Informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325
Brussels
28 April 2014
15.00 - 17.00

Chair:
Pauline TOREHALL (EEAS)

Attendees:
Pamela JUAREZ MORGAN (MFA SW)
Niina NYKÄNEN (NATO)
Ruth SURKAU (MFA DE)
Ciara GILVARRY (MFA IE)
Jesus Ignacio GIL RUIZ (NATO)
Giulia PASQUINELLI (EPLO)
Antonia POTTER PRENTICE (EPLO)
Sigrún RAWET (MFA SW)
Kaarel NESTOR (Permanent Representation of Estonia)
Vanja POPVIC (MFA HR)
Clémence CHARRAS (MFA FR)
Nina LANSCHOT (MFA NL)
Andrea NESNIDALOVA (EEAS)
Garrett OBRIEN (EEAS)
Ann HANNAH (MFA UK)
Dagmar SCHUMACHER (UN Women)
Florian NEWRZELLA (EEAS)
Stephanie KARNER (MFA AT)
Irene FELLIN (NATO)
Helena BOGUSLASWSKA (EEAS)
Anna Stina NILSSON (MFA SW)
**Agenda:**

1. Debriefing from Commission on the Status of Women 58, with special focus related to Women, Peace and Security

2. Discussion on the next EU Member States Annual Meeting on UNSCR 1325 (June) and the Gender and Human Rights Advisors in CSDP missions and Operations Annual Meeting

3. Exchange on activities related to Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

4. Revision of the Indicators and the preparations for the next reporting period on the implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach on UNSCR 1325


6. Tour de table on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

7. AOB

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**1. Debriefing from Commission on the Status of Women 58, with special focus related to Women, Peace and Security**

Chair of the Meeting, Pauline TOREHALL (EEAS) gave a debriefing on the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women 58 (CSW58), 10-21 March, UN, NY.

This session saw an impressive number of interventions (195) at the General Debate of which 11 groups and 148 States. 18 EU Ministers intervened. The session welcomed more than 6000 representatives from 860 Civil Society Organisations (CSO).

The negotiations for CSW58 Agreed Conclusions were on the priority theme **Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.**

EU Coordination proceeded smoothly throughout, with a successful "negotiating team" approach and a joint position on all matters, including SRHR, throughout the negotiations. The timely participation of EUSR for Human Rights Stavros Lambrinidis underlined EU priority for a session where nearly 100 states participated at ministerial level and helped build political momentum, including in relation to the negotiations. The European Union (EU) organized two side events and briefings to CSOs.

As part of the Agreed Conclusions document, negotiated between 190 member states, the UN CSW called for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the post-2015 framework.

Four resolutions were adopted at the end of the session: Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts; Gender equality and empowerment of women in natural disasters and Women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS.
The issue of women peace and security is mentioned in several paragraphs in the CSW58 Agreed Conclusions, inter alia, saying that "The Commission stresses that peace and security are inextricably linked to gender equality and to development and that war and conflicts are a major obstacle to the achievement of the MDGs, particularly for women and girls".

The CSW59 will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995. The review (Beijing+20) will also include the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the Platform for Action. The session will also address current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action, as well as opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda. The review will be conducted at national, regional and global levels.

Dagmar Schumacher, Director of the UN Women Brussels Office, thanked the EU and the EU MS for their commitment and strong support at the CSW58. The session was broadly received in the media of at least 55 countries and mentioned in more than 340 articles worldwide. The CSW58 as well as the Beijing+20 and the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (ICPD) review are important stepping stones towards a post-2015 agenda.

Estonia organised a side-event “ICT and Internet as Powerful Means in Advancing the Rights and Empowerment of Women and Girls” during the CSW 58 meeting.

The Estonian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Urmas Paet, delivered the general debate intervention. During the next CSW session, Estonia is the new CSW vice-president from the Eastern Europe Group, (Mrs. Pille Kesler at the Permanent Mission to the UN). Estonia invites the working group to use this channel to deliver its priorities to the CSW forum.

2. Discussion on the next EU Member States Annual Meeting on UNSCR 1325 and the Gender and Human Rights Advisors in CSDP missions and Operations Annual Meeting

EEAS:

The EEAS gave a briefing on the upcoming EU MS Annual Meeting on UNSCR 1325 (initially proposed for 12 June 2014 - now Friday 4 July, 2014 (tbc)). It will be a platform on working level to exchange best practices and experiences on the implementation process with participation. Main topics proposed include:


- Results of the Global Technical Review Meeting (Building accountability for national and regional implementation of Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security) in November 2013, which reviewed the current state-of-play on the development of National Action Plans.

- Report of the UNSG on the status of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions (to which EU MS will contribute) and aspects of Beijing+20 like violence against women and women and armed conflict.

To that date, 43 National Action Plans have been adopted globally, 17 of them in the EU. The review meeting focused on the development process of Action Plans and their financial footing.

Please note: we will be looking for EU MS contributions to & involvement in the Annual meeting.
**Estonia:**
Estonia would like to see the UNSCR 1325 meeting in correlation with broader UN discussions in this field and, therefore, also to address the discussions related to sustainable development goals with emphasis on specific goals, targets and indicators. Reconsideration of the proposed date for the EU MS Annual Meeting on UNSCR 1325 was suggested, since the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London will take place on that date (10-13 June 2014). Also, in Estonian proposes that the discussion on CSDP should take in account the developments in the countries where EU has its missions. Estonia would like to concentrate more on Africa.

**Sweden:**
SW proposed to focus the Annual Meeting on gender issues and freedom from violence in the post-2015 agenda.

**Germany:**
DE would like to see an emphasis on women participation in decision making processes. For DE strengthening women's participation creates positive external effects for many other issues and should thus be the foundation for all efforts.

**EEAS Crisis Management and Planning Directorate (CMPD) Annual meeting:**
CMPD will hold the Annual Operations Meeting for EU Human Rights and Gender Advisors on CSDP missions on 19 and 20 June 2014. The draft agenda will include:
- Updates on recent developments in HQ
- Exchange of experiences
- Assessment of lessons learned (informal report to assess lessons learned in the field)

The Agenda is work in progress and subject to change. The overarching thematic focus will be on protection of women and children in conflict.

### 3. Exchange on activities related to Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

**EEAS:**
On 25 April a statement on behalf of the European Union was given at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict.

**United Kingdom:**
UK is currently planning the upcoming Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in London (10–13 June 2014). The Summit will focus on the following actions:
- Launch the new International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Sexual Violence in Conflict as a practical tool to help improve accountability.
- Provide new support to local and grassroots organisations and human rights defenders.
- Improve support for survivors/victims (humanitarian support).
- Revise military doctrine and training and improve peacekeeping training and operations.

Broad input and participation from EU, EU MS, multilateral Organisations and CSO will be crucial for solutions on these cross sectional issues.

**NATO:**
NATO is currently planning the 2014 NATO Summit in September with a view to strengthen the commitment to prevent sexual violence in conflict, to mainstream gender issues into all NATO actions and to create guidelines to raise awareness for the issue.
Estonia affirmed its presence on the Foreign Minister level while also involving NGOs as there will be a separate day addressed to the youth.

4. Revision of the Indicators and the preparations for the next reporting period on the implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach on UNSCR 1325

On 30 January 2014, the Political and Security Committee endorsed the Second Report on the EU-indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 on Women, Peace and Security. 17 indicators were used to assess the state-of-play of implementation by the EU as well as by EU MS in their relations with third countries. In this context, EPLO organized an expert level workshop on Monitoring the Implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach to UNSCR 1325 in the Civil Society Dialogue Network Meeting framework. The main goal was to gather input for the next Report on the Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820. Input was also provided by the CSO "Operation 1325".

For the next reporting period, encompassing the period between 2013 and 2015, a number of the indicators need to be revised and this work is now in progress. EPLO is committed to continuously support this process, as needed. A first revised version will be circulated to EU MS in the relevant working group and circulated to the Informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325.

5. The new website for the Informal Task Force –


The new website for the Informal Task Force was launched in February 2014. It will be a collective data repository for reports, minutes, third party reports and resolutions of relevance to the work of the Task Force. Since the website is not interactive, documents for the repository will need to be sent to the EEAS. The EEAS will also look into providing a central calendar for upcoming events/meetings on the website.

Please send documents to be uploaded to: pauline.torehall@eeas.europa.eu and jivka.petkova@eeas.europa.eu

6. Tour de table on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

NATO:
In 2012 NATO established the position of the Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security based upon a two year mandate, ending in September 2014. The mandate does not provide for a permanent position within NATO and was, until now, sponsored by Norway. The short-term goal is to get a decision on an institutionalized, permanent Special Representative position at the 2014 NATO Summit in September. In 2010, NATO endorsed the NATO Action Plan on Mainstreaming UNSCR 1325 into NATO-led Operations and Missions. NATO is currently developing a new Action Plan to mainstream gender-issues into all NATO activities and actions. This process is time consuming and affords training and education on all levels. NATO aims for an adoption of the new Action Plan at the upcoming NATO Summit.

NATO will hold the NATO Committee on Gender perspectives in 13-15 May at NATO HQ (gilruiz.jesus@hq.nato.int for information)

Estonia:
EE is in the last phase of implementation of the National Action Plan (2010-2014) and assessing a report of the state-of-play. This report will be available in English by the end of June 2014. The new Action Plan for the period of 2015-2018 is in preparation and there will be some structural changes towards to emphasizing the input-output relationship and focusing more on change/development oriented action and a focus on measurement and indicators.

Croatia:
HR National Action Plan is in the last year of implementation. Croatia highlighted their UNSCR 1325 efforts in the security sector, both national and international.

Austria:
AT held a workshop on the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 with a focus on the role of women in conflict management and peace talks. The report will be posted on the Informal Task Force website.

Germany:
DE is about to present its fourth implementation report on their National Action Plan (2013-2016) to the German Parliament. The German inter-ministerial working group on the implementation of Resolution 1325 invites representatives of CSO to annual meetings to share information regarding the status of the Action Plan's implementation and further development. The first meeting of this year has taken place in April. In June 2014 the working group, together with CSO representatives, will visit the UN Training Centre of the German Armed Forces. The visit will provide an opportunity to see how military and police staff is being trained within the WPS-Agenda for peace missions.

On the 2 April 2014, Germany, together with 17 EU member states, signed the Arms Trade Treaty. Germany has established a nationwide, free of charge e hotline “violence against women” (https://www.hilfetelefon.de – 0800 0116016).

The first annual report on the work of the hotline was published in March 2014. Germany called upon the Commission to accelerate the Europe-wide clearance for 0800 0116016 as toll free hotline in accordance with the relevant Decision by the Commission (2007/116/EG, dated 17 February 2007). Furthermore, a new brochure on “Increasing Women’s Participation in Peace Negotiations” was recently published and will be made available through the Task Force website.

Finland:
FI is currently preparing a midterm review of their second National Action Plan for the end of 2014, to identify achievements as well as legislative gaps.

FI is sponsoring, together with Norway, a training project for UN high level mediators on gender and inclusive mediation (2013-2016).

Netherlands:
NL National Action Plan is currently in midterm review. A broad network of ministries, CSO and research institutes was established to participate and to contribute to the Action Plan. The focus is put on facilitating women leadership and political participation in conflict and post-conflict.

Sweden:
The Folke Bernadotte Academy has produced a report on the state-of-play of gender implementation in CSDP missions. According to the report, little was achieved as regards gender mainstreaming in missions. 1325 is not implemented systematically, especially in higher ranks. There is also a need for guidelines for personnel in missions. In this context, SE is exploring the possibilities to conduct a workshop together with UK with the following goals/proposals:

- Identify concrete strategic actions for CSDP missions through mission specific reports, goals and targets.
• Assess annual reports on the overall implementation of UNSCR 1325 in missions, and disaggregated data in all monthly reports from EU missions and operations.
• Awareness raising in conflict areas and missions.
• Establish a gender focal point or specific unit for Gender issues in the CMPD Directorate.

SE is currently working on their fourth National Action Plan for 2015 onwards. Broad consultation with CSOs and evaluation of preceding Action Plans is essential in this process.

Ireland:
IR is in the last year of the implementation of its current National Action Plan, taking into consideration the findings of the Mid-Term Progress Report, published in July 2013. It is envisaged that a final evaluation of implementation will be published at the end of the year. Preparations are underway for the development of the Second National Plan which will run from 2015-2017 and which will take into account international developments in Women, Peace and Security, and recommendations included in the Mid-Term Progress Report.

UK:
UK is currently developing their second National Action Plan for the time period 2014-2017. High level objectives are in consolidation. A geographical focus will be on countries like Algeria, Burma and Syria, for example. UK sees their Action Plan as a living document that should be revised and reviewed constantly. The new National Action Plan will be presented at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2014.

France:
FR has implemented several programs of cooperation:

- The program "Fight against violence against women" in partnership with UN Women in Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Mali, Niger and Cameroon.
- The "Gender and Social Cohesion" program in partnership with UN Women on youth employment and young women in Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt.
- A Program of integration of gender issues in the reform process safety systems in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces covering Senegal, Mali, Côte d’Ivoire and Tunisia.

Specific cooperative actions are carried out, in particular with the following African countries:

Mali:
FR conducts a multi-year consolidation of public institutions and the rule of law including elements of sexual violence awareness and economic empowerment of women in Mali. In addition, FR is supporting local Women's Rights NGOs.

Central African Republic:
FR supports the actions of UNICEF on child protection in conflict and has allocated funds for the protection of women and children;

Democratic Republic of Congo:
FR provides funding to local NGOs for projects on the protection of women against sexual violence and the promotion of women's rights since 2012.

UN Women:
UN Women thanked FI for their funding of the training project for UN high level mediators. UN Women is planning a global study on the state-of-play of implementation of UNSCR 1325 to assess legislative gaps and challenges. Inputs from MS, academic groups and high level experts and advisors are crucial for a broad picture of current developments.

**EPLO:**
EPLO presented a case study collection on National Action Plans, conducted in 2013, "Joining the dots: from national level tools to implement UNSCR 1325". The study will be circulated via the Informal Task Force website.

Conclusions include inter alia:
- Limited ad hoc coordination by MS and EU in conflict affected countries.
- NAP of donor countries are mostly outward looking and don't cover national problems sufficiently (for example: UK NAP does not cover issues with IR).
- Limited consultations with beneficiaries of the NAP actions like women affected by conflict.
- Gaps between NAP provisions and domestic legislative regulations and insufficient links to other policies.
- As regards monitoring/evaluation there is not enough information on best practices by MS and too little information on the impact of NAPs in conflict affected areas.

EPLO will create a guide on how to develop National Action Plans. This could help facilitate experiences and lessons learned into best practices for States.