

# REPORT ON SECURITY COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

"Peace Support Operations: Consolidating Progress and Closing Gaps in the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325"

Rockefeller Foundation, New York, NY

1 July 2004

## I. INTRODUCTION

This report is the outcome of a working roundtable held on 1 July 2004 co-sponsored by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG)<sup>1</sup> and the Permanent Missions to the UN of Canada, Chile and the United Kingdom. The event, entitled "*Peace Support Operations: Consolidating Progress and Closing Gaps in the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325*," built on recommendations developed at the first roundtable held in January 2004. Participants included representatives from both current and incoming Security Council Member States, select non-Security Council Member States, UN agencies and civil society organizations (see Annex 1 for a list of participants' affiliations). Opening the session, H.E. Mr Lauro L. Baja, Jr., Permanent Representative of the Republic of Philippines to the United Nations, emphasized "the integration of gender concerns as a pillar, and not merely the 'icing on the cake' of all peacekeeping mandates" (see Annex 2 for full remarks).

## II. ROUNDTABLE SUMMARY

Using the framework of the '**3 Ps**'—the principles of conflict **prevention**, the **participation** of women in peace and security, and the **protection** of civilians with consideration to the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys—the roundtable aimed to develop a practical tool to facilitate Security Council members to systematically consider a gender perspective in the drafting of all resolutions, presidential statements and terms of reference for Security Council fact-finding Missions.

In the first part of the roundtable, participants divided into five breakout groups, each consisting of representatives from Security Council Member States, UN agencies and civil society organizations. Each group brainstormed issues to be included in this tool. In the second part of the roundtable, participants engaged in a discussion, facilitated by Katharine Burns, Senior Social Affairs Officer Women, Peace and Security for the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, of expectations, outcomes and strategies around the Secretary-General's upcoming report in October 2004 on the implementation of resolution 1325.

A subsequent presentation by breakout group facilitator Nicola Reindorp of Oxfam International, as well as a plenary discussion facilitated by Ian Martin of the International Center for Transitional Justice, pulled together the ideas generated in both portions of the roundtable.

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<sup>1</sup> The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security was formed in May 2000 to call for a Security Council resolution on women, peace and security. Following the unanimous adoption of resolution 1325 in October 2000, the group now focuses on working towards its full implementation. The working group currently consists of Femmes Africa Solidarité; Hague Appeal for Peace; International Alert; International Women's Tribune Centre; Women's Action for New Directions; Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children; Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church; Women's Environment and Development Organization; and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. *For more information, see [www.peacewomen.org/un/ngo/wg.html](http://www.peacewomen.org/un/ngo/wg.html).*

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## II. OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to addressing specific issues that should be considered when drafting of Security Council resolutions, each of the five breakout groups raised overarching issues. The following were oft-repeated general recommendations for advancing the implementation of resolution 1325:

- 1. Information related to women and gender** must be central to Security Council decision-making. The Security Council, in its mandates, resolutions and terms of reference for fact-finding Missions, should seek from the Secretariat, civil society and others specific information on the gender dimensions of conflicts, including by asking for sex-disaggregated data.
- 2. Increasing women's participation** in context-specific ways should be a pillar of all peace support operations. Security Council resolutions should go beyond general references to 1325 and include specific ways in which women's participation and a gender perspective are important to the particular conflict being addressed.
- 3. Consultation with civil society** should take place at each stage of a peace support operation, including planning. In particular, the Security Council and the UN operations it mandates should support and seek the active participation of local women's groups in conflict areas throughout all phases of peacebuilding. This will help to identify and understand local contexts, build sustainable structures and not reinvent information-gathering processes.

## III. A TOOL FOR DRAFTING SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The following is a tool to aid those drafting Security Council resolutions, presidential statements and terms of reference for Security Council fact-finding Missions to consider issues related to women's participation and a gender perspective. This list of questions is based on a compilation of issues raised in each of the five breakout groups.

### ***List of Questions on Women's Participation and a Gender Perspective to be asked when Drafting Security Council Resolutions***

*Note: 'Resolution' here is taken to mean 'resolution, presidential statement or terms of reference for Security Council fact-finding Missions.'*

#### **1. References to resolution 1325:**

Is UNSC resolution 1325 referred to in the preambular section and followed by an operational reference?

#### **2. UN Personnel in Peacekeeping Operations:**

- Does the resolution call for the incorporation of a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations through the establishment of a gender component within the staff of a mission?
- Does the resolution call for an expanded role for women in UN field operations among military, police and civilian personnel?

#### **3. Conflict Prevention:**

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In recognizing the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, does the resolution support the creation and strengthening of non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, active in conflict prevention work?

**4. Promotion and Protection of Human Rights:**

- A. Does the resolution establish mechanisms to investigate, monitor and report on violations of women's human rights, which may include gender-based violence and sexual abuse?
- B. Does the resolution call for mechanisms to bring to justice to those responsible for such violations?

**5. Civil Society:**

- A. Does the resolution recognize the important role of civil society in post-conflict peace-building?
- B. Does the resolution encourage regular consultation with civil society organizations, in particular local women's peace initiatives, in the planning and implementation of its field operations?

**6. Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement:**

- A. Does the resolution ensure that the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement (DDRRR) programme upholds the human rights of women and girls—as ex-combatants as well as associates of ex-combatants—through consideration of their specific needs and circumstances?
- B. Does the resolution ensure that women and girls are consulted in the design and planning of DDRRR programmes that affect them?

**7. Peace Negotiations and Peace Agreements:**

- A. Does the resolution call for the equal and active participation of women in peace negotiations as well as in the drafting and implementation of peace agreements?
- B. Does the resolution call on all actors to integrate a gender perspective when negotiating a peace agreement?

**8. Constitution-Creation, Justice and Security Sector Reform:**

- A. Does the resolution ensure the full and equal participation of women in the process of creating a constitution and developing a new judiciary?
- B. Does the resolution ensure that women's protection and participation is central to the design and reform of security sector institutions and policies, especially in police, military and rule of law components?

**9. Governance and Electoral Processes:**

- A. Does the resolution call for the formation of a government which is fully representative of men and women, allows for the full and equal participation of women in its operations, and respects the human rights of women and girls?

- B. Does the resolution call for measures to ensure that women may participate without discrimination in all elections and that women are represented equally at all levels with men in all electoral processes?

**10. Reporting:**

Does the resolution request that the Secretary-General ensure that his report on the conflict situation integrate a gender perspective?

**11. Sexual Exploitation/Codes of Conduct:**

Does the resolution, in condemning acts of sexual abuse of women and girls by UN personnel, call for peacekeeping personnel of contributing countries to adhere to pertinent codes of conduct and disciplinary and accountability mechanisms in order to prevent such exploitation?

**12. Training of UN Field Personnel:**

Does the resolution call for gender training to peacekeeping civilian personnel, including police, and other members of peace and field operations on the rights and protection of women and girls, including on issues related to HIV/AIDS?

**13. Obligations Under/Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law:**

Does the resolution call for specific measures to strengthen local rule of law and human rights institutions, drawing on existing civilian police, human rights, gender and judicial expertise?

**14. Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons:**

- A. Does the resolution address the particular protection and assistance needs of refugee and internally displaced women and girls?
- B. Does the resolution call for the participation of refugee and displaced women in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all programmes providing assistance to refugee and other displaced women, including the management of refugee camps and resources?

**15. Humanitarian Assistance/Protection of Civilians:**

Does the resolution call for the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance, and access to humanitarian workers by the civilian population, with a focus on the particular protection needs of women and girls?

**IV. NEXT STEPS**

The roundtable co-sponsors, in collaboration with participants, will host outreach sessions in the fall of 2004 with Security Council Member State Missions to introduce this tool with a view to advance the incorporation of the '**3 Ps**'—the principles of conflict **prevention**, the **participation** of women in peace and security, and the **protection** of civilians with consideration to the specific needs of women, men, girls and boys—into all work of the Council.

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*The roundtable co-sponsors would like to thank Ian Martin of the International Center for Transitional Justice and the Rockefeller Foundation for their support.*

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## **Participants**

In attendance were representatives from:

Boston Consortium for Gender, Peace, Security and Human Rights  
Canada Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
Hague Appeal for Peace  
Human Rights Watch  
International Alert  
International Center for Transitional Justice  
International Women's Tribune Centre  
Oxfam International  
Permanent Mission of Argentina to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN  
Permanent Mission of France to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Philippines to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Romania to the UN  
Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN  
Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN  
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the UN  
Permanent Mission of United States to the UN  
Refugees International  
Rockefeller Foundation  
United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs  
United Nations Department for Political Affairs  
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women  
United Nations Children's Fund  
United Nations Development Fund for Women  
United Nations Development Programme  
United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women  
Women's Action for New Directions  
Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom  
Women Waging Peace

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**ANNEX 2****Remarks****Remarks by H.E. Ambassador Lauro L. Baja, Jr., Permanent Mission of the Republic of Philippines to the UN**

Let me begin by welcoming you to this roundtable. As many of you feel, sometimes it is good to be in a different scenery once in a while when we discuss important issues. Somehow, the change of environment not only stimulates us to think out of the box, but it also invigorates a new dynamism among colleagues and friends. I would like to particularly welcome the "Chatham House" format of this roundtable—I am sure that this will encourage more creative and innovative ideas to advance our objectives.

The brainstorming last January generated very rich ideas for strengthening the work of the Security Council on the theme "Women, Peace and Security" by integrating the **'3 Ps'**—**prevention** of conflict, **participation** of women in peace and security, and **protection** of civilians—while keeping a special focus on women and girls in its peacekeeping mandates, resolutions, debates, procedures and other discussion fora such as the Arria Formula meetings. In addition, the idea of having a champion of women's concerns within the Council is something worth pursuing. I am sure that many of our suggestions today will help give shape to these ideas.

This day's discussions will constitute our next step in working with the Council in coming up with a practical guide for its consideration of women and peace issues. The birth of 1325 is a feat in itself; however, the real victory is in the "rearing of the baby." I should mention that this roundtable represents our effort in that regard.

There are many challenges to the full participation of women in peacemaking and peacebuilding, which necessarily includes the recognition of women's human rights. It will be important that our work contributes to implementing measures that will end such violations, especially gender-based violence which is a hindrance to the realization of women's rights. It is also important to review the judicial and legal framework and see how best we can deal with the issue of impunity and ensure compliance with international humanitarian law. Also, because UN Member States have a primary role to play in observing the gender dimensions of peace processes, we will need to bear in mind how our suggestions can strengthen their capacities to include gender perspectives in both formal and informal peace processes, including through the engagement of local women's peace initiatives.

Progress has been made in ensuring the gender perspective of many peace missions, but the results we will produce should make the integration of gender concerns as a pillar, and not merely the "icing on the cake" of all peacekeeping mandates.

We cannot lose sight of women's concerns in the reconstruction processes. Sustainable and durable peace can only be achieved when women's concerns and contributions are incorporated in every aspect of rebuilding the peace, including social and economic reconstruction.

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Resolution 1325 has been called a landmark resolution because it represents a huge step forward in recognizing the role of women as active contributors in peace and security issues. The resolution has paved the way for showing that women are not merely hopeless victims that need to be protected but that they are agents and participants for their own protection and for the general pursuit of peace. I'm confident that our discussions today on practical next steps will be anchored on the empowerment of women for peace.

Before I end, let me thank the Missions of Canada, Chile and the UK, as well as the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, for their excellent preparations and for their untiring commitment to making 1325 a reality. Let me also thank the Rockefeller Foundation for this wonderful venue that we have today.

Thank you.

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