These consultations will be repeated next year or in 2 years. The mandate of the current NATO Secretary-General's Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security will terminate in September 2014 (seconded by Norway for 2 years). A permanent position for a new Special Representative with a small unit will be created within the NATO Secretariat. The selection procedure has started. The next NATO summit on 4 – 5 September 2014 in Newport (UK), will also discuss the implementation of the Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

Concluding remarks from Joelle Jenny, Director for Security Policy and Conflict Prevention, European External Action Service

The concluding remarks stressed that gender issues are essential in the post-2015 agenda alongside the rule of law, good governance, peaceful societies, responsibilities for all, a new global partnership and other issues. The post-2015 agenda should be a universal framework, applicable to all countries and with responsibilities for all countries for its implementation. On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the EU should show political leadership on this agenda. The EU indicators for implementation of UNSCR 1325 should also reflect quality, not just quantity. They should be genuine, meaningful and transformative. The EU will continue its fruitful cooperation with UN Women on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding of 2012, especially in the Global Review process. **The Women, Peace and Security agenda will continue to feature in high level political dialogues of the EU with 3rd countries and regional organizations.** Increasing participation of women in peace processes (currently only 4 % of peace negotiators are women) remains a challenge. There are many gender aspects of the EU CSDP missions. The EU Task Force on UNSCR 1325 will follow up on the PSC tasking of 1 July 2014 (together with COHOM, CIVCOM and PMG Council working groups) to further develop EU actions within the area of preventing sexual violence in conflict and report back to the PSC.

The meeting was organised by the European External Action Service, Global and Multilateral Issues Managing Directorate. It was held under Chatham House rules.

Participants asked for a contact list of participants. Nobody objected to the dissemination of the list when participants were asked in the afternoon session.

The organisers underlined that jointly with the minutes the following documents would be disseminated:

- list of participants;

- Ireland Mid-term Report on the National Action Plan:

<https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/ourrolesandpolicies/int-priorities/Progress-Report-UNSCR-1325.pdf>

- 2014 Folke Bernadotte Academy evaluation of EU CSDP missions.

- address to EEAS website on women, peace and security:

http://eeas.europa.eu/special-features/features_working_women_en.htm