

Conference on the Implementation and Support of the National Action Plan
(UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security on 20 September 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations of the panel of speakers (opening remarks) and the following discussion.

- The implementation of NAP 1325 requires a strong political will from the Government.
- There must be a clear budget allocated by the Ministry of Finance. Support and funding from the International Community is required.
- NAP-1325 should have a strong M&E mechanisms during its implementation.
- Women's presence and participation at the High Peace Council and at the peace negotiation tables are important.
- The emphasis should be put on the local needs, where security forces - commanders and chiefs of police should acknowledge that women are part of the peace talks.
- Women should be involved both at the local and capital levels, and in particular promoted in provincial decision-making.
- Actions needs to be taken to improve access to justice, reduce violence, and strengthen participation for women in Afghanistan.
- There is a strong need for better understanding of the potential of women in conflict resolution at the local level. Successfully addressing conflicts locally, "upstream", is far more efficient than "downstream" when security forces need to be called in, and where billions are spent and resources are overstretched.
- The NAP 1325 needs solid action plans, developed by GIRoA, and a costing of the actions, which could then be supported by the international community.
- The implementation mechanism needs a detailed plan to ensure successful implementation of NAP, and also a clear division of responsibilities among ministries and agencies in order to avoid confusion.
- Allowing women to work, giving women advice and access to financial services and protecting them from violence would result in improved livelihoods and economic activity. Education is a key for women's economic empowerment.
- Sexual and domestic violence needs to be tackled and stopped immediately. Counselling and assistance to the victims, bringing the perpetrators to justice, improving participation of female professionals in the security and justice sector and raising awareness are important objectives.
- Elimination of violence requires involvement of men and boys. Men and boys are also victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence.
- The Government and civil society need to work together and their roles support and complement each other. Involvement of provincial and local levels in the implementation of the NAP is crucial.

Pillar 1 – Participation

1. Recommendations:

- Activity under Strategic objective 1. A. is already being implemented by MoWA, but needs strengthening.
- Anti-harassment policy developed by MoWA and endorsed by the Cabinet enforceable at all government parties, reinforces provisions of the NAP.
- Dispute Resolution Rooms for girls at the universities and higher education institutions established by MoHE.
- Initiatives related to NAP and other such initiatives need to be adequately reflected at the local level, and local needs to be better involved and consulted.
- Having men and women segregated into separate training centres was not supported (some training, if necessary, can be separate for men and women).
- The new electoral law includes an achievement of promoting representation quota of women from 20% to 25% at the provincial and district councils.
- General recommendation: The baseline figures are needed for all actions in order to understand the current situation and to carry out monitoring of the progress later.

2. Pilot projects:

Action 1.A. Assessment and review of laws and policies for strengthening women's participation: Is currently being done, but needs to be accelerated and completed.

- Awareness raising at the Government level on the regulation on anti-harassment and finally its implementation.

Pillar 2 – Protection

1. Recommendations

- Under the protection section, the best means to protect women is with the EVAW law and we shall stick to the law.
- The penal code shall be reviewed. Particularly the section that foresees the punishment for the 'run-away' cases and when the judge considers sentence, the first four months of being away should count as part of the punishment.
- Family law shall be re-justified after addressing and filling the existing gaps within the mentioned law.
- There is also a need for the 'EVAW law' to be reviewed. The clause that gives the perpetrators a chance to be freed from the detention centre by providing a bill, shall be reviewed.
- Create awareness among both men and women on legal issues and women access to justice.
- The EVAW and family law and social justice topics shall be incorporated into the education curriculum of the schools from grade 6th onwards.
- A group of selected women shall be trained about the Sharia Law in all provinces of Afghanistan. So that the same women group can be included equally in all decision making periods in all provinces of the country.
- Meanwhile, there is also necessity to form psychosocial support networks and carry out other legal and psychological projects on the village levels.
- Creation of the "Women Monitoring Committee) that could enable all the women on the provincial level to monitor the legal and social conditions of women and monitor

the Sharia related decisions on women. The members of this committee shall be comprised of Ulemas, Independent Human Right Commission and other women rights advocacy networks.

2. Pilot projects:

- A project on protecting the victims and witness that could be implacable in all provinces equally.
- A project on Psycho-Social protection. First a network of people shall go through a series of legal and Psycho (mental) trainings, so that the same network of people would help the victims or others who need assistance on legal and psychological matters.
- Project on General Counselling on village level.

Pillar 3 - Prevention

1. Recommendations:

- Eliminate the culture of impunity for perpetrators of violence against women
- Prevention of discrimination in the justice sector, ensure, through monitoring, that judges do not discriminate in cases of sexual-based violence
- Reward/punishment systems to be in place, to combat gender based violence and discrimination
- Increase awareness among security forces and include human rights and gender specific training in the curricula of ANSF, develop a gender manual
- Increase female staff in security sector
- Elimination of sexual violence as a means of revenge during conflict
- Awareness raising among men and religious leaders
- Triangular cooperation is needed between the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, and Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, where they have to include gender specific subjects into their curriculum.

2. Pilot projects:

- Establishing professional legal monitoring system to follow the cases of violence against women.
- Human rights training (gender specific) for Afghan National security Forces
- Triangular cooperation between Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs. In order to make the bases for gender mainstreaming and gender equality in Afghanistan, These three ministries should work together and include the gender specific subjects in their curriculum, especially for boys.

Pillar 4 – Relief and Recovery

1. Recommendations:

- Increasing women's work/employment opportunities in both rural and urban areas through the establishment of favourable work environments for women.
- Establishment and reviving of old government owned production factories employing only women (especially from conflict affected communities).
- Trainings for women in professional and systematic business.

- Vocational trainings that focuses on long term successes of women businesses.
- Establishment of women cooperatives and women business groups to work in groups and produce in large quantities with quality standards for the market.
- Subsidies for women led business to encourage more women to open businesses. Tax reduction for women led business for some years.

2. Pilot projects:

- Gender mainstreaming and incorporating a gender perspective that specifically responds to the needs of women in programs.
- Conduct a mapping of all existing government programmes with an analysis of the extent to which they include a gender perspective and specifically identify the needs of women.