



1325 WOMEN
COUNT
FOR
PEACE

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THE 2010 OPEN DAYS ON
WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY





Cover: Escorted by peacekeepers, Sudanese women IDPs collect firewood. UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran 2010

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WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE

THE 2010 OPEN DAYS ON
WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY



UNITED NATIONS

1 Foreword from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

This report provides an account of an extraordinary set of 25 meetings between women peace activists and senior United Nations leaders in conflict-affected countries in the summer of 2010. It details women's perspectives on resolving conflict and building peace more effectively, identifies issues of common concern across different contexts – as well as areas of divergence – and makes proposals for improving international, regional and national efforts to protect women and promote peace.

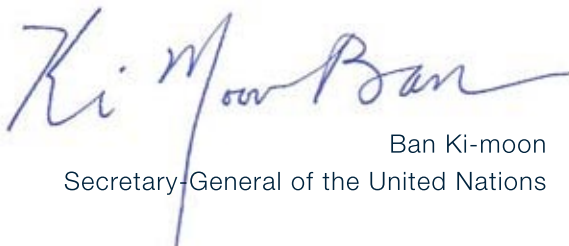
The 'Open Days on Women, Peace and Security' were intended to ensure that women's own voices and leadership guide the work of the United Nations in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. There could be no better way to prepare for the tenth anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.



Since the passage of resolution 1325 (2000), protection measures have been developed by uniformed United Nations peacekeepers to better protect women from violence. The United Nations is also developing tools to improve the implementation of 1325 through, for instance, a comprehensive set of indicators presented to the Security Council in April 2010. The architecture for women, peace and security has been further enhanced by the appointment of ten women as Special Representatives, four as Deputy Special Representatives, two as Special Envoys and the creation of the new United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

Nonetheless, as the Open Day meetings showed, serious challenges remain. Sexual violence is an all too common tactic of war and often continues unabated after the guns fall silent. Women also continue to face obstacles to engagement in peace negotiations. These challenges require our strongest commitment in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) in the coming years. Advancing the women, peace and security agenda will not only enhance the legitimacy of the United Nations on the ground; it is critical to maintaining international peace and security.

In short, women count for peace. This report, which records views, concerns and priorities, shows that women are standing up to be counted as an essential part of the peacebuilding equation. I commend it to the widest global audience.


Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations

2 Acknowledgements

The United Nations entities sponsoring this report express the deepest gratitude to the women who participated in the ‘Open Days on Women, Peace and Security’, in conflict-affected countries around the world. This project could not have been done without their openness, commitment, and willingness to bring their concerns on peace and security to the attention of United Nations leadership.

These meetings were a collaborative effort organized by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, now part of UN Women) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Special thanks are due to the UN offices and peacekeeping and political missions in the following countries and regions. Their leadership and hands-on support were integral to making each Open Day a success.

- **Afghanistan**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Burundi**
- **Côte d’Ivoire**
- **Croatia**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **Guinea-Bissau**
- **Haiti**
- **Iraq**
- **Kenya**
- **Kosovo**
- **Lebanon**
- **Liberia**
- **Morocco/Western Sahara**
- **Nepal**
- **occupied Palestinian territories**
- **Pakistan**
- **Senegal/West Africa**
- **Serbia**
- **Sierra Leone**
- **Somalia**
- **Sri Lanka**
- **Sudan**
- **Tajikistan/Central Asia**
- **Timor-Leste**

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3 Executive Summary

Women from civil society and senior UN leaders in conflict-affected countries participated in 25 dialogues on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in June, July and August 2010. These 'Open Days on Women, Peace and Security' signal the UN's commitment to engaging women in building peace and security in this tenth anniversary year of the landmark United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). These meetings enabled women to share priorities and concerns, and have provided a model for regular dialogue between women of civil society and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs), Executive Representatives of the Secretary-General (ERSGs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs), as a core peacebuilding practice.

PURPOSE

At the heart of landmark resolution 1325 (2000) are commitments to enable women's contributions to all stages of peacebuilding, peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The 2010 UN-

organized Open Days in conflict-affected areas were designed to enable direct dialogue between women's peacebuilding organizations and women community leaders, and senior UN representation at the country level. The purpose was to seek women's views on means of improving implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). These open and inclusive forums for women peacebuilders and activists also provided the opportunity to deepen local ownership of the resolution. Resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) all call for a stronger commitment by national and international actors to addressing the challenges faced by women in crises.

“ *These Open Days can be just a ceremony and nothing happens tomorrow... or they can become a stepping stone in a direction of bringing change.* ”
Staffan de Mistura, SRSG Afghanistan

This initiative was organized by the **UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations** (DPKO), the **UN Department of Political Affairs** (DPA), the **UN Development Fund for Women** (UNIFEM, now part of UN Women) and the **UN Development Programme** (UNDP). In Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, occupied Palestinian territories, Pakistan, Senegal/West Africa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan/Central Asia, and Timor-Leste (Sri Lanka and Western Sahara also held a different version of the Open Days) **more than 1,500**

women met with high-level UN officials, including SRSGs, ERSGs and RCs on issues of peace and security.

The Open Days provided an opportunity **to acknowledge the progress that has been achieved** over the last ten years. In many post-conflict countries, the number of women in government has increased significantly, quotas have been set and implemented, and women have used their public decision-making roles to advance women's rights. There is increased awareness of gender differences in the way conflict affects civilians, and this is reflected in post-conflict needs assessments and planning frameworks. Within the United Nations itself, the Secretary-General since 2007 has appointed 10 women SRSGs, four Deputy Special Representatives (DSRSGs), and two Special Envoys and the numbers of women deployed in peacekeeping missions has increased.

“ *The ‘Global Open Day for Women and Peace’ is meant to reinvigorate our efforts to realize the vision set out in resolution 1325. I count on all partners to support the United Nations in translating women’s priorities into real and meaningful action.* ”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Still, significant gaps remain. For instance, while there has been an increase in the extent to which peace agreements address gender issues, only 16 per cent of peace agreements contain specific provisions on women's rights and needs.¹ While gender analysis is found in post-conflict needs assessments, less than 8 per cent of proposed recovery budgets identify spending priorities addressing women's needs,² and just 5.7 per cent of actual budgetary outlays of multi-donor trust funds in post-conflict countries finance gender equality or women's empowerment projects.³ Employment generation programmes to revitalize post-conflict economies still tend to privilege employment for men, and there is inadequate investment in women's property rights and livelihood prospects. Sexual and gender-based violence is rampant and often continues unabated after peace deals are settled due to insufficient investment in protection and prevention strategies and destroyed or weak justice and security institutions.

“ *From equality de jure to equality de facto.* ”

Central Asia Open Day, Tajikistan

It is clear that much more remains to be done. Women expressed their expectation that the UN will take advantage of the critical opportunity provided by the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) to act as a partner and lead on women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings. At the launch of these Open Day events, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recalled the core message of the resolution, stating that *“sustainable peace is possible only with women’s full participation – their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace.”*

FINDINGS: Shared Concerns

Despite various contexts, languages, and cultures, three common messages emerged from the conversations of the Open Day participants.

Women's peace and security priorities are:

- › **Participation:** Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making
- › **Justice, Protection and Security:** A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict
- › **Economic Resources and Support:** Allocation of greater and more-sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Open Days provided an opportunity for women to highlight the most pressing needs in their respective countries and to reflect upon progress and challenges to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In some cases, this was the first time that women had the opportunity to articulate their vision for peace and security to the UN in their country. In all cases, the Open Days enabled a conversation between these women and the United Nations senior leadership, who responded with concrete context-specific commitments. In many instances this included a commitment to meet again, and on a regular basis.

It is critical that all stakeholders – national, regional, and global, including member states, and the UN – invest and commit even more to address the significant gaps outlined. The Open Days were part of significant efforts within the UN to accelerate achievement of the goals of resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions. One element of these efforts is the production of a set of indicators on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This set of 26 indicators is for use at a global level to track the outcome of efforts to engage women in making peace, building security, securing justice, and promoting

recovery, and can be adapted for use by national or regional institutions. The indicators should help address the lack of accurate data on women's experience of conflict and their contributions to peacebuilding – a serious obstacle to implementing the women, peace and security agenda.

“ We don't want to make conflicts or crises safer for women – we want to stop them altogether. ”

Participant, Pakistan Open Day

Another element of the UN's efforts to improve implementation is the revision of its System-Wide Action Plan on 1325 (2000), as well as an effort via the peacebuilding reform process to address women's rights in the recovery and long-term peacebuilding phases. The Secretary-General's Report on Women's

Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466) summarizes the actions considered necessary to achieve this goal. In the midst of these efforts another UN reform effort of importance for gender equality has been launched – the creation by the General Assembly of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). UN Women brings together the four UN entities mandated to advance gender equality in order to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to match commitments to gender equality with the leadership, resources, and expertise needed to deliver changes on the ground.

“ Resolution 1325 will not be implemented unless a clear accountability mechanism in the form of a mandatory reporting on the implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000) is introduced by the United Nations Security Council for the Member States. ”

Central Asia Open Day, Tajikistan

The three major areas of concern raised by women – participation, protection, and financing for recovery – have been strongly reflected in these contemporary UN efforts.

Across these and other efforts there is a commitment to engage women directly in conflict prevention, mitigation, and in building peace. The Open Days

“ Women count for peace. But we now count on you to make it a reality! ”

Participant, Burundi Open Day

on Women, Peace and Security demonstrate one means of ensuring that women's concerns are expressed directly to the UN's leadership. The two main recommendations emerging from these

meetings are:

- › That they be held again, not on an *ad hoc* basis, but as a regular, scheduled practice of UN mission organization.
- › An annual review of the Open Day would be desirable, to allow for follow up on the implementation of commitments made by all stakeholders including senior UN leadership.

In short, the forums highlighted the need for UN in-country leaders and women peace leaders to build partnerships to advance the mutual goal of bringing sustainable, inclusive peace.



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Côte d'Ivoire, 2010



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Tajikistan/Central Asia, 2010



The 2010 Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Lebanon, 2010



The 2010 Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Afghanistan, 2010



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Haiti, 2010



The 2010 Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Guinea-Bissau, 2010

1 - Bell, C., O'Rourke, C. "Peace Agreements or Pieces of Paper? The Impact of UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) on Peace Processes and their Agreements." *International and Comparative Law Quarterly*, No. 59, October 2010.

2 - UNIFEM. "PCNA-TRF Tool Kit; Note on Integrating Gender Perspectives," January 2009.

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4 Issues Raised by Women in Conflict-Affected Areas

A. Participation

Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making

B. Justice, Protection and Security

A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict

C. Economic Resources and Support

Allocation of greater and more sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes

The Open Days on Women, Peace and Security were held in June, July and August of 2010 as a means to reinvigorate efforts to realize the vision set out in the landmark resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. With the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) approaching in October 2010, the United Nations organized 25 Open Days in conflict-affected areas, providing open and inclusive forums for women leaders and activists to enhance local ownership in the peace process, to identify gaps in implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and to discuss proposals for improvement of women's participation in peace processes. Resolution 1325 (2000) was developed to ensure that the promotion of women's empowerment and gender equality is central to efforts to implement peacekeeping mandates around the world. At the launch of these Open Day events, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that "sustainable peace is possible only with women's full participation – their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace."

“Do not be apologetic in raising your concerns.”

Ameerah Haq, SRSG Timor-Leste

The Open Days were a collaborative project organized by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM now part of UN Women) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The partners conceived of this unique project as part of events leading up to the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. In response to the call in the resolution urging

‘consultation with local and international women’s groups,’ the project sought to simultaneously bring together women from post-conflict countries with senior United Nations leadership around the world. The Open Days provided a global space for women’s voices to be heard and to improve the representation of women’s concerns in contemporary processes of conflict resolution, peace negotiation and peacebuilding. Further, the partners pledged at the outset to share the outcomes of these dialogues with the Security Council and policy makers as part of efforts to commemorate the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), particularly in devising forward-looking strategy on women peace and security.

More than 1,500 women in conflict-affected countries met with high-level United Nations officials, including SRSGs, ERSGs and RCs on issues of women, peace and security. Participating localities were - Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, occupied Palestinian territories, Pakistan, Senegal/West Africa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan/Central Asia, and Timor-Leste (Sri Lanka and Western Sahara also held a different version of the Open Days).

Since resolution 1325 (2000) was passed ten years ago, some progress has been achieved. In many post-conflict countries, the number of women in government has increased dramatically, quotas have been set and implemented, and women have used their public decision-making roles to advance women’s rights. There is increased awareness of gender differences in the impact of conflict, and this is reflected in post-conflict needs analyses and planning frameworks. Still, significant gaps remain. For instance, while there is an increase in the extent to which peace agreements address gender issues, only 16 per cent of peace agreements contain specific provisions on women’s rights and needs.¹ While gender analysis is found in post-conflict needs assessments, less than 8 per cent of proposed recovery budgets identify spending priorities addressing women’s needs,² and just 5.7 per cent of actual spending in multi-donor trust funds is allocated to initiatives to build gender equality or promote women’s empowerment.³ Post-conflict employment generation programmes have not sufficiently targeted the most vulnerable groups, including female heads of household and impoverished women, and investment in women’s property rights and livelihood prospects is inadequate. Sexual and gender-based violence is rampant in some conflicts and often continues unabated after peace deals are settled.

In their conversations with the UN, the women who participated in the Open Days raised these and many other pressing issues, such as the need to include women in peace negotiations and state-building, to ensure women’s physical security and to end impunity for war crimes committed against women in conflict and post-conflict situations.



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Sierra Leone, 2010

Though Open Day participants come from disparate parts of the globe, speak many different languages, and have vast cultural differences, three common messages emerged from these conversations. Women's core priorities for peace and security are:

- › **Participation: Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making**
- › **Justice, Protection and Security: A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict**
- › **Economic Resources and Support: Allocation of greater and more-sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes**

More remains to be done. Women are demanding more than words and resolutions. Women want a concrete plan of action from the United Nations in order to move forward on full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and they expect the United Nations to take advantage of the critical opportunity provided by the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) to act as a partner and lead on women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings. The Open Day events were heralded as a first step in this crucial partnership, providing the forum for meaningful dialogue with senior United Nations officials on matters of profound concern to women around the world.

A. Participation

Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making

Resolution 1325 (2000) calls for the increased representation, participation and contribution of women at all decision-making levels with regard to the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict. Subsequent Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) reinforced the call for women's leadership as agents of peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. The assertion of women's right to political empowerment and an increased influence over public decision-making through representation and participation in governance was the most prevalent theme raised by the participants in the Open Days.

Women urged measures to enable their increased participation in:

- › **Peace processes**
- › **National governance at all levels**
- › **All international peacekeeping and political missions and organizations**
- › **Justice and security sector institutions**

First, women in conflict-affected countries in which peace negotiations are currently underway, stalled, or planned, urged that more effective steps be taken to ensure greater participation of women in mediation and negotiation teams, and the inclusion of women from civil society at the peace table.

Afghanistan's Open Day was held just after the national Peace Jirga (2-4 June 2010) in which women lobbied successfully for 25 per cent participation. Despite this high level of representation at a critical stage in national conflict resolution, women voiced concerns that their views were not given an adequate hearing as their inclusion did not necessarily translate into guarantees of participation or space to voice their inputs. In the face of national and international pressure to reintegrate lower-level Taliban to society as rapidly as possible, women raised serious concerns about the potential damage to women's rights in the community integration of individuals professing a restrictive ideology in relation to women's rights. They stressed the need for women's engagement in all decision-making related to the reintegration and maintained that women's rights as enshrined in the national constitution should not be compromised throughout this process.

In Sudan, the women participating in Darfur's Open Day hoped for meaningful participation of civil society groups in the Doha talks and women at the Khartoum meeting urged women's full participation in arrangements for the 2011 referendum. In many contexts women noted their own need for capacity-building for effective engagement in peace processes, but at the same time expressed frustration regarding the lack of regularised access for women to national and local opportunities to resolve conflict. They thought that the UN could do more to develop an approach to organizing peace talks that would mandate participation of women from civil society and that would build women's capacity to participate effectively should such opportunities arise.

Second, women from conflict-affected countries around the world overwhelmingly supported the use of government-instituted quotas, generally endorsing a minimum of 30 per cent, to achieve desired levels of representation and participation at various levels of public decision-making. There was a view that temporary special measures such as these are justified on the grounds that women are often not considered for national leadership roles because of their exclusion from (or merely token presence in) peace processes. This exclusion sets a negative pattern in motion that urgently needs to be broken not only at the peacemaking stage (through explicit measures to include more women in peace negotiations and mediation), but in immediate post-conflict elections and governance. Further, quotas for women's participation must be set at all levels of decision-making. In Kosovo, for example, it was reported that while there is a 30 per cent quota for women in politics, it does not apply at the highest decision-making levels such as in ministerial appointments and the cabinet. Women in numerous countries (including Burundi, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Sudan) highlighted the importance of extending such quotas to positions in the public administration, ensuring that women are available at all levels to implement new public policy and legislation on women's rights.

Quotas for women's participation in lawmaking have resulted in success in Sudan. There, the National Elections Act of 2008 stipulated that women have a greater role in the political process, ensuring that a minimum of 25 per cent of seats in parliament would be allocated to women.⁴

The National Elections Act was a result of the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which

ended Africa's longest-running civil war and established a power-sharing government between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army. The provision regarding quotas for women's representation was a response to the demands of women activists.⁵ This Act proved to be a success following the February 2010 elections, the first democratic elections in 24 years, which resulted in the election of women to 31 per cent of the seats in the Southern Sudan Regional Legislative Assembly. However, women's participation in the national assembly, the civil service and the security sector remains well below the agreed upon target of 25 per cent.

“*This anniversary is an opportunity to reaffirm the core message of the landmark text: sustainable peace is possible only with women's full participation, their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace.*”

Ban Ki-moon,

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Women participants in the Nepal Open Day similarly offered positive lessons in regard to increased women's political participation. Nepali women participated in the historic 'Jan Andolan' movement in 2002 that promoted democratization, encouraged swift movement towards a peace process, and created an environment that encouraged measures in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and in the Interim Constitution to provide for quotas and a degree of proportional representation. These quotas resulted in an increase of women elected to the Constituent Assembly, which in 2008 was one-third women, the first in Asia to reach that ratio. The women of Nepal noted however that this is just the beginning. High-level decision-making on crucial peace and security matters such as the demobilization of Maoist soldiers, justice for conflict-related crimes, and the resolution of constitutional crises is still conducted by a limited set of all-male leaders of political parties. It is therefore critical to reform political party systems and to continue building the capacities of female elected officials to allow women to ascend the ranks to the top leadership.

In addition to the call for women's participation in governance and decision-making, resolution 1325 (2000) further directed the Secretary-General to appoint more women as Special Representatives and envoys, and to expand the role of women in UN field-based peace operations. Some progress has been made in this area. Within the UN itself, since 2007 10 women Special Representatives and

four Deputy Special Representatives have been appointed. The numbers of women uniformed and civilian peacekeepers is increasing, with Bangladesh and India deploying all-female UN police units to peacekeeping operations. But other gaps remain significant, with a disproportionately low number of women participating in peacemaking and peacebuilding operations.

The need for increased women's participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding was considered critical by the participants in the Open Days. Women said more encouragement from the UN would help foster national political will to increase contributions of women personnel to political and peacekeeping missions, as well as in post-conflict civilian technical assistance efforts.

“ *Women's rights should not be negotiable in the peace process* ”
Woman's Statement, Afghanistan Open Day

An important sector in which women felt their direct engagement was critical was in justice and security institutions, discussed further in the next section. Women often attributed the rarity of their participation in these sectors to a serious accountability problem. In many countries, laws related to gender equality exist or have been revised and strengthened after conflict but the poor implementation of these laws has had negative impacts on the status of women and their rights. In Afghanistan, women said they do not trust police, and for this reason many violations of women's rights go unreported. In other contexts, failures to implement progressive national legislation criminalizing sexual and gender-based violence puts the women who do report violence at risk of backlash from perpetrators who are not apprehended and prosecuted. The consequence is actually damaging for the credibility of efforts to reassert the rule of law in post-conflict settings. Women therefore stressed the critical importance of their participation in mechanisms of oversight of judicial and security institutions to build accountability and support good governance systems.

Finally, women voiced the need for a mechanism for accountability to carry out and measure the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The women of Central Asia who met in Tajikistan stated,

“Resolution 1325 (2000) will not be implemented unless a clear accountability mechanism in the form of a mandatory reporting on the implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000) is introduced by the United Nations Security Council for the member states.”



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security. Sudan, 2010

B. Justice, Protection and Security

A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict

The most frequently voiced concern by Open Day participants with regard to women's protection was the high incidence of sexual violence during and after conflict, and the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators. They also raised other major justice and security concerns regarding deprivation of land and property rights, weak enforcement of the rights of displaced or minority women, and overall high levels of criminality.

Resolution 1325 (2000) recognizes that women and children account for, in some contexts, a majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict. In some circumstances they are directly targeted by combatants, with an increase in the systematic use of sexual violence to displace and demoralize communities and to undermine long-term social and community stability and recovery. Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) call on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from all forms of violence in situations of armed conflict, and particularly targeted sexual violence. Resolution 1820 (2008) recognised for the first time that sexual violence has been used as a tactic of war, and as such it requires a security and justice response to improve the protection environment and to prevent impunity. The resolutions stress the responsibility of all Member States to put an end to impunity by prosecuting those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, including those related to sexual and gender-based violence. They call upon parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of displaced women and girls. Finally, the resolutions encourage those planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants, taking into account the needs of their dependents.

Women demanded that national and international agencies invest in the necessary resources to bring an end to sexual violence. In Nepal, during the decade-long conflict and post-conflict period, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), perpetrated by parties to armed conflict or by civilians, was encouraged by an environment of relative impunity for these crimes, with traditionally stigmatized groups of women (such as Dalits, Janajatis, Madhesis and other minorities) often experiencing the highest levels of SGBV. In the Nepal discussion on protection and justice, women asked that the United Nations, regional organizations, national governments and local communities:

- › Address and condemn the current culture of impunity
- › Punish perpetrators of SGBV during and after conflict

- › Transform the security sector in order to ensure the effective and safe delivery of services to women and
- › Appoint women as Commissioners in institutions to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to ensure the establishment of the historical record on women's experience of conflict, and subsequent justice and reparations for women

Liberia Open Day participants felt that the UN has a prominent role to play in creating more community-based security approaches that prioritize and respond to the needs and concerns of women. They offered a list of proposals, requesting that the UN:

- › Assist governments in establishing special measures to achieve quotas for women of at least 30 per cent within security sector institutions
- › Continue to advocate for and help collect sex-disaggregated data gathering and sharing exercises in security sector institutions to monitor women's increased recruitment in the sector
- › Continue to provide support for institutionalization of a robust monitoring mechanism in the security sector specifically dedicated to tracking the progress of women within the sector as well as security sector performance in addressing women's safety concerns
- › Continue to engage with the government to review and revise national policies and codes to ensure compliance with resolution 1325 (2000), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other international and national institutions on women's rights
- › Collaborate with the government to ensure that allegations of sexual harassment and abuse by security sector personnel are duly investigated and the appropriate measures are taken; in other words support institutionalization of zero tolerance

Women also argued that reparations regimes, as the most directly victim-directed transitional justice mechanism, must be greatly improved to reflect more accurately women's experiences of conflict and deliver meaningful redress. Particularly for crimes of sexual violence, reparations must be provided in a non-stigmatizing way, protecting the identity and human rights of the recipients. Reparations programmes must be more holistic, ensuring psycho-social counselling, education and health services, and shelters for conflict victims. Participation of civil society, especially women's groups, in planning and monitoring reparations programmes should also be a core element of their design.

Women stressed that judicial and security sector responses to their needs ought to be developed with the input and direction of women in collaboration with traditional and elected leaders. In Timor-Leste, community leaders came together to disseminate information regarding their duties and responsibilities

related to SGBV cases. They reported that previously SGBV cases in Suai were processed in one-to-two years, but after a community action the legal system now takes only three months. This is a remarkable achievement and shows what can be achieved by effective community partnerships. The work of women peace builders at the community level, networking and building enduring partnerships is an important contribution to sustainable peace and security and will make a difference to all women, not only in Timor-Leste, but around the world.

Nepalese attend political rally. UN Photo/Agnieszka Mikulska 2008



C. Economic Resources and Support

Allocation of greater and more sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes

A major priority for women in moving from crisis to stability is the rapid establishment of their economic security after conflict. High unemployment of women, combined with lack of productive assets and livelihood skills, is a serious constraint to family food security and community health, investment in children's education and nutrition, and overall recovery in post-conflict societies. Open Day participants called for a gender-sensitive economic recovery framework in which greater and more sustainable financial resources are allocated to support women in all recovery processes.

Women proposed that funds from both national and international peacebuilding and development agencies be earmarked for the needs of women and children. For example a presentation at the Nepal Open Day titled "Financing for Peace" specifically focused on the small United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal and the large Nepal Peace Trust Fund administered by the Government. Presenters recommended that operation guidelines of peace funds should incorporate gender equality and include criteria to prioritize proposals from the perspective of their contribution to women's empowerment and gender equality. This could be considered a resolution 1325 (2000) 'filter' on the funds.

On the issue of economic support, suggestions from the women who attended the Open Day in Sudan included:

- › Establishment of a trust fund for the economic empowerment of women
- › Initiation of sustainable income-generating projects for women
- › UN support for alternative fuel initiatives to reduce women's exposure to rape and other crimes, during the collection of fodder and firewood.

Further, women in Kosovo noted that the high unemployment of women, combined with unfavourable conditions such as unequal implementation of women's property rights, is a major constraint on women's ability to recover from the conflict. In Burundi, funding dedicated to the improvement of women's economic situation has significantly increased since the signature of the Arusha Accords. Coverage by micro-finance systems has greatly improved and local forms of solidarity and mutual assistance have been significantly strengthened. However, structural, institutional and financial difficulties have remained persistent and impede the success of the economic and community-level recovery of the country. The most prominent challenges for Burundian women to improve their situation include gender-based inequalities in access to education; persistent obstacles for women to access credit, resources and technologies (including agricultural techniques); the gender insensitivity of the

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP); and the absence of a law on successions that would endow women with rights to spousal property.

A similar concern was also voiced the women during the Timor-Leste Open Day. They noted that the lack of socio-economic development, security and access to justice for women were interrelated, particularly hurting the recovery prospects of victims of domestic violence. Women are often unable to report abuses due to their lack of physical access to the police and judicial institutions owing to lack of economic means, poor infrastructure and inadequate road transportation. Women's dependence on men likewise limits their capacity to demand their rights in relation to physical security as reporting a domestic abuser could lead to incarceration and loss of a provider, or alternatively, women's exposure to backlash attacks when perpetrators are not punished.

The most common suggestions made during the Open Days on the issue of women's economic security included financial support for agricultural programmes targeting women farmers, women's health services and vocational and educational opportunities for women. Additionally, Sudanese women recommended that the UN and the Government of Southern Sudan work together to allocate peace funding to enhance employment opportunities for women and youth.

Women's economic security is linked with peacebuilding in that equitable sharing of wealth can strengthen the sense of a common future and prevent renewed violence, especially in an internal conflict. Poverty prevents women from participating in public decision-making thus preventing them from contributing to good governance and long-term recovery. Women recommended that basic principles should be established on this issue, and should include:

- › **Women should be represented in national budget committees overseeing public expenditure reviews and the allocation of funds to specific recovery activities**
- › **Aid should be monitored for effectiveness in promoting women's rights and gender equality**
- › **Donors should ensure that a certain portion of funds are dedicated specifically to the promotion of women's rights and addressing their urgent needs**
- › **Financing for women's organizations should increase, enabling them to build capacity for engagement in national decision-making and to implement the development of women's land, property and other economic assets should be guaranteed**

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2 - UNIFEM. "PCNA-TRF Tool Kit; Note on Integrating Gender Perspectives," January 2009.

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4 - CMI. "The Paradox of Representation in Sudan: Muslim Women's Diverging Agendas." Vol. 9 No. 1. February 2010. www.cmi.no/publications/file/3638-the-paradox-of-representation-in-sudan.pdf.

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5 Next Steps

Ten years ago, the international community linked the role of women to peace and security with the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). The premise of the resolution was clear: just and lasting world peace cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women in matters of peace and security. The Open Days provided an opportunity for women to highlight pressing needs in their respective countries and to reflect upon progress and challenges to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In some countries, these kinds of encounters are not unusual and women peace activists have established regular consultations with the United Nations and other institutional actors. In others, this kind of dialogue had never happened. In Lebanon for example, the Open Day was the first meeting between women's groups from civil society and UN Response since the mission was established more than 30 years ago. In many contexts, both women and SRSGs determined that these meetings should be the first of many: a structured dialogue that could become an institutionalized feature of approaches to peace and security in the country.

In some countries, the Open Day feedback was bleak. In Central Asia women reported that they had witnessed an increase in murder, rape, and kidnapping of women and girls, and the denial of women's human rights. They used the occasion of the Open Day meeting to issue a declaration of regional solidarity and concern – and a call for action – in the face of ethnic violence in Kyrgyzstan in June. Women everywhere listed the serious challenges they face in conflict contexts in achieving economic and political empowerment, and even basic physical security, particularly where there is a high degree of impunity for acts of sexual violence committed during and after conflict. At the same time, there were reports of progress and innovative ideas for moving forward. In many post-conflict countries, the number of women in government has increased dramatically, quotas have been set and implemented, and women have used their public decision-making roles to advance women's rights – notably in fast-tracking legislation on the prevention and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence. There is an increased awareness of how conflict impacts men and women differently, and this has been reflected in post-conflict needs analyses and planning frameworks, and in transitional justice mechanisms and security sector reform. In Kenya, women's concerns influenced the mandate of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, which boasts a 1:1 ration of men and women as commissioners. Sierra Leone and Liberia have seen a significant increase in the number of women serving in the army. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the government signed an acte d'engagement for the implementation of the National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000) at the Open Day event. This calls for concrete measures such as increasing the participation of women in decision-making on peace and security; enforcement of laws on the advancement of women, gender parity, and punishment for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Open Days provided a safe space for women to deliver a call to action for the United Nations to support the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), and clear messages about where further implementation of the resolution is needed:

1. **Participation:** Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making
2. **Justice, Protection and Security:** A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict
3. **Economic Resources and Support:** Allocation of greater and more-sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes

It is critical that all stakeholders – national, regional, global, including member states and the UN – invest and commit even more to address the significant gaps outlined. The Open Days were as part of significant efforts within the UN to accelerate achievement of the goals of resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions. Some of these efforts were prompted by the Security Council in its resolution 1889 (2009), which outlines four major inputs from the Secretary-General to advance the women, peace and security agenda, to be presented in October 2010:

1. Operative Paragraph (OP) 4: the Secretary-General must develop a strategy for increasing numbers of women mediators and negotiators and other leaders in peace making
2. OP 17: “a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000)”
3. OP 18: “an assessment of the processes by which the Security Council receives, analyses and takes action on information pertinent to resolution 1325 (2000), recommendations on further measures to improve coordination across the United Nations system, and with Member States and civil society to deliver implementation”
4. OP 19: the Secretary-General’s must issue a Report on Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding, taking into account the views of the Peacebuilding Commission.

A comprehensive set of 26 indicators of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will be presented to the Security Council in October 2010. This set of indicators is for use at a global level to track the outcome of efforts to engage women in making peace, building security, and promoting recovery, and is included in abbreviated form in Annex A. These indicators can be adapted for use by national or

regional institutions. By collecting and tracking accurate data on women's experience of conflict and their contributions to peacebuilding, these indicators represent a meaningful contribution to monitoring implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

Another element of the UN's efforts to improve implementation is the revision of the its System-Wide Action Plan on 1325 (2000), as well as an effort via the peacebuilding reform process to address bottlenecks to the promotion of women's rights in the recovery and long-term peacebuilding phases. The Secretary-General's report on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466) summarizes the actions required to achieve this. It does so with the support of the UN's Peacebuilding Commission, an important new element of the peace and security architecture with an explicit mandate to address gender issues. In the midst of these efforts another UN reform effort of importance for gender equality has been launched – the creation by the General Assembly of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). This entity combines four existing UN entities mandated to advance gender equality in order to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to match commitments to gender equality with the leadership, resources, and expertise needed to deliver changes on the ground.

Across these and other efforts there is a commitment to engage women directly in conflict prevention, mitigation, and in building peace. The Open Days on Women, Peace and Security demonstrate one means of ensuring that women's concerns are expressed directly to the UN's leadership. The two main recommendations emerging from these meetings are:

- a. That they be held again, not on an *ad hoc* basis, but as a regular, scheduled practice of UN mission organization.
- b. An annual review of the Open Day, would be desirable, to allow for follow up on the implementation of commitments made by all stakeholders including senior UN leadership.

These concerns must be at the forefront of the United Nations efforts in the area of peace and security. The world's women face many challenges, but they must also be part of the solution. The Open Days were successful in bringing UN leaders and women from civil society together in an unprecedented way. The solutions these women have brought to the table have the potential to be transformative steps toward the shared goal of sustainable and lasting peace for women and men around the world.

Watch this Space:

The formal Open Days have inspired similar dialogues elsewhere on issues of women, peace and security, and also encouraged more countries to host meetings between women peace activists and UN officials.



Cyprus: An Open Day is planned for the second half of September. It will be a joint initiative of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the Office of the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General for Cyprus, and UNDP.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the SRSG (head of UNFICYP), Lisa Buitenheim, to hear from an expert group of Greek and Turkish Cypriot women. Participants will include the Gender Advisory Team (GAT), a group of civil society activists and scholars from Cyprus who have been meeting since October 2009 to develop gender-focused recommendations to be taken into consideration by the Leaders of the two communities.

The key message of GAT is that the peace process is an excellent opportunity to integrate fundamental principles of gender equality within the settlement.



Morocco/Western Sahara: The Open Day in Western Sahara was observed on 8 June 2010 with a meeting between the SRSG for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) and women from the Mission. SRSG Hany Abel-Aziz welcomed the chance to listen and respond to issues women raised with regard to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).



Sri Lanka: Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, visited Sri Lanka, 16 - 17 June, as part of the UN's continuing engagement on post-war challenges facing the country. His mission focused on issues that included political reconciliation, the return and resettlement of IDPs and human rights. To better comprehend and help address gender issues as they relate to these critical areas in post-conflict Sri Lanka, Mr. Pascoe met with a coalition of women's rights groups representing a range of gender interest, including those of widows and ethnic minorities, during the visit.

Women leaders of the coalition thanked Mr. Pascoe for "creating a tradition" for senior UN officials to meet women's groups during their visits to Sri Lanka. In providing post-conflict assistance, the UN family in Sri Lanka has helped efforts to address gender related concerns, based on ongoing consultations with women's groups and affiliated partners.

6 The Open Days: Country by Country

Afghanistan

**The Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Croatia, Kosovo, and Serbia**

Burundi

Côte D'Ivoire

Democratic Republic of Congo

Guinea-Bissau

Haiti

Iraq

Kenya

Lebanon

Liberia

Nepal

occupied Palestinian territories

Pakistan

Senegal/West Africa

Sierra Leone

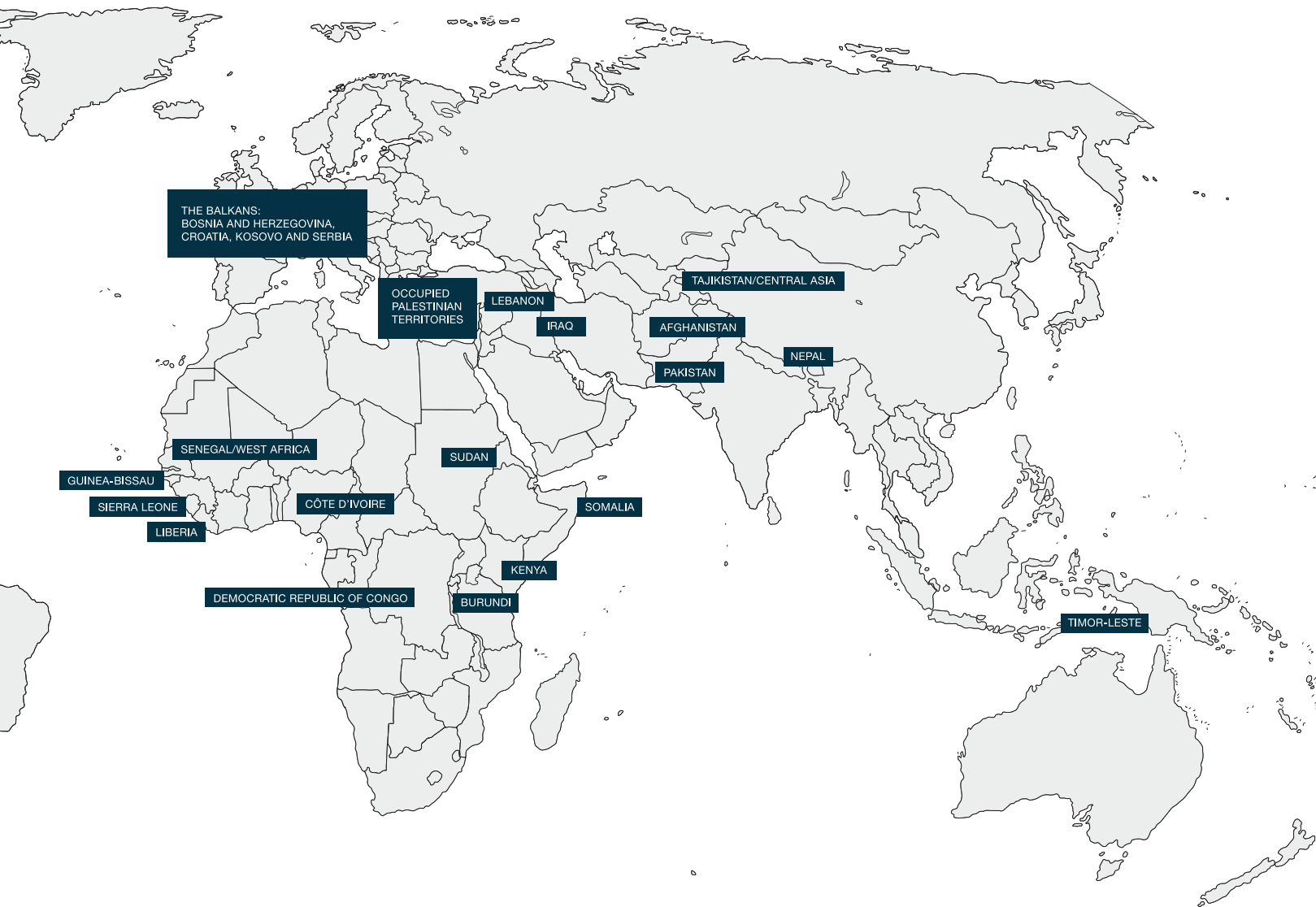
Somalia

Sudan

Tajikistan/Central Asia

Timor-Leste







Afghanistan

Open Day | 12 June 2010

Context

Afghanistan has experienced armed conflict for more than 30 years, and women have been the main victims of this conflict. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was established on 28 March 2002 by United Nations Security Council resolution 1401 following the Bonn Agreement of December 2001. The framework for cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan, the United Nations and the international community has been outlined and agreed upon in a number of key documents and conferences including the Afghanistan Compact of 2006, the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), the Paris Conference of June 2008, the Afghanistan Conference in London in January 2010, and the International Conference on Afghanistan in Kabul in July 2010.

Who Forty-two participants attended an Open Day preparatory workshop. On the Open Day, 30 women from civil society organizations in addition to men and women from government attended the dialogue

Where UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) Resource Centre for Women, Kabul

UN Leadership SRSG Staffan de Mistura

“ *The answer to this conflict is dialogue – dialogue with certain, very firm lines. And one line is the Constitution. Inside the Constitution there is enough space to protect the gains made by women.* ”

Staffan de Mistura, SRSG Afghanistan

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

There is a strong feeling that women's participation in decision-making in the peace process is very low and a token. The Afghan women in attendance categorized their concerns in five areas: security, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, justice and accountability, provision of basic services, and prevention of sexual violence.

1. Security

In Afghanistan, there is limited coordination of armed forces and inadequate adherence to the rules of war, leading to many civilian casualties. Border infiltration is common, and irresponsible individuals, especially along the borders, remain armed. Women do not trust the police, and for this reason many violations of women's rights are not reported. Further, traditional justice mechanisms in Afghanistan victimize women and violate their rights.

On this issue, the Afghan women at the Open Day propose:

- The establishment of better coordination among national and international security forces during military operations in order to prevent civilian casualties.
- Security sector reform that will lead to an increase in the participation of women in the armed forces and the police.
- Strengthening of law enforcement at border control points in collaboration with neighboring countries so as to eliminate the abuse of women seeking asylum or trying to return from neighboring countries.

2. Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding

Women's participation in the decision-making aspect of the peace process is very low and many women feel that it is mainly token. Although Afghan women expressed some satisfaction with their participation at the peace jirga, the quota for 25 per cent of female representation must increase. The international community should be consistent in supporting the increase of women's participation in peace and security. There is a need to create a body that will plan and take forward the implementation and monitoring of the resolution 1325 (2000) Action Plan.

3. Justice and Accountability

Women lack information on their rights. Traditional justice mechanisms victimize women and violate their rights. There is inadequate participation of women in judicial institutions, and a lack of adequate support from the judicial institutions for victims and their families.

The Afghan women at the Open Day propose:

- The government of Afghanistan ought to utilize the Constitution of Afghanistan to implement international conventions to which it has acceded.
- National laws that contradict conventions that the country has ratified should be repealed.
- Women's rights should not be negotiable in the peace process.

4. Provision of Basic Services

In Afghanistan, the humanitarian crisis caused by conflict further compromises the already inadequate provision of basic services. Insecurity limits women's access to available social services, especially in rural areas.

On this issue, the Afghan women at the Open Day propose:

- To improve provision of education, especially for girls, and to continue efforts to raise awareness among religious and traditional leaders of the benefits of educating both boys and girls. The international community should increase financial and technical assistance to improve girls' education.
- Health centers should be created and dedicated to the treatment of serious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and drug abuse.

5. Sexual Violence

There is a lack of recognition in Afghanistan of the problem of sexual violence and impunity for perpetrators of gender-based violence by warring parties. Support to victims and their families is inadequate. Harmful practices such as *baad* that are justified on the basis of custom and tradition should be prohibited by law and disrupted through education¹.

On this issue, the Afghan women at the Open Day propose:

- There should be strict follow-up, investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence.
- The need to establish a follow-up commission on the issues of sexual assaults and sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children.

1 - Baad is a traditional means of settling disputes in Afghanistan, and usually involves giving a young girl to the family of the perceived victim of a crime. Institute for War and Peace Reporting. "Afghan Girls Suffer for Sins of Male Relatives." ARR, No. 317. 26 March 2009. www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/49dc4b201c.html. [accessed 2 July 2010]

- The government should take serious measures to protect the victims of sexual violence related to the conflict and should prosecute perpetrators, imposing adequate punishment for this grave violation.

UN Response

In his response, SRSG Staffan de Mistura acknowledged the clarity of the messages and their relevance to the situation in Afghanistan. He expressed hope that the Open Day would be a stepping-stone towards real change in Afghanistan. He concurred with a proposal to use the provisions in the Afghanistan Constitution that protect the gains made by women in terms of participation in governance, politics and decision-making and safeguard their human rights. The SRSG further advised the women that their messages should be strategic, uniting all Afghans, and should focus on issues that are current at any point in time. He stressed that the most current issues relate to the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Afghanistan. He advised the women to actively participate in registering as voters, support female candidates, and vote for those candidates that support gender equality and the advancement of women.



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security. Afghanistan, 2010

The Balkans

Open Day | 7 June 2010 in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Kosovo, and Serbia

Open Day | 20 July 2010 in Croatia



Kosovo

Context

After the conflict in Kosovo and the 1999 NATO intervention, the territory came under the interim administration of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). In February 2008, the Assembly of Kosovo declared the independent Republic of Kosovo. In December of 2008, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo deployed and took over many of UNMIK's functions in rule of law and security. Despite some progress made in women's participation in public life, there has not been substantive change in the position of women in Kosovo.

Who Women peace leaders and advocates, representatives of United Nations agencies, UNMIK, and European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Kosovo.

Where Pristina

UN Leadership SRSG Lamberto Zannier, UN Development Coordinator and Resident Representative Osnat Lubrani

“Gender as a cross-cutting issue in policy and planning documents appears to have remained a phrase rather than a real commitment to address women's specific needs.”

Participant, Kosovo Open Day



Women's Peace and Security Priorities

1. Women in Politics, Leadership and Decision Making

- In Kosovo, 30 per cent of candidates on party lists must be women. Despite this, less than 30 per cent of high-level decision makers, such as ministers, are women. Thirty per cent of participants in future negotiations on technical issues between Kosovo and Serbia should be women, at all levels, and at least one representative should be a gender expert.
- A consultative relationship between women's NGOs and negotiation mechanisms should be established in order to include women's perspectives in decision making and to reinforce transparency for peace talks.
- Financial and technical support to women in politics is necessary to increase women's political representation.
- The UN should support women in politics by creating a department for women's political leadership within the newly formed UN Women.

2. Legislation

- Laws related to gender equality exist, aren't fully implemented, especially with respect to property and inheritance rights, thereby negatively impacting women. Adequate budget allocation is essential to implement the laws.

3. Poverty and Economic Security

- There is no stability without economic security. High unemployment of women, combined with unfavourable conditions such as lack of guaranteed funds for women, unequal implementation of property rights, lack of support for women's economic security, and lack of training, are serious challenges for the women of Kosovo.
- The government and international donors should provide special funds for women in the area of economic advancement and employment, especially for women in rural areas and women entrepreneurs. A national framework for training women for employment and self-employment must be established.

4. Gender Perspective in the Security Sector

- Increased institutional support is necessary to improve women's presence in security institutions, such as the Kosovo police, security forces, and the security monitoring body.
- A gender expert should be included in the Kosovo Security Council to address and reflect women's

perspectives on security issues.

5. Gender-Based Violence and Transitional Justice

- The government should develop and adequately fund a programme on social reintegration of women victims of violence.
- Victims of wartime sexual violence and families who lost members in the war should be compensated.

6. Women Minorities and Reintegration

- There is a need for a women's shelter for Serbian women victims of violence as well as support for female Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (RAE) communities. Support for Serbian returnees is also insufficient.
- Increased support for Serbian and RAE women in political leadership is essential to increasing their representation in politics and improving reintegration efforts. Invest in capacity building to prepare RAE women leaders to represent the RAE community at the governmental level.

7. Women's Civil Society Organizations

- Lack of financial support to civil society, especially for women's organizations, has serious implications for its sustainability. It is recommended that 25 per cent of donor funds should be dedicated to programmes that protect women's human rights and address their needs.

UN Response

The UN acknowledged the role women of the region have played in reconciliation and anticipated their invaluable roles as peace facilitators in future negotiations.

The UN also acknowledged the need for more women in key decision-making positions to ensure an equal voice in all issues of public policy. The SRSB assured the gathering that he will pass on the concerns and recommendations of the women to the Secretary-General to assist in targeting UN programming in the region.



Kosovar refugees fleeing their homeland.
UN Photo/R LeMoyné 1999

Croatia

Context

Croatia experienced conflict from 1991 to 1995 in the aftermath of the break-up of the former Yugoslavia. Since 1995, the country has made great progress towards reconstruction, reconciliation, and stability, and negotiations on membership of the European Union are nearing completion. Post-conflict issues remain and require resolution, including a judicial reckoning on war crimes, housing for returning refugees and IDPs, and the restoration of economic opportunities and normal social relations in conflict-affected areas.

In terms of protection laws and mechanisms, Croatia has a good legal framework. There is a law on gender equality, a law on domestic violence, national action programmes (NAPs) on gender equality, and a NAP for domestic violence. Mechanisms for implementation of these laws include a government Office for Gender Equality, an Ombudswoman for Gender Equality, a parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, and commissions for gender equality in all Croatian counties. There is currently no legislated electoral gender quota; however, political parties are required to put forward gender-balanced candidate lists for local and parliamentary elections. In terms of political participation, women hold 23 per cent of the seats in parliament and executive decision-making positions. The prime minister is female, and 3 of 19 ministers are women; the head of the Constitutional Court is also a woman. In the security sector, women occupy 6 per cent of the higher ranks, they represent 11 per cent of the lower ranks, and are 3 per cent of the enlisted. Women make up 15 per cent of the police.

Civil society efforts related to resolution 1325 (2000) have been limited and thus far focused on transitional justice, but the launch of a National Action Plan drafting process will provide an opportunity for greater civil society engagement.

At the initiative of the Regional Women's Lobby (RWL), a meeting complementary to the Open Day was organized in Croatia on 20 July 2010 to familiarize the President and key government officials involved in preparing the 1325 (2000) National Action Plan with UN activities and the lobby's proposals.

Who The President of Croatia, Ivo Josipovic, and advisors; government officials responsible for the National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000) and gender equality; representatives of the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe

Where Pantovcak (President's Office), Zagreb

UN Leadership RC Louisa Vinton

“*Women’s participation in the Croatian military is quite high by regional standards, but visibility at higher ranks remains a challenge. The role of women in Croatia’s NATO peacekeeping contingent in Afghanistan is important in sending a vivid message about how crucial women’s human rights are to development.*”

Participant, Croatia Open Day

Women’s Peace and Security Priorities

Recommendations from the Regional Women’s Lobby (RWL) included urging the President to use his role as Supreme Commander to promote more women within the military, supporting the nomination of more women to top United Nations roles, and advocacy in support of a strong field presence for the new UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

UN Response

UN RC Louisa Vinton outlined the commitments and activities that the United Nations in Croatia has undertaken in relation to issues of women, peace and security. She indicated that the UN in Croatia is a strong supporter of resolution 1325 (2000) and expects the creation of UN Women to infuse fresh energy into the issue. She expressed appreciation for the President’s attention and support. “High-level endorsement can be useful to breaking down social and cultural resistance to women’s rights and gender issues,” she said. Resolution 1325 (2000) and other mechanisms are important not only to protect fundamental human rights but also for the development that they can bring society. Empowering women has been proven to deliver real economic benefits.

President Josipovic pledged that his Deputy Advisor on Defense, Ms. Visnja Tafra, would become a permanent member of the working group for drafting the NAP on resolution 1325 (2000) once it convenes in the fall. He voiced a strong commitment to promoting women in rank in the military and said he hoped to be the first President to name a female general. The President also expressed keen support for measures to combat domestic violence, particularly through prevention and early-age education.

Pjer Simunovic, State Secretary in the Ministry of Defense, committed himself to reviewing in detail the RWL material and recommendations related to the resolution 1325 (2000) NAP in Croatia and integrating the suggestions into the working group’s plans.

Reflections for the UN

Croatia stands to benefit from the strong commitment of its elected leaders to the cause of gender equality and women's empowerment, and also to the role of the United Nations in setting standards and providing support in achieving the aims of resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace, and security. This high-level commitment is matched by a shared endeavor to translate legislative frameworks into measures that have a real impact on people's lives, for example in the sensitive area of domestic violence. As Croatia tends to this agenda, it also has strong examples of women's engagement, for example in UN peacekeeping forces, to share with other countries. UN support in capacity building for government and civil society continues to serve as a helpful tool to improve the implementation of legal protection mechanisms, and is available to support the preparation of the resolution 1325 (2000) NAP.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Context

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a post-conflict country that endured years of conflict in the 1990s in which sexual violence was used as a tactic of war. The conflict led to the militarization of these societies and women were pushed out of public spaces and lost many of the social and economic rights they had previously gained.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is working on the creation of a women's police network at the national level and the establishment of cooperation between women's NGOs and European Union Force (EUFOR) local observation teams on women's human rights and security

Who Representatives of government (including the head of the Bosnian regulatory agency), the EU, and NGOs (including Žena BiH iz Mostara, Viva Žene Tuzla, Foundation of Liberal Democracy Sarajevo)

UN Leadership RC Yuri Afanasiev

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

- Support from the UN to civil society and government for capacity building, especially in combating sexual and gender-based violence
- Support for cooperation efforts between police, UN, civil society and media for programmes that focus on sexual violence

UN Response

The international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina needs more information about resolution 1325 (2000) and the other resolutions on women, peace and security (resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009)). The work that NGOs have done together has helped to make the international actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina more accountable and now gender is included in all international actors' programmes including those on civil society building, education, employment, the Roma, SGBV, and women in politics. The UN RC was also interested to learn more about a national outreach campaign on women's security, human rights and small arms.



Soldiers of British battalion monitor the movement at a UN checkpoint.
UN Photo/John Isaac 1994

Serbia

Context

Serbia is a post-conflict society that experienced the effects of war throughout the 1990s. Women in Serbia were excluded from public fora and decision-making during these years, reinforcing the stereotype that women were not the decisive politicians or strong leaders. In recent years, women have held ministerial and senior posts in government and an increasing number now serve as parliamentarians. There has been other progress, including the establishment of the institutional framework for the advancement of gender equality, an inter-ministerial Gender Equality Council, a Gender Equality Directorate in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the nomination of a Deputy Ombudsperson with a mandate covering women and persons with disabilities, the 2009 adoption of the Gender Equality Law and the National Strategy for the Advancement of the Position of Women and Gender Equality, and the National Assembly's Parliamentary Committee for Gender Equality, Gender equality mechanisms have been also established in the autonomous province of Vojvodina and at the municipal level throughout Serbia.

1 - Baad is a traditional means of settling disputes in Afghanistan, and usually involves giving a young girl to the family of the perceived victim of a crime. Institute for War and Peace Reporting. "Afghan Girls Suffer for Sins of Male Relatives." ARR, No. 317. 26 March 2009. www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/49dc4b201c.html. [accessed 2 July 2010]

Who Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, women’s organizations including ‘Women in Black’, UNIFEM (now part of UN Women), and UNDP/South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)

UN Leadership RC William Infante

“*Implementing resolution 1325 (2000) means increasing women’s visibility and participation in peace processes, strengthening protection mechanisms, and incorporating gender equality across the democratic systems that were established when hostilities come to a close. The UN will...support the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in Serbia in the future.*”

William Infante, RC Serbia

Women’s Peace and Security Priorities

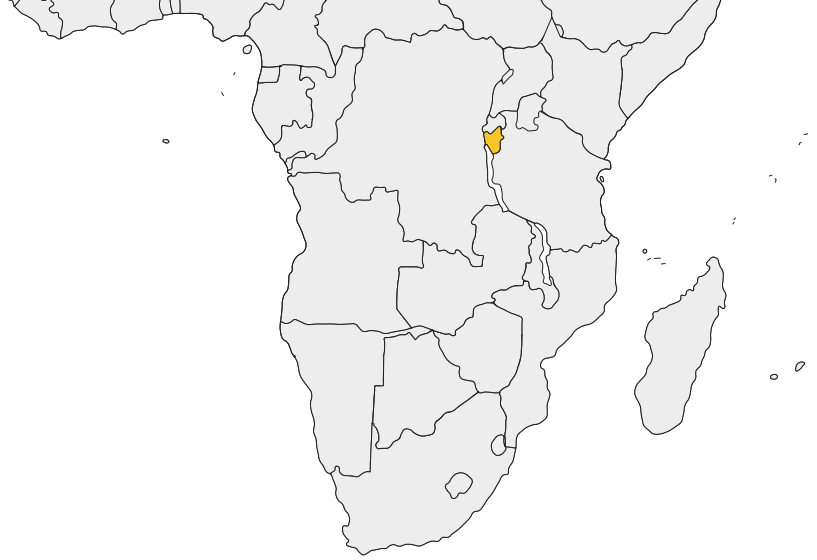
- Support the development of the NAP on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000)
- Military personnel sent overseas on peace missions should pass a background check on any involvement in war crimes
- Women peace activists should be used in training for military personnel on human security
- A strong parliamentary oversight mechanism should be instituted to control spending in the military sector
- The participants also addressed concerns about the private security sector in Serbia, which currently has no regulatory structure and is a source of insecurity for the state and individuals.
- Provide space and support for civil society activists to do their important work for peace and democracy

UN Response

The UN will continue to support the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) through ongoing projects, implemented in close cooperation with relevant partners, namely the projects addressing sexual and gender-based violence in Serbia, and a project aimed at supporting gender mainstreaming in policing practices in Southeastern Europe; and will explore the possibilities to further support implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in close cooperation with relevant institutions and civil society, especially women’s groups.

Burundi

Open Day | 11 June 2010



Context

The Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi (2000) and the subsequent ceasefire agreements with various rebel movements that did not participate in the Arusha peace talks paved the way for the holding of democratic elections in 2005. This initiated the national transition from peace-making to a peacebuilding and development phase.

Since the beginning of the post-conflict phase, Burundi has made significant progress in the implementation of international and regional instruments on gender equality and women's rights. It has developed a set of comprehensive laws, policies and national frameworks, including the inclusion of quotas that guarantees at least 30 per cent representation of women in government, the Assembly and the Senate. Burundi also adopted a new criminal code which includes specific provisions with regard to SGBV, including the acceleration of court procedures and tougher sentences for perpetrators. At the political level, Burundi elaborated a national policy on gender equality for 2004-2008 (to be revised in 2010). It has also developed a National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000) to be implemented by the end of 2010. On 28 May 2010, Burundi began a four-month election season, the country's first elections following the end of a nearly 16-year civil war in 2009. Five distinct elections—municipal (communal), presidential, parliamentary, senatorial and local (*collinaire*)—took place from May to September 2010.

Who Women representing 60 different civil society organizations, representatives of the Government (including Ministry of Gender Issues) and regional organizations (including the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region)

Where The Integrated Office of the United Nations in Burundi (BINUB)

UN Leadership ERSG Charles Petrie

“ *In ten years, much was accomplished, but the goal of the Security Council is not yet achieved. (...) More than ever, in Burundi, women count for peace. (...) To build peace, today, we, women in Burundi, cannot be ignored any more. And if we count for peace, we also count on you to make this need a reality!* ”

Participant, Burundi Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

Women expressed their concern about the tense political climate in the country and rising insecurity, signs of resurgence of tensions that can give rise to violence. Aware of the urgency to mobilize and help in the preservation of peace and to support the democratic process in the country, women engaged in dialogue with the ERSG about their planned actions to ensure that the democratic process is smooth, and to consolidate peace in Burundi.

The participants concluded with two major observations:

1. Women's organizations have made significant efforts to implement the resolution in terms of advocacy, publications, and involvement in peace negotiations.
2. International organizations should intensify their efforts to ensure that the participation of women in the implementation of the peace agenda and conflict prevention takes place systematically, and that resolution 1325 (2000) serves as a tool for the integration of the specific needs of women and girls in the peacebuilding process in Burundi.

The participants identified priorities focused on women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms, protection against violence against women, integration of the specific needs of women in community rehabilitation, and humanitarian relief actions. These priorities are:

- Support and encourage the recruitment of Burundian women into decision-making positions in peacebuilding and preventive diplomacy.
- Increase the technical and financial support to government structures in charge of gender equality.
- Increase the support to the judicial and legal system review in Burundi in accordance with international standards.
- Support the development of a gender-responsive security sector reform.
- Support the development of an effective response to violence against women and impunity for crimes committed during the period of conflict.
- Support women's poverty reduction initiatives and women entrepreneurship.

UN Response

The three days of consultations allowed the ERSG to take into account women's points of view of the political crisis as it relates to the electoral process. ERSG Charles Petrie and the Ambassador of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, expressed admiration, recognition, and support from the international community for women's peace initiatives in Burundi. The ERSG emphasized the need and importance of women's participation at all levels of decision-making in regard to peace consolidation and conflict prevention. He reiterated the UN's commitment to cooperate with Burundian women to build lasting peace in the country. The ERSG emphasized the imperative to ensure that political leaders meet their responsibilities to safeguard rights that women acquired in adverse conditions.

The ERSG pledged the United Nations' technical, material and financial support to women's actions for peace in Burundi. He stressed the need to create an environment that ensures that peace consolidation is achieved through democracy and the peaceful resolution of conflicts and electoral disputes in accordance with the various peace agreements. He expressed his commitment to support women in their efforts to prevent violence and conflict related to the 2010 elections in Burundi.



ONUB facilitates the national referendum in Burundi UN Photo/Martine Perret 2005



Côte d'Ivoire

Open Day | 26 April 2010

Context

The civil war in Côte d'Ivoire, which started on 19 September 2002, had severe consequences for human rights. Women's human rights were seriously threatened by widespread violence perpetrated by combatants, militias and other armed groups across the country. Peaks of sexual violence were observed between 2002 and 2004, when the country was ravaged by outbreaks of hostility.

Since the signing of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement (OPA) on 4 March 2007, notable improvements have been observed in the overall trend of sexual violence. However, it remains a major concern in the country due to persistent traditional beliefs and practices, low public awareness about women's fundamental rights, and the low rate of prosecution of perpetrators. The political context is beset by the pre-election campaign in which women's organizations networks encouraged women to participate in the electoral process as candidates and voters and mobilized women to vote for women.

In addition, public opinion seems to be changing in Côte d'Ivoire's cities, tending towards support for women candidates as some voters contemplate the country's continued instability and the longstanding role of men in positions of power. One woman, a former Minister of Justice under President Houphouët Boigny and a former national President of the network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians, has registered as a candidate in the upcoming presidential election.

Who Seventy-eight women from civil society

Where UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) building, Abidjan

UN Leadership SRSG Young Jin Choi

“ *Implementation of the National Action Plan for resolution 1325 (2000) isn't effective mainly because of lack of funding and the fact that women are under-represented in all decision-making posts.* ”

Participant, Côte d'Ivoire Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The women of Côte d'Ivoire present at the Open Day expressed their major concerns as:

- Impunity, non-application of laws on sexual violence
- Violation of women's rights by security forces
- Rise of sexual violence since the beginning of the crisis
- Feminization of poverty
- Total lack of women in current mediation mechanisms and spheres
- Weak representation of women in spheres of action and decision-making relative to recovery and peace consolidation
- Under-representation of women in peacekeeping missions

To this address these problem, the women brought seven key requests to UN officials:

1. Ensure gender balance in the appointment of heads of peacekeeping missions
2. Support to the creation of a consultative body comprised of women leaders within mediation frameworks in Côte d'Ivoire (e.g., OPA, electoral commission)
3. Increase financial and technical support to women's organizations working on implementing resolution 1325 (2000)
4. More airtime on the UNOCI-FM radio station for women organizations and concerns
5. Regular publications by the UN on the status of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000)
6. Better protection of the population by UNOCI forces
7. Support for the creation of the Women's Lobby chapter for Côte d'Ivoire

UN Response

The SRSG asked for time to analyze the requests and promised a prompt response. Fatima Maiga, head of UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) Country Office, promised to do likewise and to report on the support UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) will be able to provide the women leaders in the short, medium and long term.

As a follow-up to the Open Day, the SRSB instructed UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) and the Gender Unit of UNOCI to further analyze the requests formulated by the women and explore ways to engage the UNCT and UNOCI to meet those requests. The SRSB committed to supporting women's organizations to better access existing funding schemes managed by UNOCI (e.g., microprojects and quick impact projects). To date, UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) and the UNOCI gender unit have organized meetings with UNFPA and UNDP to discuss their support for the requests made. Since June, the two organizations have supported a series of meetings between women's groups to prepare a follow-up event to the Open Day in the form of a workshop-exhibition to be held in September 2010. This workshop aims to amplify the concerns raised by the women during the Open Day as well as to showcase the *savoir faire* of Ivorian women's organizations in the area of women, peace and security. The workshop-exhibition will involve around 150 participants, including grassroots organizations from the field as well as youth and men as partners for the promotion of women's rights and empowerment.

Women in Côte d'Ivoire celebrate International Women's Day. UN Photo/Ky Chung 2005



Democratic Republic of Congo

Open Day | 10 June 2010



Context

Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo have experienced high levels of sexual violence as a tactic and as a consequence of conflict. Low levels of participation of women in peace negotiations has been observed through the decade, even in the latest 2009 peace talk. Congolese women were practically excluded from negotiations leading up to the 1999 Lusaka Peace Agreement. Only one woman was designated to participate in the preparatory meeting of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue in Sun City, South Africa. Less than 12 per cent of the delegates at the March-April 2002 diplomatic negotiations in Sun City were women. The number of women present in the formal negotiations would have been even lower if the warring parties had not come under pressure from the international community, particularly UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) and Sir Ketumile Masire, former President of Zambia and facilitator of the Congolese peace process.

Who: The Open Day event was chaired by His Excellency Olivier Kamitatu, Minister of Planning, who represented the Prime Minister. Other ministers present were those for Gender and Culture, and the Vice-Minister for budget. Other participants included all heads of UN agencies in DRC as well as bilateral aid agencies (USAID, DFID, DED, and GTZ), community leaders, the media, and representatives of women's organizations. Female leaders from eastern DRC were also enabled to participate.

Where: UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) headquarters, Kinshasa

UN Leadership: SRSR Alan Doss, DSRSG Fidele Sarassoro

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The priority areas of the DRC NAP and Programme d'Action Prioritaire are security, HIV/AIDS, women's rights, consolidation of the rule of law, international and regional cooperation, research, and monitoring and evaluation.

UN Response

The Open Day provided an opportunity for the civil society and the Ministry for Gender, Family and Children to present an itemized National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in DRC, and a *Programme d'Action Prioritaire* of the NAP with an annual budget of USD 48.7 million.

At this event, the Minister for Planning, Olivier Kamitatu, as personal representative of the Prime Minister. Minister Kamitatu, the Minister for Gender, Children and Family, the Deputy Minister for the Budget, and other members of government signed

the *acte d'engagement*, a solemn commitment of the government to the adoption and full implementation of the National Action Plan for resolution 1325 (2000). The signing of the *acte d'engagement* by the government is an assurance to civil society (members of which were authors of the document) that the government is committed to supporting the action plan through concrete measures, including:

1. Increasing the participation of women in decision-making on peace and security
2. Enacting and/or fully enforcing laws pertaining to the advancement of women, gender parity, and punishment for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Working Group on resolution 1325 (2000) showed that the total per annum cost of the *Programme d'Action Prioritaire* of the draft action plan stands at USD 48,743,101.

The Minister for Gender, Children and the Family called on all stakeholders to come together to ensure that the full implementation of the action plan constitutes a veritable enhancement of the role of women in the building of sustainable peace in DRC.

Speaking at the event, SRSR Alan Doss called on the government of the DRC to ensure the respect for gender-based quotas in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies, especially in domains targeted by the *Programme d'Action Prioritaire*, as a hallmark for the building of sustainable peace in the DRC.



Congolese women queue up outside the polling center in the "Muzipele quarter" in Bunia, Ituri, to cast their ballots in the second round of the presidential and provincial elections of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UN Photo/Martine Perret 2006

Guinea-Bissau

Open Day | 11 June 2010



Context

Since the political military conflict that took place from June 1998 to early 1999, Guinea-Bissau has faced many periods of political instability which have impacted women's status and human rights. This situation is worsened by the fragility of the justice system and its institutions, leading to a situation of impunity in the country. Sexual and gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages, are widespread. In the current government women occupy key positions, such as the Minister of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Minister of Interior, Minister for Economy, Minister for Women, Family, Social Cohesion and the Fight Against Poverty and the Secretary of State for Fiscal Affairs. Additionally the President of the Supreme Court and the Director of the Judicial Police are also women.

Who Representatives from NGOs, research institutions, the media, the National Committee Against Traditional Harmful Practices, and the National Commission for Justice and Peace, as well as the Ministers from the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; Interior; and Women, Family, Social Cohesion and the Fight against Poverty.

Where Bissau, United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) headquarters

UN Leadership SRSG Joseph Mutaboba, RC Giuseppina Mazza

“ Empower women in Guinea-Bissau to analyze the problems causing violence and conflict, find and propose their own solutions, and push all actors involved to implement relevant policies and programmes. ”

Participant, Guinea-Bissau Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

During the ceremony, the women leaders and peace activists delivered a message entitled “Partners for Peace: Women's Perspectives on Conflict Resolution,” which focused on issues related to justice and impunity, conflict resolution, conflict prevention, defence and security sector reform (SSR), human development and accountability.

In the document, the women analyzed how repeated political and military crises affect women, taking into account the widespread poverty, lack of employment and income opportunities for both men and women, creating additional burdens on women in their roles and an increase in sexual and gender-based violence. They raised their deep concern and frustration about the fact that women's views about the country's political crisis were rarely heard, be it in the analysis of its causes, in conflict resolution activities, or in peacebuilding and reconstruction. They emphasized the need to consider the concepts of peacebuilding with a more comprehensive and encompassing perspective, including the view of violence as a cycle that starts within the family and is spread to the community. They expressed the belief that, apart from the need to develop national dialogue and conflict resolution activities involving political actors, there is a need to build a culture of peace and dialogue based on truth and respect for diversity (in terms of gender, opinion, and ethnicity) that is taught in schools and in communities. They also reiterated the need to create more balanced and peaceful institutions, emphasizing that a greater number of women in the defence, security and justice sectors, would contribute to more peaceful institutions and would ensure that these respond to the specific needs of all segments of the population.

Participants had views and opinions regarding the current instability in the country, as well as the intervention of the international community. They discussed the fact that women's organizations don't have access to information about funds that reach the country and are not involved in deciding how these funds used. They described the need for more participatory and gender-sensitive analyses of the intervention of the international community. They also recommended that women themselves should more actively seek involvement and participate in decision making structures and peacebuilding processes.

Women representatives raised several issues regarding peacebuilding and conflict resolution, among other topics:

- Mechanisms of the United Nations to ensure justice should be based in Guinea-Bissau.
- Within the current context, what can the UN do to avoid possible conflict?
- What is the position of the UN regarding the constant violations of human rights?
- What security guarantees can the UN offer for those people or institutions that denounce human rights violations?

- What are the views of the SRSG with respect to SSR?
- What suggestions does the UN have for ensuring that a frank dialogue including women's views is conducted?
- What is the approach of the UN regarding gender equality in Guinea-Bissau?
- How can the UN help encourage greater political participation by women?

The women organized their requests into six categories:

1. Justice and Impunity

- Appeal to the government to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and request the international community's support so that the many cases of human rights violations and impunity in Guinea-Bissau can be brought before the ICC.
- Ensure the review and harmonization of the Constitution and the legal framework in general according to the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Reform the judicial system to ensure that justice is accessible, expeditious, effective and independent, and thus able to contribute to lasting peace, giving appropriate attention and providing services that respond effectively to the specific needs of women.

2. Conflict Resolution

- Initiatives on conflict prevention and resolution must take into account analysis of the causes of conflict since the national liberation struggle until the present date.
- Ensure the active participation of women in all stages of the process from the analysis through the resolution of conflicts, including initiatives for dialogue and mediation.
- The Peacebuilding Commission should be more comprehensive, representing all groups of society in the national dialogue.

3. Conflict Prevention

- A culture of dialogue should be promoted at all levels based on the criteria of truth, justice, legitimacy and inclusion (promoting participation from the top to the bottom).
- Encourage women's initiatives regarding the promotion of dialogue and a culture of peace in communities, *tabancas* (villages) and urban areas.
- Include aspects of education for a culture of peace, citizenship, human rights and gender equality in school curricula.
- Promote large-scale awareness-raising, education and information campaigns about the culture of peace, dialogue, conflict prevention and resolution, including in the family, schools, workplace and the political environment.
- Dialogue should be promoted at all levels in order to respect differences in ethnicity, gender,

culture, opinion, religious belief, etc.

4. Security Sector Reform and Defence

- Consult security sector during all phases of the reform of the defence and security sector to ensure ownership of the process.
- Ensure gender balance and gender-sensitive SSR.
- Ensure that all citizens, especially women, are informed and aware of all aspects of SSR.

5. Human Development

- Ensure the equitable distribution of public resources in order to promote social and gender equality.
- Ensure access to credit for women through financial institutions.
- Support initiatives that encourage autonomy and emancipation of women, in order to achieve sustainable development.

6. Accountability

- The international community must evaluate its efforts in a participatory and gender-sensitive manner, and evaluate the impacts of its interventions in Guinea-Bissau. It should take into account the results and analyze in depth the causes of instability and conflict, so as to provide more a effective and appropriate intervention.
- Greater awareness should be fostered among Guinean women about their own problems, from the analysis to the solutions; and greater ownership and synergy/cooperation of the different stakeholders' activities in finding solutions should be promoted.
- Ensure a minimum of 25 per cent participation of women in all mechanisms for peace and decision making at the national level, including the National Dialogue, the Steering Committee for SSR and the process of constitutional review.
- All the mechanisms mentioned above and those that will be created for achieving peace, development, social, economic, cultural and political development of the country, should be subject to consultation with gender experts from their establishment to their design and implementation.
- An enabling and favorable environment should be supported to promote greater participation of women in political parties and the government.

UN Response

The SRSG responded by highlighting the role of UNIOGBIS in the resolution of the current instability in the country, as well as in the pursuit of the compliance with human rights. He emphasized the need for determination and will from the national actors in order to solve the current instability. He reiterated the commitment of UNIOGBIS, recalling its commitment and activities undertaken in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), in ensuring a wide and effective participation of women in all its activities and in addressing specific gender issues, such as discriminatory practices, women's political participation and women's human rights. He specifically recalled joint support provided for the development of the NAP for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and the further commitment to ensure its full implementation through the creation of a national steering committee. In order to ensure women's views are integrated into all dialogue and peacebuilding activities, the SRSG proposed regular meetings, similar to the Open Day, with women leaders and peace activists in order to listen to their views and perspectives, and moreover to obtain their advice on how to optimize the SSR and peacebuilding. He insisted that it is everyone's responsibility to contribute to the peace process.

The RC mentioned the continued human development efforts by the UN Country Team and its support to the peacebuilding process. He said that the UN agencies, funds and programmes have been partnering with the government in its gender-sensitive legal review for compliance with CEDAW, as well as in the upcoming National Gender Equality Policy. Other areas

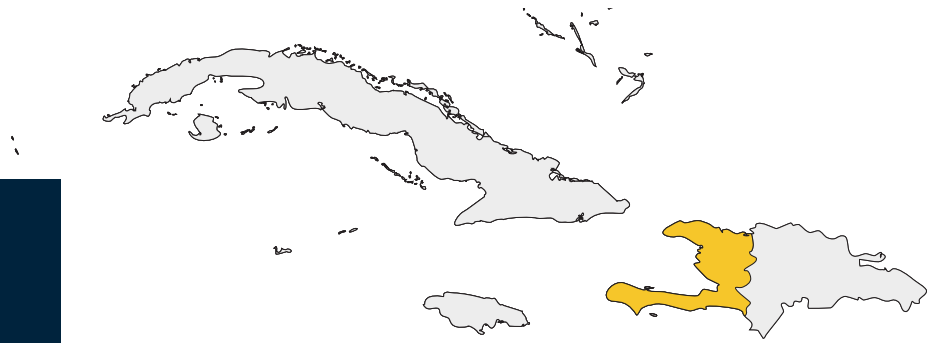


Open Day on Women, Peace and Security. Guinea-Bissau, 2010

of assistance have included the capacity development and sensitization of the Parliament and the Women's Political Platform; efforts to improve access to justice, for the poor and for women in particular, through legal aid clinics and in terms of the government's budget allocations to the social sector. An important exercise being conducted at present is the mainstreaming of gender within the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (DENARP II) process. Finally, the RC called upon the women peace activists and government representatives present to take leadership in pushing for these policies and initiatives and their implementation, reinforcing the commitment of the UN system to continue support to such national efforts.

Haiti

Open Day | 15 June 2010



Context

The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was established on 1 June 2004 by resolution 1542, to restore a secure and stable environment, to promote the political process, to strengthen Government institutions and rule-of-law-structures, as well as to promote and to protect human rights. Haiti was making significant progress towards stabilization and sustained economic development when a 7.0 magnitude earthquake devastated the country on 12 January 2010, leaving more than 230,000 dead, 300,000 injured, and more than 1,297,000 internally displaced. A series of aftershocks further complicate recovery operations and stabilization efforts.

The Haitian population was profoundly affected by this disaster. Many women are newly widowed and are required to take care of their families in crowded camps, without a principle breadwinner in the families. Lacking shelter and income, many struggle to meet immediate basic needs. There is an increased risk of violence within the population, which translates into increased violence against women. Poverty and desperation are acting as magnifiers of gender inequity in Haiti.

Who More than 50 women took part in the Open Day, including 11 representatives of women's organizations.

Where Port-au-Prince

UN Leadership SRSG Edmond Mulet

“ *It is critical to promote women's empowerment and to involve them at every stage of the reconstruction process.* ”

Edmond Mulet, SRSG Haiti

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

Following a week-long consultation process, women representatives submitted a document to the SRSG highlighting key concerns and recommendations, including the need to expand the scope of resolution 1325 (2000) agenda to include natural disasters; facilitate women's access to information in relation to the reconstruction process and humanitarian assistance; ensure that adequate attention is given to women's security concerns and that immediate action is taken with regard to the protection of vulnerable women and girls; and promote the immediate and full implementation of all 18 articles of resolution 1325 (2000).

Women requested that the following actions be urgently undertaken:

- Provision of security and safety for women and children
- Promotion of gender-sensitive resettlement programmes with a focus on dignity
- Increase numbers of female police officers in the Haitian National Police (HNP)
- Require that the medical examination of female police candidates is conducted by a female doctor
- Specific measures to promote women's participation in the forthcoming electoral process
- Establishment of an electoral gender monitoring mechanism
- Adoption of the list system to increase women's political participation beyond the minimum quota of 30 per cent

UN Response

During the meeting, the SRSG expressed his deep concern regarding the vulnerability of women following the January earthquake, the breaking down of family structures, the changes in gender roles, the increased exposure of girls to sexual abuse, and the increased level of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence. The SRSG encouraged women to engage in the reconstruction process and reiterated his personal resolve as well as the commitment of the UN system for full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in Haiti.

The SRSG assured the participants of his full support and made specific commitments, including:

- A high level advocacy and public awareness campaign on gender issues in Haiti
- Measures to increase the security of women and girls in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and increase the number of female United Nations and HNP officers patrolling IDP camps

- Promotion of women's participation in the reconstruction process; promotion of women's capacity building opportunities, through a gender programme in public universities and within the framework of the joint project sponsored by the Dominican Republic for the building of a new university in Haiti
- A meeting with women representatives once every six months to follow-up on the issues raised
- Promotion of women's participation in the electoral process
- Assurance that the women's recommendations would be forwarded to the UN Security Council

Bangladeshi all-female police unit arrives in Haiti. UN Photo/Marco Dormino 2010



Iraq

Open Day | 26 July 2010



Context

Resolution 1483 (2003) reaffirmed the Security Council's commitment to the creation in Iraq of a “representative government based on the rule of law that affords equal rights and justice to all Iraqi citizens without regard to ethnicity, religion, or gender.” Post-2003, the deterioration in the security situation in Iraq made it extremely difficult for the fulfillment of this commitment as the insurgency increased in size and force to every region of Iraq (except the Kurdistan Region), ushering an extended period of instability and insecurity. As the sectarian nature of the violence took hold, all layers of Iraqi society were impacted, especially civilians.

Women and children were often the victims of indiscriminate attacks, abductions, and physical and sexual assaults. Additionally, the climate of fear created by the insurgency made it particularly difficult for women to access basic services. The ability of the Government of Iraq to provide these basic services and protection to civilians was also extremely limited as government officials and infrastructure were (and remain) key targets of the insurgents. As a result, the early anticipation that Iraq's recovery and reconstruction would create new opportunities for women was only marginally realized.

Since 2008 the security situation in Iraq has improved dramatically to the point that there are now opportunities for access and promotion of the rights of women that were not previously possible. Even if major challenges remain as barriers to the establishment of the rule of law, there has been an increased participation of women in the political process with women currently making up 25.5 per cent of the Council of Representatives. However, while the violence has decreased, insecurity still limits the establishment of the rule of law and the development of civil society. Moreover, issues of gender based violence (GBV) remain to be addressed in most of the country, and female genital mutilation (FGM) is a serious problem in the Kurdistan Region. Until these and other factors are addressed, the commitment contained in resolution 1483 (2003) will not be fully realized.

Who Twenty-six women representing the government, the council of representatives, and civil society, including those in Kurdistan

Where Baghdad, with video link to Erbil

UN Leadership SRSR Ad Melkert

“ This morning’s inspiring discussion marks a crucial moment for the UN – to hear directly from Iraqi women who are taking the lead in addressing and advancing the role of women in society, whether through government or civil society. ”

Ad Melkert, SRSR, Iraq

Women’s Peace and Security Priorities

Women in attendance raised a number of issues of concern including political participation, engagement in peace efforts, protection, and institutional needs. All women expressed the importance of UN support to Iraqi women, and many commended the work of UNIFEM (now part of UN Women). However, they said this is not enough and that more efforts and resources are needed. They also commended the establishment of UN Women and asked that the new organization have a strengthened presence in Iraq.

The women requested the UN support in several areas including political participation and enhancement of women’s decision making roles, engagement in peacebuilding, supporting the State Ministry of Women’s Affairs (SMOWA) and the establishment of the higher commission for women, and in the areas of protection and violence against women, technical support, capacity building, advocacy, and economic security.



Voters exercise their constitutional right in Kurdistan region of Iraq. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas 2009

UN Response

The SRSG commended some key achievements that Iraq has made since 2003 despite having gone through a period of regression since 1980. These achievements include women's political participation and the inclusion of a 25 per cent quotas for the council of representatives and in the 2008 provincial elections. Today, Iraq has the highest ration of women to men in parliament of all the Arab states.

The SRSG also highlighted the UN's engagement in terms of training and economic development, and peacebuilding and advocacy.

The SRSG confirmed the willingness of the UN to consider and, where possible, support the recommendations highlighted at the meeting, in line with both the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq's (UNAMI) mandate in Iraq and resolution 1325 (2000). The SRSG also praised the efforts of SMOWA in advancing the role of women in Iraq.

The SRSG concluded that UNAMI and UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) will work closely to draft a framework to insure the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in Iraq. This framework is to address a limited number of achievable objectives based on the prioritization by the Iraqi women.

Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Kurdistan region of Iraq. UN Photo/Rick Bajornas 2009



Kenya

Open Day | 7 July 2010



Context

Despite a generally peaceful recent history, Kenya has witnessed intermittent conflicts. These have ranged from internal disputes between the diverse ethnic groups within the country to cross-border confrontations and spill over conflicts with various groups from other countries in the East and Horn of Africa.

A more recent conflict, fresh in the minds of Kenyans and the international community, took place after the announcement of the results of the national election on 29 December 2007. Electoral violence engulfed most parts of Kenya in 2005, killing nearly 1,000 and leaving hundreds of thousands displaced. Women were forced out of their homes, lost their livelihoods, and endured horrific atrocities including psychological and sexual violence. Many also faced a dearth of basic services, including medical services, safe shelter and humanitarian assistance, as many parts of the country were inaccessible. As a response to the conflict, the African Union, led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, led negotiations between the contesting parties and helped broker a power-sharing deal, resulting in peace.

Who Sixteen women and two men from civil society and community-based organizations

Where Sarova Stanley Hotel, Nairobi

UN Leadership RC Aeneas Chuma

“ *As I stand here today, please listen to me, as grassroots women’s voices are never heard at national level. I promise to take all that comes out of today’s meeting to the grassroots women. You always hear about issues from Mt. Elgon, Turkana, and Somalia, but you never see the women affected. Today you see that face and that face is me.* ”

Participant, Kenya Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

1. Simplification of resolution 1325 (2000)

Some of the pressing issues that were emphasized on the Open Day were the urgent need to demystify and domesticate resolution 1325 (2000) in Kenya. It was felt that the resolution is often used by NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the communities throughout the country, however people at the community level have difficulty comprehending it due to its complex language.

2. Lack of Ownership of National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 (2000) in Kenya

An important mechanism for translating resolution 1325 (2000) into reality in Kenya is through the creation of a National Action Plan. To ensure its full implementation it is imperative that Member States adhere to it and adopt its mandate by developing a National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000). It is also very important that the development, implementation and monitoring of the NAP encompasses full participation of all actors, namely CSOs, the government, academia, international organizations and other stakeholders, to ensure relevance and importance. The creation of a NAP in Kenya would provide space to consult with stakeholders, analyze the various stages of conflict, and initiate strategic actions that would result in better chances of achievement of sustainable peace and development. Without a NAP women will not be guaranteed inclusion and representation—or protection—during conflicts and in times of peace.

3. Capacity Building of Women and Leadership

Lack of capacity greatly hampers women's ability to effectively address issues of gender equality and women's empowerment, and discourages them from participating in politics and decision making processes. Therefore it is essential that women improve their capacity in order to effectively engage in politics and lobby for the implementation of international conventions and resolutions on women, such as resolution 1325 (2000).

4. Cultural Barriers

The Open Day discussions underscored the importance of engaging with local structures and traditions in order to foster peace within local communities. Traditionally, women, especially in rural Kenya, continue to be disadvantaged as a result of the patriarchal society that places more importance and value on men. Cultural customs and lack of formal education in rural communities has denied women the ability to participate in politics, decision making roles and peace processes, even though they have relevant information that could prevent and mitigate conflict in a community. Therefore,

existing ideologies and cultural biases need to be altered to allow women to participate and vocalize their concerns on issues that affect them.

5. Language Barriers

Participants noted that in many instances, the inability of women in rural communities to communicate in English served as a major roadblock to addressing gender issues and has prevented many of them from participating at high-level forums taking place in the capital and elsewhere, due to fear of condescension or being misunderstood.

6. Credibility

According to participants, women are able to tell when tensions and conflicts are rising within a community; however, authorities disregard their intuitions and warnings. Since women are agents of peace, their integral role in early warning and conflict prevention needs to be acknowledged.

7. Lack of Protection

The absence of security and protection of women was cited as a challenge. Women from urban and rural communities stressed their fears of the State authorities, indicating that they often experienced extreme violations of their rights, including sexual violence and arbitrary arrest. One participant said that a young woman in her village was raped, and when she reported the case to the police, the officer responded by saying, "Why are you complaining now? He is no longer on top of you!" There is an abundant need to address national institutions that engage politicians to ensure positive change, accountability and the protection of women's rights. The failure of security institutions to protect women is seen as a major setback to their advancement, especially since women speaking out on gender issues incur the risk of violence from their community members and authorities. Therefore, it is essential to create safe spaces where women are not intimidated and can speak about their experiences and freely share sensitive information.

8. Lack of Representation at National Level

Women tend to be more engaged at the local level in Kenya, rather than at provincial and national levels. For this reason, the work and efforts of the women at the grassroots level are not properly recognized or celebrated. For instance, grassroots women in Kenya have mediated conflicts in rural/pastoralist communities, preventing them from growing to full-fledged ethnic conflicts. These women have proven to be formidable agents of reconciliation across ethnic divides, and yet they are not provided a platform to discuss such issues, especially at the national level. According to one participant from Pokot in western Kenya, the only time women at the grassroots level are acknowledged by those

at the national level is when members of Parliament visit rural communities seeking votes. Women in Kenya and worldwide should not be viewed as passive recipients of development, but rather as active participants ensuring social justice, good governance and gender equality. It is imperative that women's issues and needs (strategic and practical) are addressed and that viable solutions are put forward by various actors and stakeholders such as governments, women's organizations, women leaders and civil society at large.

9. Women Not Representing Women

Furthermore, women at grassroots level felt that there is a major disconnect between those at the community level and those at the urban/national level. They questioned who the national-level women are representing, why a similar disconnect does not seem to exist among men, and how it can be overcome. The participants recognized that women in leadership positions do not always represent the views of local women. Rather, they carry out their own agenda or instructions they receive from their political parties, and therefore are not sensitive or willing to advocate for the women's agenda in the country.

10. Documentation and Information Sharing

A key issue commonly reiterated by the participants was the importance of documentation, information sharing and networking. Women felt that possessing high quality information on existing women's networks and a better understanding of what is happening in the field is crucial and would be greatly beneficial. It was noted that much is done on the ground at grassroots level which is not known at national level. Women's plights worldwide are similar; therefore, documentation and cross-learning are vital to allowing the flow of knowledge and information demonstrating the wide variety of experiences, struggles and achievements of women. Networking, information sharing and cooperation between local, national and international actors are also vital.

11. Exclusion of Youth

The urgent need to eliminate inter-generational gaps and to include youth was highlighted during the Open Day discussion. It is imperative to engage the youth in peacebuilding since it is the youth who tend to pick up arms when conflicts arise. Participants felt that young women are not represented or allowed to speak out about issues affecting them: In particular, young women are not invited to peace talks, even though they suffer profoundly in conflict. Hence, it is essential to create space and platforms for the youth to speak, as they have valuable contributions to make and should be viewed as peacemakers rather than deterrents to peace.

UN Response

In his opening remarks, RC Aeneas Chuma noted that “women and girls continue to suffer in every continent, country and culture,” but despite their victimization women play a key role in conflict prevention, reconstruction, and peacebuilding. Therefore it is imperative that women are acknowledged as active agents of peace. Moreover, he cautioned that unless international organizations, governments, civil society enhance the rights and responsibilities of women, many of the policies objectives and goals that exist will remain unachievable or unsustainable. As such, it is the responsibility of development partners and governing bodies to take the necessary action and install monitoring and accountability measures to ensure the protection and inclusion of women in conflict resolution and peace processes. He stressed the need to hold forums such as the Open Day more regularly to consult with women on the ground, and that the recommendations from these forums are incorporated in policy decisions in Kenya.

The Finnish ambassador, Heli Sirve, and the Chairperson of the National Commission on Gender and Development, Dr. Regina Mwatha, acknowledged recommendations provided by the participants who stressed the urgent need and importance of developing a National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000) in Kenya. The Government of Kenya reiterated its utmost commitment to support the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), through the twinning partnership with Finland, through consultations with key government ministries and institutions, civil society, the media, youth and academic institutions to develop the NAP by the end of the year. Dr. Mwatha concluded by saying “Kenya is our nation, and therefore we must develop it together.”

On the issue of small arms and the disarmament processes, the Coordinator of the National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, David Kimaiyo, shared with the audience the process of mainstreaming gender into programmes, policies, and frameworks as well as strategies that take gender issues into account. He also reiterated the importance of including and training more women in security organs and peace committees such as the District Task Forces. Mr. Kimaiyo also emphasized the role women play in conflict management and prevention, and cited the North Eastern Province as an example of success.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC), Patricia Nyaundi, started by recognizing the TJRC mandate, which specifies and requires the commission to look into gender issues and violations against women and other vulnerable groups. The TJRC has committed itself to investigating violations against women through continuous consultation with vulnerable groups throughout the country. She also stressed the importance of incorporating, consolidating and factoring in the work women in Kenya have already done thus far when developing the NAP, reinforcing the importance of documentation and information sharing at all levels.

The former deputy of the TJRC, Betty Murungi, who is also a prominent human rights activist in Kenya, stressed the need to stop referring to Kenya as an “Island of Peace” but rather encouraged Kenyans to speak out on the failures of governance that have led to deep-rooted conflicts in the country. Furthermore, she echoed the problem of the absence of women’s involvement in conflict management, peacebuilding, and the security sector.

UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) Country Programme Manager Zebib Kavuma spoke about the importance of using resolution 1325 (2000) and other international instruments to demystify crucial gender issues and work together to come up with viable solutions that promote a common agenda. She acknowledged the need to stop “hearing” about the resolution 1325 (2000), and rather “feel” the attributes of the resolution, by advocating for secure environments in which women demand and exercise their rights peacefully. Women should not only remember and refer to the resolution in times of conflict, but at all times, ensuring women’s participation and representation in decision-making processes, she said. It is imperative for women to address their issues collectively, irrespective of title, education, age, or social and ethnic background, as the challenges they face remain the same.

Taking note on the wide range of issues and recommendations provided by the participants, UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) took it upon itself to consolidate and document the impact of conflict on women in Kenya and the work that takes place on the ground by grassroots women. Furthermore, UNIFEM promised to simplify, translate and disseminate resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

Lebanon

Open Day | 2 August 2010



Context

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was created by the Security Council in March 1978 to confirm Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, restore international peace and security, and assist the Lebanese government in restoring its effective authority in the area. The mandate was adjusted twice, due to the developments in 1982 and 2000. Following the July-August 2006 crisis, the Council enhanced UNIFIL and decided that in addition to the original mandate, it would, among other things, monitor the cessation of hostilities, accompany and support the Lebanese armed forces as they deploy throughout southern Lebanon, and extend its assistance to help ensure humanitarian access to civilian populations and the voluntary and safe return of displaced persons.

Generally, Lebanon is a country that is characterized by a volatile political atmosphere in which religious sects play pivotal roles. Gender power relations and gender roles have inevitably been shaped by this reality. Women, peace and security issues in Lebanon and in Southern Lebanon (UNIFIL area of operations) are the following: women's political participation, women's representation in the decision-making processes, women's participation in conflict resolution and peace agreements, violence against women, landmines and cluster bombs as risks for women and children and women's access to psychological health services.

One recent political development was the local elections held in weekly stages up to the end of May 2010. Of the 1,770 local council seat candidates, only 120 were women, and of 458 *mukhtar* (village chief) candidates, 71 were women. In the end, women secured 20 *mukhtar* positions, representing 28.17 per cent of victories. At the local councils the women won 27 council seats, with 22.50 per cent of victories. However, the women in the UN mission's area of operations have won more than the proposed 20 per cent quota during these local elections, proving that the quota system could be of great advantage to the Lebanese women in national elections as well as local elections in other parts of the country.

Another outstanding issue for the Lebanese women's movement is the right of women to give their nationality to their children and husbands. Lebanese law prohibits Lebanese women married to foreigners from granting their nationality to their husband and children.

In Lebanon, the compulsory education of children is until the age of 12. However, it is insufficiently implemented in a way that discriminates against girls, resulting in a high illiteracy rate among women in rural and poor areas. In addition, internally displaced and refugee women and girls (Palestinian and Iraqi) remain particularly marginalized in accessing education and other services.

This Open Day was the first-ever meeting between women's groups from civil society and the leadership of the mission in UNIFIL area of operations.

Who Women activists and women from civil society

Where United Nations House, Tyre

UN Leadership RC for Southern Lebanon, Mohammad Mukallid and UNIFIL Deputy Force Commander (DFC) and Deputy Head of UNIFIL, Brigadier-General Santi Bonfanti

“ *This is a unique opportunity for the women in Southern Lebanon to inform the Secretary-General and the Security Council about their demands and concerns. A wide range of advocacy and lobbying work have to be done by the Lebanese women's NGOs and other civil society groups to make sure that the voices of the women of Southern Lebanon are heard.* ”

Participant, Lebanon Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The women of Lebanon identified eight priority issues, including specific proposals and requests.

- Women's groups have asked the UN for support in their effort to have a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). The NGOs asked for both technical and financial support to enable them have a National Action Plan. They asked the UN to put lobby the Lebanese Government to support and accept the National Action Plan once it is prepared.
- The government and other organizations should acknowledge that women experience conflict differently from men. Gender-sensitive needs must always be monitored and addressed, and more attention must be paid to the psychological and maternal health of women.

- Women play important roles in conflict resolution; empowerment of women on skills pertaining to conflict resolution and peacebuilding should be a priority in enhancing peace efforts.
- UNIFIL's role can be enhanced by integrating more women into its force, which will allow for more effective communication with the local communities, particularly local women.
- UNIFIL and other UN agencies are asked to support local women to access the decision making processes in the mission's area of operations, whether in development or in peacebuilding.
- Women should be empowered through training and other means of capacity building to raise their self esteem and enhance their capacities for public speaking in order to publicly address the issues that impact them.
- Women are seen as weak as long as they are financially dependent. The economic assistance provided by UNIFIL is based on consultations with municipalities that in theory (but do not always) account for women's needs. Women in attendance suggest that UNIFIL communicate more with women and help them directly through projects which enhance their economic status.
- Few women's NGOs are active in the mission's area of operations. Most of these NGOs are not aware of each other which in turn hinders their networking and cooperation. Therefore, it is suggested that a mapping of these NGOs by a central body in the south, such as the UN, will give them more visibility as well as the opportunity to access support, collaborate and network among themselves. They will then be able to work as a pressure group to further the women's agenda in Southern Lebanon.

UN Response

The outcomes of the preparatory meeting were communicated by one of the female civil society participants to a panel composed of UNIFIL DFC and the RC, in the presence of the UNIFIL Gender Advisor.

The DFC reiterated the UN's unwavering commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality, quoting various UN instruments including resolution 1325 (2000). He added that UNIFIL is doing and will do all it can as long as it falls within its mandate to enhance women's status in Lebanon, especially in the mission's area of operations. He insisted on the fact that UNIFIL is heading towards an era of gender mainstreaming and this meeting is the second step, after the establishment of the gender unit in UNIFIL. The DFC explained that all the issues, concerns and recommendations identified will be taken seriously.

The RC informed the women's NGOs that since its establishment, the UN House in Tyre has worked hard within its financial and human resources to involve local women in various projects, especially through women's agricultural cooperatives. He also asked the women participants to express their needs and have a voice in their communities to show their status and concerns.

The DFC and the RC emphasized the commitment of both UN entities to ensuring the realization of resolution 1325 (2000), in collaboration with all stakeholders including the Lebanese government and the civil society organizations in southern Lebanon.

A Lebanese woman stands in the ruins of conflict. UN Photo/Mark Garten 2006



Liberia

Open Day | 8 June 2010



Context

In September 2003, the Security Council adopted resolution 1509, establishing the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) with the aim of keeping peace after the country's protracted war. Liberia has made great progress since then. A functioning legislature and public institutions have been established, and a woman was elected President. Police are being trained and deployed across the country, school enrolment is increasing, health facilities at national and community level are being strengthened, and roads and bridges have been constructed or re-built. However, many social and economic challenges remain for Liberia as the country prepares for elections in 2011. Of particular concern are sexual and gender-based violence, which continues unabated, and gender disparities and imbalances, which are found in every sphere of life in Liberia.

Although the government has adopted progressive gender-related policies and frameworks in the last few years, gender inequality and women's marginalization in Liberia is sustained by systemic barriers as well as traditional and religious perceptions of women and girls. Gender biases and discrimination in society manifest themselves in high incidences of gender-based violence, persistent abuse of women's rights, high school drop-out rates among girls, teenage pregnancies, women's excessive poverty, low female representation in public and political spheres, and extremely heavy workloads on women in ensuring the family's subsistence. These elements all contribute to limiting women and girls' effective participation in peacebuilding, reconstruction and development initiatives.

Who Twenty-five Liberian women leaders and activists

Where Angie Brooks International Centre, Fendall Campus, University of Liberia

UN Leadership SRSG Ellen Margrethe Løj

“ *There is no doubt in my mind that the adoption of resolution 1325 in October 2000 was a landmark event in peace, security and development. I urge women leaders to involve young women and men in the process of promoting sustainable peace and security in Liberia. All stakeholders including the media need to implement effective strategies towards changing the mindsets and attitudes of SGBV perpetrators.* ”

Ellen Margrethe Løj, SRSG Liberia

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The Liberian women in attendance said it is critical that the UN and the Government of Liberia recognize women's role and contribution and provide adequate resources and opportunities for women's full, equal and effective participation at all levels in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. This should include adequate national and international support and funding to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, to implement gender-sensitive security sector reform, and to strengthen peacebuilding efforts.

In preparation for the Open Day, with the support of UN Gender Theme Group, the women held two planning meetings during which they discussed the key priority issues and challenges for women's peace and security in Liberia. Given the critical nature and magnitude of these challenges, the meetings unanimously identified the following three areas of concern:

1. Sexual violence
2. Peacebuilding
3. Security sector reform

The women also identified the specific actions required to be carried out under each of the three critical areas:

1. Sexual violence

Liberian women demand that the UN:

- Invest its energy and mobilize the necessary resources to bring an end to sexual violence. Specifically, that the UN continues to support nationwide awareness raising programmes to stop sexual violence in Liberia, and to support and strengthen justice sector institutions in all counties to improve women's access to justice.
- Continue to support the government in strengthening its existing structure at national and sub-

national levels including Criminal Court E (a special court in Liberia has been set up to only try SGBV cases), the SGBV Crimes and Women and Children Protection Units WACPs of the Liberia National Police.

- Continue providing support to organizations involved in HIV/AIDS work, especially organizations working with women and men living with HIV.
- Provide support for the establishment of hot lines in all counties to enable victims to report incidents of sexual violence.
- Provide increased support to vulnerable groups, particularly in rural areas through multi-sectoral response programmes including education and economic opportunities.

2. Peacebuilding

The women urged that the UN continue providing support to enhance women's participation in peacebuilding initiatives and to ensure that those initiatives are fully aligned with women's needs and concerns. In particular they demanded that the UN:

- Provide support to women to undertake activities on reconciliation including peer group discussions at all levels as a means to strengthen the healing process and improve community cohesion.
- Continue to support the government with public awareness raising program on wealth and natural resources management.
- Continue to provide support to augment community policing programmes and enhance women's participation, linking it to early warning systems and structures (the ECOWAS Early Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN) model can be used—a system developed in partnership with West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Liberia (WANEP) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
- Provide increased support for civil society capacity-building in the areas of documentation, research, and gathering of best practice on conflict resolution.
- Invest in the establishment of the proposed Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reparation Trust Fund.
- Provide a forum for Liberian women to benefit from the presence of female police personnel and units at the UN.
- Provide financial support to long-term programming and initiatives to include civic education on peacebuilding at all levels.

3. Security Sector Reform

The women of Liberia demand that the UN provide support to and collaborate with security sector institutions to ensure that the implementation of SSR is informed by gender equality principles. In that respect the women call for the UN to:

- Assist the government to ensure that special measures are taken to meet a quota of at least 20 per cent women staff in security sector institutions.

- Strengthen its collaboration with government agencies to ensure that community-based security committees prioritize and respond to the needs and concerns of women.
- Continue to advocate for sex-disaggregated data gathering and sharing exercises in the security sector institutions to monitor women's increased involvement in the sector.
- Continue to advocate and provide support for institutionalization of a robust monitoring mechanism in the security sector as a means of tracking the progress of women.
- Continue to collaborate with the government to facilitate special relocation packages and incentives for relocating to leeward counties and to ensure that the women receive the same package as men.
- Continue to engage with the government to review and revise policies and codes to ensure compliance with resolution 1325 (2000), CEDAW and other international and national instruments on women's rights.
- Collaborate with the government to ensure that allegations of sexual harassment and abuse within the security sector are duly investigated and the appropriate measures are taken— 'zero tolerance' for sexual violence must be fully institutionalized.

UN Response

A number of UN agencies and UNMIL sections are engaged with government entities and providing assistance in the areas of peacebuilding, security sector reform, strengthening rule of law and justice sector institutions, and combating sexual violence. The UN family will continue to provide technical support and assistance to augment government's response in those areas.

A follow-up forum with the 25 women leaders and the SRSG will be organized in the next six months. The forum will focus on the security sector in Liberia in order to share on progress and gaps.

The UN Gender Theme Group will continue to engage with civil society women's groups to create space and opportunities for them to participate in and benefit from UN system investments in women's peace and security.

The UN system will continue to be guided by the Liberia National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000) and CEDAW in the reconstruction and development programmes it supports and implements.



The thirty-third class of police officers of the Liberian National Police (LNP) participate in a graduation ceremony. UN Photo/Christopher Herwig 2009

Nepal

Open Day | 11 June 2010



Context

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in November 2006 by the Government of Nepal and the Maoists following a decade-long internal conflict. The conflict was rooted in discrimination and exclusion in a highly hierarchical society undermining women and marginalized groups. Women took active part in the conflict and had a strong voice through civil society organizations and activists advocating for peace, but also faced, and continue to live with, the impact and consequences caused by the armed conflict. In spite of their active role, women were largely excluded from the formal peace negotiations; however, the CPA is explicit in recognizing gender equality, social inclusion and human rights as important elements of achieving lasting peace. Following the introduction of a new quota system, the Constituent Assembly election in April 2008 resulted in women being elected to one-third of assembly seats.

The peace process in Nepal is not yet complete; the challenges ahead include the integration and rehabilitation of the Maoist army and addressing transitional justice, areas where women's concerns need to be taken into account and their voices heard. Women's concerns in Nepal are not only related to the peace process, which were also reflected in the presentations made on the open day that covered relief and recovery, protection and justice, governance, participation, and funding.

Who Thirty women peace activists, including members of the Women's Caucus of the Constituent Assembly.

Where Centre for Constitutional Dialogue, Kathmandu

UN Leadership Representative of the Secretary-General Karin Landgren, and Acting RC Gillian Mellsop

“ *The decade of conflict in Nepal has had a disproportionately negative effect on women, but at the same time, women have emerged as important strategic partners for building peace.* ”

Participant, Nepal Open Day

Women’s Peace and Security Priorities

During the Open Day, representatives of the participating women’s groups said, “the decade of conflict in Nepal has had a disproportionately negative effect on women, but at the same time serves as a model for women’s involvement in government. Women in Nepal demanded that women’s rights were reflected in the CPA, the Interim Constitution, and the Electoral Law. (...) The country’s women are determined that the new Constitution will respect diversity and gender equality.”

These achievements have not been won without struggle. As Constituent Assembly members present said, “Top level decision-making to resolve the constitutional crisis and to organize the reintegration process continues to be the domain of elite male party leaders. The political party system must be reformed to allow women to rise up the ranks to top leadership. If there are no women in a decision-making forum like the Special Committee for Reintegration, women must demand at least an observer status and the opportunity to brief the members of the committee.”

The participants also stressed the need for better access to justice, reparations, and income generation opportunities as key requirements for strengthening women’s participation and inclusion.

There is a 1325 ‘filter’ on the UN-managed peacebuilding fund. The Peace Support Working Group which is part of Gender Theme Group of UNCT Nepal developed a guideline for screening funding proposals from a gender and resolution 1325 (2000) perspective. At the Open Day meeting, Nepali peace activists advocated for the adoption of a similar guideline for the Nepal Peace Fund administered by the Government.

UN Response

Speaking at the opening of the event, acting RC Gillian Mellsop said, “this event will break a new ground for women, peace and security.” She added that “the UN will engage with representatives of women’s groups from all over Nepal to hear the concerns of women and to discuss and explore how to increase women’s participation in sustainable conflict resolution, peacemaking and peacebuilding and transform the development process into a gender equal one that delivers for women.”

RSG Karin Landgren also commented, “the fact that Nepal’s Constituent Assembly is composed of 33 per cent women is a national as well as a regional and global achievement.” However, she noted that “there is an absence of women in powerful decision-making positions, and a proportional level of women’s participation is not reflected in other elected or appointed government bodies or in the political parties,” explaining that improved representation would result in great benefits for women in particular, and for the country in general. Nepal is facing an important opportunity to lay the foundation for sustainable peace by addressing social injustice, including gender inequality. Landgren called on the women leaders and activists to seize this opportunity and to continue their important work in advancing women’s participation at all levels of peacebuilding, thereby ensuring that monitoring of the peace process includes a gender perspective. The UN system stands ready to support these important initiatives, she said.

80-Year-old Nepalese woman participates in historic elections. UN Photo/Nayan Tara 2008



occupied Palestinian territories

Open Day | 12 July 2010



Context

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict continues after 60 years of violence. The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine (2 November 1947) recommended the partition of the territory into two states, one Jewish and one Arab, with the Jerusalem-Bethlehem area under special international protection administered by the UN. Key events in the history since 1947 include the 1967 war between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria, resulting in Israel's capture and occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip (together labeled the occupied Palestinian territory, or oPt). In 1967, Israel established a military administration to govern Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The history of the protracted occupation, waves of violence including the Palestinian collective uprising (the first and second intifadas), and more recently, internal factional divisions within the oPt between the Hamas and Fatah groups, deepen the complexity of the current situation faced by women and girls in the oPt. Gazan women and girls face particularly salient challenges living as they do in a humanitarian crisis created by a blockade resulting in the heavily restricted movement of goods and people across the border of the Gaza Strip.

Who Twenty-one women leaders from grassroots organizations working in Gaza on democracy, human rights, youth empowerment, legal services, support for people with disabilities, maternal and child care, women's leadership, psycho-social health services, and media and communications.

Where UNRWA (The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) Gaza Field Office

UN Leadership UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Mr. Robert Serry, Director of UNRWA Operations in the Gaza Strip John Ging, and Inés Alberdi, Executive Director of UNIFEM (now part of UN Women)

“ *This meeting is very important for Palestinian and Gazan women in the sense that it gives us a chance, though besieged, to address the Security Council and call for a concrete and full application of resolution 1325 (2000).* ”

Participant, oPt Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The participants of the Open Day focused on four key priorities of Palestinian women living under occupation and facing dire humanitarian conditions caused by the sustained blockade of goods and people into and out of Gaza:

1. Supporting Women's Political Participation in oPt

With the factional split and the freeze of the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006, efforts to promote women's political participation, including supporting women to play an active role in peacebuilding, negotiation, and decision making processes, drastically decreased, and initiatives to advocate legal reform in favor of women's rights were greatly hindered. Though women are in leadership roles within the Palestinian Authority and the de-facto authority, they are often excluded from strategic meetings and decision making processes and are absent in the internal political reconciliation process (most recently the Egyptian initiative). Significant gender discrimination exists in family and criminal law.

The Gazan women in attendance proposed:

- International support for Palestinian internal political reconciliation and an end to the siege on Gaza to create the conditions necessary to promote women's active political participation and support legal reform in favor of women's empowerment.

2. Addressing the Increase in Domestic Violence and all forms of Violence against Women

The continuous blockade (which entered its fourth year in June), deteriorating political and economic conditions, and the last Israeli military operation 'Cast Lead' in the Gaza Strip have all led to an increase in the incidences of violence against women in an environment with weak or absent protection mechanisms.

There are several layers of violence for Gazan women, including domestic violence in its various forms and the political violence perpetuated by the occupation and by Palestinian factions. Operation Cast

Lead alone resulted in 800 new widows, many of whom face legal problems related to child custody, inheritance, and forced marriages. Internal violence resulting from the Palestinian factional split affects women and girls in different ways. Women face increasing restrictions on their freedom, from pressure to conform to a particular interpretation of Islamic uniform, to harassment and interference with the activities of women's organizations.

The toll of this violence on Gazan women's psychological health remains largely unaddressed in part because service providers tend to focus on the needs of children; women are treated as mothers rather than as individuals with problems of their own.

The Gazan women propose:

- A coordinated civil society intervention to combat and reduce domestic violence assisted by international support to end the occupation and achieve Palestinian political reconciliation.
- The mandate of resolution 1325 (2000) to protect women in conflict was not implemented during the military operation 'Cast Lead'; United Nations agencies must provide protection mechanisms for women and girls in oPt, including Gaza.

3. Supporting the Economic Empowerment of Women

The imposed siege on the Gaza Strip has resulted in alarming levels of poverty and unemployment with nearly 80 per cent of Gazans living on less than USD 2 per day. Recent studies conducted in the Strip suggest that poverty is prevalent among women heads of households, related to women's typically lower access to and control over resources. Increasingly, women are assuming an active role in securing an income in the public sphere, an initial indication of shifting gender roles; however, the state of economic collapse in Gaza has made it very difficult to secure an income, whether through regular jobs or small enterprises, so that women tend to accept domestic work and other types of jobs that they would normally decline.

Women are affected by the so-called "tunnel trade" (meant to undermine the blockade) and its consequences: high prices weakening Gazans' purchasing power and making the poor even poorer. They also suffer from the overall policy of donors and UN agencies to support emergency projects and initiatives, to the detriment of long-term sustainable development efforts.

The Gazan women propose:

- Women's economic empowerment is a prerequisite for women's political empowerment. Women cannot participate in peace- and statebuilding while they remain needy and poor. Support for women's access and control over resources will enable women to effectively pursue other strategic gender needs including greater participation in decision- and policymaking.

5. Raising Awareness on Humanitarian Impact of the Occupation and Blockade on Women and Girls

The Gazan women called on the UN to raise awareness of the gendered impact of the occupation and blockade, specifically highlighting effects on education, health, domestic life, disability, and home stability:

- Because of the siege, women and girls are unable to join universities or other forms of formal and informal education outside the Gaza Strip. The factional split and the teachers' strike have all lowered the quality of education given to girls at school.
- Most women patients – even the seriously ill – are prevented from seeking treatment outside of the Gaza Strip. Higher percentages of women are suffering from anaemia because of malnutrition and poverty. After the latest war, there were reported cases of miscarriage, fetal deformation, and unwanted pregnancies (because no contraceptives were available).
- The siege has increased the amount of domestic chores for women. At times, the absence of fuel obliges women to use non-traditional methods to start a fire and prepare a meal. The disruption to daily life caused by continuous electricity blackouts places an additional stress on women.
- The number of disabled women significantly increased after Operation 'Cast Lead'. In addition to other challenges, disabled women are marginalized by the community and often face stigma and exclusion from their families when seeking rehabilitation services.
- In light of the continued ban on construction material into Gaza, women who lost their houses and are still living in temporary houses or with relatives, and continue to be at greater risk for domestic violence and all forms of violence.

UN Response

Special Coordinator Robert Serry emphasized the importance of the interrelated factors contributing to Palestinian women's access and influence in political decision-making, and their overall physical and psychological well-being in occupied Gaza. He encouraged the women to speak out about playing a role in the internal Palestinian reconciliation processes and assured the participants that he would support all efforts to end the internal divide. The Special Coordinator committed to recognize the outcome of Open Day in his next monthly Security Council briefing.

UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) Executive Director Ines Alberdi and UNFPA Deputy Executive Director Mari Simonen acknowledged the important role women must play in the resolution of the conflict. They affirmed their support for the women's efforts to highlight and address the needs of women in the oPt, and the specific challenges facing Gazan women, and called for practical steps to implement all the principles of resolution 1325 (2000).



Pakistan

Open Day | 15 June 2010

Context

The ongoing complex crisis and hostilities in Pakistan have added to the sufferings of the Pakistani people, especially women. Though the gender perspective has been integrated in some aspects of UN peacekeeping operations, much work still remains to be done especially in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. A great level of sensitivity is required to ensure peacekeepers worldwide act in a gendersensitive manner, preventing all forms of SGBV, and facilitating women's participation in daily life.

Pakistan is the largest contributor of troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations globally. Support to the Government in the implementation of resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) reinforces the significance of gender awareness as a basis for the successful design and implementation of all post-conflict work being carried out by the UN. This will also further guarantee women's human rights and implementation of CEDAW.

Who Women activists, academics and representatives of CSOs. Observers included representatives from the government (including the Ministries of Women Development, Defence, Interior, and Foreign Affairs), military training institutes, the UN, donor agencies, and media.

Where Islamabad

UN Leadership Special Envoy for Assistance to Pakistan Jean Maurice Ripert

“ *We don't want to make conflict or crisis safer for women. We want to stop these altogether!* ”

Participant, Pakistan Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The women of Pakistan as represented at the Open Day say more efforts are required in conflict and crisis prevention/transformation, and they see continuing crises in the present and future. These have to stop, they say, and this must be done in partnership with women's civil society organizations,

through inclusive peacebuilding processes and structures. They wish to see women, civil society organizations and other stakeholders establish civic forums to hear everyone and include women in the process of negotiating and sustaining peace from the early stages.

They also want:

- Protection of women, including zero tolerance for sexual and gender-based violence. State institutions must not condone such crimes and at the same time must ensure protection of victims that choose to come forward. Strategic planning to reduce sexual and gender-based violence should be standard practice, just as planning for food and shelter is already standard practice.
- Gendered budgeting for recovery, in areas such as health needs, rehabilitation, shelter, roads, and education. There is a gender dimension to each sector affected by crisis and therefore a need to ensure that women are consulted (i.e., included in assessment teams) to paint a full picture of the different needs of women, men, girls and boys.
- Capacity development of institutions responsible for rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as peacekeeping and security sector on gender, women's empowerment and peace. These include the government (both national and local), the military, NGOs, donors, community-based organizations, and others.
- The Government of Pakistan must give priority attention to women's social, political and economic well-being in the rehabilitation phase following armed conflicts and military operations.
- Leadership should partner with women and girls by letting them navigate cultural paths. More humanity and understanding is needed of why men and boys get involved in violence and what can be done to dissuade them. Women know their communities best and it is important that they are involved in solutions, decision-making and the peace processes. A national-level response is necessary for tackling rapid radicalization of youth.
- Gender sensitivity should be standard practice across all UN agencies. Sex-disaggregated analysis and reporting of situations and use of indicators should be standard practice. Being gender-sensitive, addressing women and men is not optional but essential to all development, peace and security.
- The UN must stress the responsibility of member states to ensure education of citizens and institutions around the significance of all UN resolutions that require compliance.
- Development of a comprehensive National Action Plan for resolution 1325 (2000) as well as provincial action plans with sound monitoring and reporting mechanisms is urgently needed. This is to be incorporated in the revised National Plan of Action for Women and linked to CEDAW and other instruments. Civil society organizations are to be considered an integral part of all these efforts, from planning to monitoring and evaluation.
- Linkages should be strengthened between the Women's Caucus of Parliamentarians, women's groups and civil society organizations and Pakistan's mission to the UN in order to further enhance incorporation of gender-sensitive measures and effective monitoring and reporting on resolution 1325 (2000).

- The Government of Pakistan should have a comprehensive data collection and research system to assess the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, including links to existing mechanisms such as the SAARC Gender Information Base and other national systems.
- Strong advocacy for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and integration of gender perspectives, and active participation of women and civil society in peacebuilding processes, is needed. Easy-to-understand information and advocacy packages should be developed in local languages and disseminated widely through an effective communication strategy.
- Awareness raising campaigns on the importance of women's involvement in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction as well as the impact of armed conflict on women and girls with attention to involvement of youth (boys and girls) need to be developed and implemented.
- Local, national, regional and international policy formulation and peacebuilding processes must involve women's groups.
- Regional and international forums and networks of women need to be created for lobbying and advocacy.
- A fair, transparent and efficient system of trial for terrorists needs to be introduced so that citizens of Pakistan have faith in the future, and that the world recognizes that it is a transparent and responsible country.
- Comprehensive capacity building and sensitization of media on the various aspects of resolution 1325 (2000) (e.g. participation of women in decision-making, peace processes and peacekeeping operations, protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, and prevention of violence against women).

UN Response

Pakistan has shown commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment and is working towards ensuring gender equality through the Ministry for Women's Development, the National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, and the Women Development Department (WDD) in the provinces, and through specific commitments such as the National Action Plan and implementation of CEDAW.

Special Envoy Jean Maurice Ripert was appreciative of the opportunity to engage with women on the issues outlined in resolution 1325 (2000).



Senegal/ West Africa

Open Day | 8 June 2010

Context

Although the West African region is still experiencing political and social instability, a number of countries in the sub-region have embarked on the path to peace. Several countries started electoral processes that shall lead to presidential elections through 2010 and 2011. CSOs, as well as women's groups, are taking advantage of these electoral processes to make their voices heard and to demand the fulfillment of gender equality commitments made by their governments. In fact, governments are increasingly being called upon to translate the provisions of CEDAW and resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) into daily realities for women Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, for example are at various stages of drafting and implementing their national action plans on resolution 1325 (2000).

The United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) has been supporting synergy-driven initiatives in the sub-region and the development of regional strategies. In April 2009, UNOWA and its partners facilitated the establishment of a working group on peace and security in West Africa (April 2009), gathering ECOWAS, UN entities, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and several active international, regional and national CSOs in West Africa. The publication of a 'Directory of Human Rights and Gender Organizations in West Africa,' launched in February 2010, also serves as a tool to further promote human rights and gender mainstreaming as part of the peace and security agenda in West Africa.

Who Women leaders from civil society, academia and politics, as well as the African Commission on Human and People's Rights

Where Dakar

UN Leadership SRSG for West Africa Said Djinnit

“ *The regional conference planned by UNOWA for September 2010, will undoubtedly provide an opportunity to form strong alliances among state and non-state actors, bilateral and multilateral organizations and for a full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in West Africa.* ”

Said Djinnit, SRSG West Africa

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

- More accessible language to popularize resolution 1325 (2000)
- Increased resources to implement resolution 1325 (2000) in West Africa
- Technical support to link resolution 1325 (2000) with other national, regional and international instruments affecting women, peace and security
- A means of evaluating progress on resolution 1325 (2000) in West Africa
- Incentives for the UN and other international institutions to implement the resolution
- Increased representation of women in peacekeeping missions
- Increased representation of women in electoral processes, which are often sources of conflict
- The integration of resolution 1325 (2000) in domestic policy
- Support for research into best practices to implement resolution 1325 (2000) in other regions
- Capacity-building for women on conflict resolution and conflict management

UN Response

“This meeting is aimed at brainstorming on ways to accelerate the implementation of this groundbreaking resolution in West Africa in order to enable women to fully participate in peacemaking and peacebuilding in the sub-region,” said Maxime Houinato, the Deputy Regional Director of UNIFEM (now part of UN Women).

SRSG Said Djinnit welcomed progress made in this regard, including the creation of the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in West Africa in April 2009 in Dakar. However, he stressed the importance of continuing to support the efforts of ECOWAS, Mano River Union, governments and civil society to translate all the different aspects of this resolution into reality at the national and regional level for the benefit of the population of the sub-region.

To this end, the SRSG announced a regional conference in September 2010 to identify challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in West Africa 10 years after its creation.

“The message of the Secretary-General of is very clear,” SRSG Djinnit said, “sustainable peace is possible only with women's full participation. Their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace.”

Sierra Leone

Open Day | 8 June 2010



Context

In 2002, Sierra Leone emerged from a ten-year civil war characterized by mutilations, rape, sexual slavery, forced labor, and the destruction of lives and property. Women constituted the majority (51.3 per cent), yet they are only very slightly represented in government and decision making bodies. At the local level, 18.9 per cent of councillors are women, while at the national level there is only one female minister out of a total of 24 in the cabinet, while 13 per cent of deputy ministers and 17 of 124 parliamentarians are women.

The women's peace movement was excluded from the Lome peace accords signed on 7 July 1999 in spite of having shown remarkable personal bravery – and some loss of life – in standing up to rebel leaders in Freetown, thus precipitating the talks themselves. Today, the Chief Justice is a woman, as is the chief electoral commissioner.

Gender discrimination remains pervasive and is often sanctioned and reinforced by traditional and cultural practices, including the 'culture of silence' Gender-based violence is increasing, with a high number of reported rape and wife battering cases at the Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police Force. In rape cases where perpetrators were charged, few were convicted while many of the cases were unduly delayed with serious implications.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) has been working in collaboration with UN agencies, international and national NGOs and civil society groups to address issues related to gender-based violence and women's empowerment.

Efforts have been made by state and non-state actors to address the high illiteracy rate among women, which often accounts for their low participation in governance and other decision-making positions. Adult literacy programmes are currently available nationwide, while a series of affirmative actions have been taken to enhance girls' education.

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) was established by resolution 1829 on 4 August, 2008. The UN Security Council mandate to UNIPSIL involves both political and development activities.

Who More than 600 women in addition to high-level government leadership, including the President of Sierra Leone, Ernest Bai Koroma, in two related events: Open Day and the launch of a NAP; the Minister of MSWGCA Dr. Soccoh Kabia; and the Chief Justice Umu Tejan-Jalloh

Where Freetown. A march was held from Victoria Park to the conference hall, including women from the security forces (police, prisons and army), civil society organizations, and girl students from at least seven schools, all led by school marching bands.

UN Leadership ERSG Michael von der Schulenburg

“ *I am now a displaced refugee in my own country. Why is it right for my brother to (run for elected office) but wrong if I do? Is it because I am a woman? Please help me.* ”
Participant, Sierra Leone Open Day

Women’s Peace and Security Priorities

Participants reiterated the meaning of peace and security for women, referring to it as freedom from fear, the ability to provide food, access to medical care, the right to an education, women’s protective laws, equal justice before the law, and economic empowerment. The women organized their concerns into the following four categories: violence against women, education and support of the girl child, constitutional law and review, and resource mobilization and allocation.

1. Violence Against Women

Sierra Leone ratified CEDAW in November 1988 and is a signatory to the Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa among many others international and regional normative frameworks. Although the constitution clearly states that no law should discriminate against any person because of gender, in practice women continue to face structural discrimination under all three types of law which coexist in Sierra Leone (English, Islamic and customary law).

Gender-based violence remains an endemic problem throughout Sierra Leone. The situation is compounded by acute poverty amongst women, high rates of illiteracy, lack of protective laws on violence against women and girls, and the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as tactics of war and weapons intended to dehumanize. There is also a new dimension to the problem, which

is trafficking of girls and women to cities for prostitution. The issues are surrounded by a culture of silence and impunity, and the range and complexity of these factors make it a difficult task to address by women and government alone. The women at the Open Day recommended the UN encourage the Government to:

- Facilitate the process of establishing fast track courts for the prosecution of violence against women and children in all four regions of Sierra Leone by December 2011. In 2009, according to an International Rescue Committee report, of 4,000 gender-based violence cases, only 17 were successfully prosecuted.
- In collaboration with the MSWGCA, upgrade the gender laws to assure effective implementation by developing strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms of the justice system as they relate to access to justice for women.
- Timely access to trial dates, without which women's activists are unable to monitor the case to make sure justice is rendered.
- Training for judges, magistrates, police, prisons personnel, and traditional and religious leaders on the laws pertaining to violence against women by June 2011.
- Awareness raising campaigns on the rights of women, in the local languages.
- Free and easy access to medical facilities.
- Strong monitoring mechanism of the justice system.
- With respect to resource mobilization and allocation, advocacy alongside with MSWGCA and key stakeholders for:
 - » Free, accessible medical services, including X-rays and lab tests
 - » Establishment of forensic testing facilities and regional referral pathways
 - » Completion and strengthening of safe houses for survivors of SGBV
 - » Legal aid for survivors of violence

2. Girl Child Support and Education

In many rural communities in Sierra Leone more than two-thirds of adolescent girls who enroll in primary schools do not complete their studies because of poverty and traditional beliefs that do not encourage education for girls.

- The Government of Sierra Leone once made a pronouncement for free tuition for primary school-going children, but this effort was paralyzed by the 10 year civil war that left public and private institutions destroyed, as well as huge resource constraints on the part of parents to provide other essential school materials for the children. Parents living in rural and war-ravaged communities

can hardly access equal opportunities to send and keep their children in school, and this has had negative effects on women and girls.

- Another major educational challenge faced by the country is the plight of young women (between the ages of 18 and 25) who are single parents and/or major breadwinners. The majority of these women were displaced by the war and suffered different forms of SGBV. These young women either did not have access to formal education or were forced to drop out of school. The DDR process provided the opportunity space for some of them to enroll in skills training schools, but a larger number of those who graduated from these vocational training schools remain unemployed or underemployed. In most cases, their trainings were either rushed or not tailored to meet the demands of the market.
- Also alarming is the high incidence of teenage pregnancy and sexual exploitation and abuse in schools.

Actions and responses requested by women attending the Open Day include:

- Discuss adequate resources for the educational system pertaining to girl child education, scholarships and fees with Ministry of Education and other stakeholders including UNICEF.
- Discuss with the Ministry of Education the enforcement of the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Code of Conduct in schools.
- Continue support for a campaign on education for the girl child, e.g., provision of effective scholarships for study of girl child education at the secondary level and university levels, increased government budgets and spending on girls' education, and introduction of gender-aware curriculum development and teaching.
- Through the UNCT, provide support and training for out-of-school girls to start/expand their own businesses and become empowered.

3. Constitutional and Law Review

Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims the validity of human rights “without distinction of any kind.” In Sierra Leone’s Constitution, the rights of women have not been specifically mentioned, however, it can be inferred to from the general constitutional provisions that seek to protect and promote the rights of all persons.

Contrary to this, the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone goes on to make specific mention of a number of labels that are used to draw arbitrary lines between peoples largely on the basis of sex/gender, which in some cases remains the most pervasive sources of social injustice. For instance, subject to the provision of subsection (4), (5) and (7) of the Constitution, no law shall make any provision which is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect. However, subsection 4 contains so many provisos,

exceptions and qualifications as to render the whole section meaningless.

Women at the Open Day felt that many of the country's laws are archaic, overburdened and discriminatory in themselves and their effects against women. Lack of legal protection for women's rights limits and undermines efforts to enhance peace and security for women and the nation at large. It is time to review these laws entirely, the Open Day participants said. The Government started the constitutional review process, but this process has stalled.

The women of the Open Day had several suggestions. They want support from the UN to help in their effort to restart and fast track the constitutional review process. In particular, the women asked the UN to advocate for a Constitution that respects the human rights of women and girls and to support it on the condition that it respects and protects women's rights through mechanisms like the quota system, provisions for women with disabilities, and gender-responsive electoral laws. Further, the women asked for help to open and maintain dialogue with parliamentary committees on human rights, gender and children's affairs, and with the attorney general for the harmonization of the statutory and customary laws to ensure gender sensitivity. Finally, the women asked the UN to advocate for quotas to increase women's participation in decision making positions and representation at all levels -nationally and internationally- as promised by the President.

4. Resource Mobilization and Allocation

Funding of gender equality and women's empowerment programming in Sierra Leone has been insufficient. To address this, the women who attended the Open Day requested:

- Direct support for women's economic recovery through the establishment/expansion of women's enterprises.
- Support to increased budget allocation and spending to a minimum of five per cent for women and girls with a goal of increased gender spending across all line ministries.
- An expansion of the Peacebuilding Fund's gender marker system and encouragement of UNCT to make gender-specific budgets. UN expertise to the MSWGCA in terms of gender budgeting should be extended to other ministries, and to the UN and donors should be encouraged to have gender-responsive spending.
- Support to adequately fund the full implementation of the National Action Plan on resolution 1325 (2000) and to integrate it within the Agenda for Change and the 'UN Joint Michael von der Schulenburg Vision.'
- UN funding to women's organizations and NGOs to train men to understand that supporting women actually supports men.

UN Response

The President of Sierra Leone launched a National Action Plan on resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) at an event hosted by the MSWGCA in collaboration with UN agencies, women's groups and non-governmental organizations. The plan includes a budget and concrete indicators to monitor implementation. It focuses on five different pillars – participation, prevention, prosecution, protection and promotion – and identifies 18 priority areas.

ERSG Michael von der Schulenburg received women peace advocates for a consultation on their concerns regarding peace and security. These included the importance of access to justice, economic empowerment and respect for women's human rights.

The Chief Justice was also present at the event, and as a number of issues pertained to justice for women and access to justice, she invited the women presenters to a later meeting to discuss solutions.

The Minister of MSWGCA also made very encouraging statements on how trials on rape need to be changed, such as having them moved from traditional court jurisdiction ruled by customary laws, which let off rapists with fines), to formal court jurisdiction.

Gladys Brima at the Open Day preparatory meeting at UNIPSIL in Freetown, June 2010



Somalia

Open Day | 9 June 2010



Context

The Transitional Charter produced through the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)-led national reconciliation process in 2004 requires that 12 per cent of parliamentary seats in Somalia should be held by women. However, women occupy only eight per cent. Puntland has nominated five women in its parliament of 66 members, and in Somaliland, only two of 350 local councillors elected in 2003 were women and only two women were elected to the 82-seat House of Representatives in 2005.

Despite rampant abuse of women's and girls' human rights, minimal efforts are being made to redress and end impunity for perpetrators and war criminals in Somalia. Young men and boys are forcefully recruited into militia, while young women are forcefully married or coerced into sexual activity and in some cases into non-armed service of militias. Further, constriction of women's mobility in south-central Somalia curtails their ability to earn income and feed their families. Traversing both short and long distances can expose women to attack, limit access to livelihoods and to income-generating activities, including restrictions on women's participation in cash-based response aimed at alleviating the impact of the emergency on food supply, and access to social service delivery.

Adult illiteracy in Somalia is close to 80 per cent. Of those who are literate, women constitute about 13 per cent. Lack of health services together with practices such as female genital mutilation worsens the health situation of women and girls. One in every 12 women runs the risk of maternal mortality. The lack of information about acceptable family planning and inability to influence the size of the family has meant that the birth rate remains high at 44 births per 1,000 people each year. Increasingly, women are targeted for clan-related reprisals and attacks yet comprehensive and dependable data on the extent and magnitude of these violations does not exist.

Women often go unrecognized as stakeholders in the conflict and are not therefore engaged in recovery and peace initiatives. Where women have been involved, the attempt to include them has been generally below minimum representation. The exclusion of women from discussions of peace and security has also meant that issues of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), domestic violence and sexual harassment in public places have remained absent from the mainstream discourse on

security. This exclusion also undermines the government's and social systems' ability to understand the link between women's experiences of violence and insecurity and the violations of their social, economic, political and civil rights.

Consistent efforts to simplify, publicize and demand accountability on provisions on resolution 1325 (2000) remain insufficient. The tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) is however welcomed as an opportunity to further disseminate the provision into different, especially rural, areas of Somalia as well as seek clear commitments by the UN, government and other actors on practical actions that will translate into meaningful change for Somali women.

Who Approximately twenty women and three men (members of the 'partnership for peace') gathered for a preparatory meeting, and these participants were then joined by approximately 10 to 15 more Somali women as observers and active audience members during the Open Day meeting with UN officials.

Where Somalia Support Secretariat offices, Nairobi, Kenya

UN Leadership SRSO Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, and the RC and Humanitarian Coordinator, Mark Bowden

“ *We know that women's participation in the peace process remains a challenge in Somalia, but the results of this consultation are very important because they will accelerate the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).* ”

Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, SRSO Somalia

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

Somali women presented prepared statements on a range of issues, including sexual violence, female genital mutilation, displacement, maternal mortality, lack of access to basic means of survival, early and forced marriage, and education for girls. Common to all the statements was concern about the exacerbation of already high levels of violations of women's rights, as a result of the weakened state of law and order in Somalia and the spread of extremism.

Despite the prevailing conditions, the women strongly emphasized that they were not simply victims, but resilient survivors who daily risked their lives to stand for their rights and the rights of their fellow Somali women. They called on the international community to acknowledge and support their efforts by including them in equal measure in relief, recovery and development processes.

The Somali women also cited as an example the issue of gender quotas in parliament, observing that these hard-won, and still minimal, quotas have not been adhered to by the current Government, yet little pressure has been exerted by the international community on the Government to fulfil these obligations. They further emphasized the need to enshrine women's rights in the new constitution. The women committed themselves to establishing a task force on resolution 1325 (2000) in Somalia, in order to raise awareness and push for the adoption of a comprehensive National Action Plan on its full implementation.

UN Response

SRSO Ould-Abdallah noted that resolution 1325 (2000) was an important recognition by UN Member States that the full participation of women was vital to the restoration of peace and security in countries recovering from conflict. Although often spoken of only in terms of their vulnerability during conflict, women, and Somali women in particular, are a powerful group and critical partners for the success of any peace process. In spite of their heavy cultural, social and economic burden, women are able to direct their energy towards peacebuilding efforts. They have been awarded many international prizes in recognition of their valorous roles. He urged those who have not yet embarked in these peace efforts to join in. He finally wished the participants very constructive discussions in order to accelerate the implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000).

Due to the political unrest threatening the collapse of the Transitional Federal Government and Transitional Federal Institutions and the peace process, the SRSO had to leave the Open Day function to attend unplanned and emergency high-level negotiation meetings. Senior UNPOS officers remained to represent him and to report back.

In his opening remarks, RC Bowden said that there were few countries in the world where UN resolution 1325 (2000) was as important or as relevant as Somalia, and that the prioritization of women's rights could not wait until the end of conflict. He spoke of UN efforts to further gender justice in Somalia, in particular to increase the number of women in the police force and reform the security and justice systems to deal with sexual violence, as well as the increased emphasis on gender in the current UN country strategy.

The Minister of Environment for the Transitional Federal Government urged women to expose and highlight the structural violence and inequality that underpinned and led to the conflict, including in particular gender inequality.

The initiative to start a task force was welcomed by the RC, who committed to working through the UNCT to explore how the task force might be supported.

Sudan

Open Day | 10 June 2010 in Khartoum



Context

In 2005, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), ending over twenty years of war between the mainly Muslim Arabized North and the mainly Animist and Christian South. The prolonged conflict resulted in over 2 million casualties and displaced more than 4 million Sudanese. During the war, women and girls were particularly affected by lack of health and social services, food shortages and forced migration. Large numbers of mine and mortar related injuries caused widespread disability, thereby exacerbating the burden of care for many women and girls. Southern Sudan remains one of the least developed regions of Africa, with few health services or educational opportunities for women and girls. After a few years of relative stability, cattle raiding, inter-tribal fighting and general lawlessness have increased since 2008, creating an unsafe environment for women and girls and impinging on their already scarce livelihood and educational opportunities. However, women secured twenty five per cent of seats in the 2010 parliamentary elections mandated by the CPA. The Southern Sudanese will have the opportunity to vote in a referendum for secession in 2011. While many Southern Sudanese are eager for self-determination after half a century of on and off war with their Northern neighbors, the apparatus of the nascent Southern State may not have sufficient capacity to offer protection for women and girls in the context of increasing insecurity.

In October 2006, the Government of National Unity (GONU) and the Eastern Front (EF) signed a peace agreement, ending thirteen years of low level insurgency in Eastern Sudan. Gender relations in Eastern Sudan are amongst the most restrictive in the region, with women in some areas not allowed to go out in public and with near complete sex-segregation common in several areas. Nonetheless, women from Eastern Sudan attended the Open Day to voice their concerns and priorities for the recovery and development of their region.

The current political environment of Darfur is marked by some encouraging signs, and yet the overall situation remains volatile and complicated. In 2009, Darfur mediation adopted a civil society approach to anchor the process on a solid ground and provide substantive foundation for the peace negotiations and encourage belligerent parties to engage in the peace process. Informal consultations

with parties were complemented by an expanded engagement with Darfurian civil society, through extensive consultations with CSOs, native administration, internally displaced persons, and youth and women's groups. Women comprised at least 25 per cent of civil society representatives during the preparatory consultations in Darfur and at the Inaugural Conference of the civil society track in Doha. As a result, the final declaration and the recommendations from the Inaugural Conference have integrated provisions addressing gender issues in conflict and post-conflict situations and advancing gender equality objectives, including: (a) adoption of measures to ensure a minimum of 25 per cent women representation in all levels of power; (b) no less than 30 per cent women representation in ongoing civil society consultations in support of the peace negotiation; (c) provision of individual and collective reparation and compensation to victims, taking into account women's active participation in the process; and (d) justice and reparation for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and serious crimes such as rape.

Slow overall implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) has impeded progress on the agreement's gender-specific measures, though bodies to conduct implementation have been formed. High-level initiatives on women and peace are complemented by parallel efforts to increase women's participation in governance at the community level. Women leaders at some IDP camps have received training on leadership, government advocacy and native administration, and response to gender issues in communities. At the policy level, the North State Committee on resolution 1325 (2000), a mechanism created through the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur's (UNAMID) technical assistance, reached a decision to review existing policies on native administration with the aim of increasing women's participation in traditionally male-dominated community decision-making.

In 2009, significant developments in the political and conflict context in Darfur defined the level of impact of UNAMID's initiatives towards achieving gender equality in the region. The Mission's contribution to providing immediate protection and assistance to victims of gender-based violence was hampered by the expulsion of 13 international NGOs in March 2009, with their continued absence undermining the coordinated protection work with UNAMID and UN agencies. Reporting and verification of SGBV cases, an essential part of protection, was also hampered by the increased incidence of denials of access by parties to the conflict in areas of reported clashes. On the upside, the changing operational context called for more sustainable strategies that put emphasis on protection through local initiatives and ownership, strengthened engagement with state institutions, and advocating for structural changes (e.g., increased women's voices in the peace process, governance and decision-making). The revitalization of peace negotiations and the launching of the civil society track was a positive move towards a more structural approach to addressing protection needs. The events of 2009 showed that protection and empowerment of the vulnerable are indeed inseparable concepts.

Sudan held a national election in 2010 for the first time in 24 years, a major development in the country's

political life. On 20 May 2010, the National Elections Commission announced the parliamentary results for the general elections. Of the 67 per cent of eligible voters in Darfur who registered for the elections in December 2009, slightly less than one-half actually voted. It is understood that participation by IDPs was limited and that security issues also limited voting possibilities in areas controlled by non-signatory armed movements.

The election results show that there are fewer women elected officials than in previous years. Of the 500 elected members of parliament, 25 per cent are women. Women are 14 per cent of the council of states; 10 per cent of the appointees in the national government are women, as are 6 per cent of cabinet ministers, and 14 per cent of state ministers.

Sudan hosts two peacekeeping missions, the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and the AU-United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) to monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) respectively. (There is another peace agreement for eastern Sudan.) Peace talks, between the government of Sudan and Darfur rebel groups, have been held intermittently in Doha over the last two years while the country readies itself for a referendum of self-determination in Southern Sudan.

A joint UNMIS-UNAMID Open Day was held in Khartoum.

Who Forty women came from the three States of Darfur representing various affiliations such as civil society, the internally displaced, nomadic communities, armed movements, and state governments. The Darfur Open Day was a culmination of four preparatory meetings held at sector-level (i.e., Sectors North, South and West, and Sub-Sector Zalingei) where some 120 women gathered for a one-day workshop to gain knowledge of the resolution, assess its impact at the local level, identify challenges in implementation, and propose strategies to accelerate its effective implementation.

Where UNMIS headquarters, Khartoum

UN Leadership UNMIS was represented by DSRSG Jasbir Singh Lidder; UNAMID was represented by the senior Gender Advisor, chief of the Gender Advisory Unit Yegerawork Angagaw, and Executive Director of UNIFEM (now part of UN Women) Inés Alberdi.

“ *We have taken enough of the brunt. Now it is time for us, the Darfur women, to struggle and stand up against the discrimination and marginalization. Let's make our voices heard and show that we have the courage to bring change in the society.* ”

Participant, Sudan Open Day

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

The women at the Open Day expressed concern that despite the passage of resolution 1325 (2000), much remains to be done ten years later. They offered comprehensive and holistic recommendations on women's roles in conflict prevention and resolution, covering topics as diverse as alternative fuels and de-mining activities, and strongly demanding that UN join in their advocacy for a minimum of 30 per cent female participation at all levels of decision making, from peace negotiations to DDR commissions. They further called for a national mechanism for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

The women established four areas of focus: participation, protection, conflict resolution, and promotion and implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

1. Participation

- Women's participation and representation must be increased in all peacebuilding processes as well as international peacekeeping missions, UN agencies, and international organizations. The UN must work on the establishment of a women's track in mediation and peace negotiations for effective and concrete representation of women at the negotiating table. Women's direct dialogue with parties to the conflict is essential.
- Additionally, there should be an increase the number of women in all sections and components of UNAMID as well as an increase the involvement of women in state judicial and police institutions. It is suggested that a ratio be set for equal representation of women and men in decision-making positions.
- Last, provisions should be strengthened in the Constitution of The Sudan on increased women's political participation.
- Meaningful and effective support for requiring women's representation and participation at least 30 per cent at all levels of decision-making.
- Inclusion of women in local peace initiatives, native administration and traditional conflict mechanisms, and inclusion of women in referendum and popular consultation commissions.
- UN funding for education for girls.

2. Protection

- Enhanced protection of women and children in conflict areas.
- Provision of technical expertise to government to enable it to respond effectively to SGBV, and support to government to ensure proper storage of retrieved small arms.
- The establishment of a trust fund for the economic empowerment of women as well as the initiation of sustainable income generating projects for women in Sudan.

- The creation of women's forums and committees to develop security plans and means to ensure implementation.
- UN support of alternative fuel initiatives to reduce women's exposure to rape and other crimes.
- The creation of women's forums/committees that will develop security plans and ensure implementation.
- State provision of security, protection and other services to women who are internally displaced and those returning voluntarily as IDPs and refugees.
- The Ministry of Health to assign specialists on gynecology and obstetrics to various localities.
- The strengthening of the State's role in implementing laws that protect women and their dignity.
- International organizations support to national organizations in the provision of services to women.
- Establishment of more committees composed of civil society organizations to combat violence against women.
- UN establishment of team sites in conflict areas, particularly those under the control of armed movements, for the protection of women and children.
- UNAMID to provide protection for its staff and then to civilians.

3. Conflict Resolution

The UN should advocate for Darfur women to have roles in the monitoring of implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and subsequent agreements. Help is also needed to ensure that peace agreements contain a provision establishing a gender commission and ensure institutions for implementation. A mediation team is necessary to prioritize security arrangements for women and children during peace negotiations.

4. Promotion and Implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000)

- Advocacy for the ratification of CEDAW by the Government of Sudan.
- Development of a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), involving all local community groups including IDPs.
- UN support to Sudanese women to visit other countries with successful experience on resolution 1325 (2000) to learn from best practices.
- Appointment for a Special Envoy for Gender Issues in Darfur.
- Provision of support to the government to embark on a massive dissemination of resolution 1325 (2000). The UN is also requested to establish a mechanism at state and federal levels of the government for the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Civil society organizations must be part of this mechanism.
- The capacity of government (particularly referring to the Legislative Councils and the National

“ Today is not only a symbolic day, today rather presents an opportunity for us, as UN senior representatives, to listen to your concerns and needs; and to renew our commitment to you in supporting the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

”

Jasbir Singh Lidder, DSRSR Sudan

- Assembly) must be strengthened to implement resolution 1325 (2000), and resolution 1325 (2000) should be translated to local languages and disseminated to communities. The UN should conduct awareness-raising activities on resolution 1325 (2000) with women's groups and launch related programmes as well as awareness-raising workshops in the camps to educate community elders on resolution 1325 (2000). Working groups should be established at regional and international levels to publicize resolution 1325 (2000) in which various methods (e.g. drama, song) can be incorporated into awareness-raising campaigns, particularly targeting rural women and those living along borders.
- A number of groups should be established to ensure the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), including a voluntary group to follow up on the implementation of the resolution on the ground, civil society organizations to pressure those responsible for implementation, and women's alliances to push for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) (in addition to the UN and human rights activists closely monitoring and advocating for implementation). Mechanisms should be established in all localities and regions for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and an operational strategy should be developed for the implementation of the resolution by the state.
- It is critical that funds for the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) are made available and for UNAMID to further assist in its implementation. UNAMID must have greater access to remote localities to facilitate this. UNAMID should also expand support to women's groups.

UN Response

Responses to the key messages were provided by UNMIS, UNAMID, UNIFEM (now part of UN Women), and UNDP.

UNMIS responded that it had already taken initiatives including support for the development of gender and demobilization guidelines to ensure a gender-responsive DDR process; advocacy to ensure the effective participation of women in the referendum in the South and the popular consultations in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states. Lastly, UNMIS welcomed similar Open Day meetings and hoped this was the beginning such dialogues with the women of Sudan.

In his speech, DSRSGLidder said that ten years after the adoption of the resolution much remains to be done and that the recommendations provided by the women of Sudan were a testament to that. UNMIS will continue to make efforts to ensure that their concerns will be taken into account. Further he said that the realization of the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) requires the support, will and commitment of all stakeholders; the government, civil society representatives, regional organizations and the UN.

Women rehearse for a peace and reconciliation performance in Sudan. UN Photo/Fred Noy 2006



Tajikistan/ Central Asia

Open Day | 25-26 June 2010



Context

The women of Central Asia witness and suffer from ongoing, unresolved or unrecognized conflicts and war. They are excluded and deprived of opportunities to fully and equally contribute to and participate in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding, especially at the decision-making level. In some countries, they have witnessed the increasing trend of using murder, rape, and kidnapping of women and girls as a tactic for promotion of radical fundamentalist values and denial of women's human rights. Further, these women are witnessing an escalation of terrorism, criminalization, militarization and violence against women and children. These trends, along with poverty and deprivation, are also contributing to the growing recruitment of women and children into the perpetration of violent crimes.

Who Women from Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan and Tajikistan, including peace activists, refugees and former military servants, as well as representatives from the Tajik Parliament, academia, labor unions, OSCE office and the UNHCR, UNFPA and UNDP offices in Tajikistan.

Where UN Conference Hall, Dushanbe

UN Leadership Tajikistan RC Michael Jones

“ We are here today to listen to the voices of women from different countries of the region and to come to a common vision on what should be done to translate women's priorities into practical and efficient actions to promote peace and security in the region, and to strengthen the position of peace activists seeking justice for women and more inclusive peace processes.

Michael Jones, RC Tajikistan

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

Participants in the cross-regional consultation were determined to bring their voices together to support the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the global, regional and national levels. Like women of other countries, the women of Central Asia who attended the Open Day are deeply concerned with low representation of women in the UN peace missions and dialogues. They are concerned with the lack of steps taken by the UN and Member States to ensure women's quality participation in formal peace processes. These women of Central Asia believe their potential and contribution to peace and security goals are unrecognized and undervalued.

According to the women, resolution 1325 (2000) will not be implemented until a clear accountability mechanism in the form of a mandatory reporting on the implementation is introduced by the UN Security Council. Therefore, they called upon the Security Council to be responsive and persistent in its efforts to link women and girls' human rights concerns to the global peace and security agenda. Such an accountability mechanism is crucial for bridging the gap between international norms and standards, including global political commitments, and the realities and actual implementation of the resolution and experiences of women on the ground. Mandatory reporting will foster the creation of an enabling environment and institutional mechanisms to acknowledge and utilize women's potential. It is highly important to continue the work on indicators as tangible tools for measuring achievements and failures.

The women at Open Day shared the following vision for the improved implementation of resolution 1325 (2000):

1. Accelerate implementation of global policy commitments to promote the women, peace and security agenda at regional and national levels, and, in particular, urgently address violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations. Increase funding and other needed support to establish relevant mechanisms aimed at improving women's contributions to peace and security issues;
2. Intensify efforts to prevent potential conflicts, using all possible means, including people-to-people diplomacy, and urge governments to elaborate National Action Plans on women, peace and security in cooperation with civil society. Support the indicators suggested by the Secretary-General in his report on women, peace and security submitted to the Security Council in April 2010 (S/2010/173), and request the Security Council to endorse these indicators. Urge Member States to introduce the indicators into planning and programming at the national level.
3. Require more accountability in the implementation of international humanitarian law in situations of conflict to protect civilians, particularly women and children, from all types of violence, including sexual violence, and for increased prosecution of war crimes through national and international judicial mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court.

4. Enhance application of existing international norms, standards and commitments (CEDAW, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Beijing Platform for Action, Millennium Development Goals, etc.) at the regional and national levels for protection of human rights of women and children in the times of peace and war.
5. Support women's dialogues, including through women's people-to-people diplomacy initiatives, involving women from conflicting sides and reaching out to women in conflict areas across the ceasefire lines.
6. Immediately establish special women's advisory bodies within existing cross-regional international organizations such as Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Commonwealth of Independent States countries' Agreement on Collective Security, EurAZES (Eurasian Economic Community, bringing together Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), and GUAM (Security and Economic Cooperation Organization uniting Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) to ensure women's equal participation and contribution to all policy-related negotiations and consultations at the regional and global levels.
7. Establish a regional (and possibly also international) Women's Peace Corps to promote the inclusion of women peace activists in groups responses to conflict and deployment to the conflict-affected countries to share the best practices for conflict resolution from a gender perspective. Support the creation and maintenance of a comprehensive roster of women peace negotiators, psychologists, health and social workers, and other relevant professionals.
8. Strengthen and expand capacity-development initiatives directed, in particular, towards the most vulnerable and excluded groups of women to ensure the quantity and quality of their participation in all peace and security-related processes. Address the needs and concerns of disabled people, single women and female-headed households in all relief and recovery efforts and ensure their full and equal participation in all peace processes.
9. Provide comprehensive awareness-raising and capacity development for young girls and boys in the areas of peace, security and gender equality, invest in promotion of peace culture among them.
10. Consider the 'Special Rapporteur' mechanism for resolution 1325 (2000) to interact meaningfully with Member States on an ongoing basis regarding the progress in the implementation of the resolution. UN Women should follow up on this recommendation.
11. Urge the UN to widely disseminate, and utilize the knowledge and experience of relevant countries in the Central Asian region on peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
12. Introduce a special prize for peace activists that have made an exceptional contribution to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000).

As a result of the consultations, the participants developed and adopted an Appeal to the UN Secretary-General and Security Council. This Open letter from representatives of NGOs who attended

the meeting regards the situation in Kyrgyzstan and recommends key programming priorities in the fields of gender-responsive peace building and conflict prevention.

UN Response

Miroslav Jenca, head of the UN Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), expressed his readiness to meet with regional and local women's groups on a regular basis to discuss issues related to conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding, including in Kyrgyzstan, and to ensure that these issues and views will be heard in forums on all levels dealing with the topics mandated. He reiterated that this is an important way to strategize on how implementation can be strengthened over the next decade in the region, but also to look at the challenges and lessons from the past in making progress. He said, "as head of UNRCCA, I would like to express my personal commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and to the promotion of a gender-based perspective in all the activities of the center." UNRCCA further expressed its full support to the implementation of resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009- in the region with a particular focus on strengthening women's involvement in preventive diplomacy, early warning and conflict resolution as per its mandate.

Ambassador Ivar Vikki, Head of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, acknowledged that there is much work ahead in moving toward full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), saying, "we are only at the beginning of this hard and steep path and there is a clear need for concerted actions and close cooperation for setting up national and regional mechanisms to successfully implement the commitments stated in resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). On behalf of the OSCE I reiterate our readiness to jointly support the implementation of these important commitments."



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security. Tajikistan, 2010

Timor-Leste

Open Day | 9 June in Suai

11 June in Dili



Context

More than 10 years since Timor-Leste's independence in 1999, women continue working towards peace, security and justice in the country, despite many challenges. According to the 2006 National Human Development Report of Timor-Leste, women and girls face significant discrimination in the household, the workplace and the community. In addition, fertility and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world and gender-based violence is prevalent, particularly in the household. Moreover, women have few property rights, and have low levels of participation in policy making, especially at the local levels. Gender inequalities were heightened during the political crisis of 2006 when many women among the internally displaced persons experienced sexual abuse and harassment.

These discriminatory conditions are also present in workplaces as well as educational and training institutions, thus constituting direct barriers to Timorese women's employment opportunities.

Who Representatives from various women's organizations in Timor-Leste came together at two preparatory consultations in Dili and Suai (in the border district of Covalima) to identify key concerns regarding the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Open Days held on 9 June in Suai and 11 June in Dili. 120 participants gathered in Dili and 68 in Suai, representing the parliament, police, government, local authorities, women's organizations and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Where Dili and Suai

UN Leadership SRSG Ameerah Haq

“ *There is no need to apologize when you are raising any relevant issue [in relation to sexual exploitation of local women by UN personnel].* ”

Ameerah Haq, SRSG Timor-Leste

Women's Peace and Security Priorities

- The women of Suai identified many challenges during the dialogue including lack of socio-economic development, security and access to justice for women, especially victims of domestic violence, through limitations on reporting violations of the law imposed by physical barriers (such as distance to police stations.)
- The need for infrastructure development, electrification, roads to facilitate access to markets, agricultural training, seeds and implements, border passes to facilitate cross-border trading and family reunion (on 29 July 2010, the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Timor-Leste signed an MOU and launched border passes to enable such crossings), the prevention of human trafficking - and support for widows.

There were pleas to continue with the training and capacity building efforts in all sectors, particularly for women's leadership. Assurances were given that these will continue.

In Dili, the Open Day brought together about 120 women from NGOs, civil society, the Parliament and the Government. The Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality and the President of the Parliamentary Women's Caucus joined the SRSB to answer the issues raised by the women. The Prosecutor General and the Deputy Minister of Health were in the audience listening to the many issues raised by the women particularly with respect to transitional justice.

Several of the participants requested the intervention of the UN and international community with the Governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste to ensure that the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor be implemented. Others suggested the establishment of a permanent mechanism to ensure that the women victims obtained justice and adequate reparations. (At the time of this report, a draft law which recognizes sexual violence against women as a ground for reparation and includes the establishment of a permanent institution was before the Parliament.)

The Open Day events tabled major issues and concerns of Timorese women. One is the continued refusal by their President to proclaim the Domestic Violence Law, which was approved by the National Parliament on 14 May 2010. A few days after the Open Day, the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality was quoted by local press assuring the public that the President will soon officially proclaim the law, which he did on 21 June.

UN Response

Reports on gender and the security sector, gender and transitional justice, and women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding were presented, based on the pre-Open Day consultation held on 26 May at the UN compound. Many of these recommendations are already being acted upon by concerned national authorities with support from the international community including the UN. For example, the recommendation to sustain the participation of women in community-level mediation and peacebuilding activities is something that UNDP and the Ministry of Social Solidarity have been planning under a new project to establish a Department on Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion. Another recommendation, to make gender sensitivity an essential outcome of police training, and to provide the tools to conduct such work properly, is already being handled by the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste, UNIFEM (now part of UN Women), UNFPA and UNICEF. A training manual that integrates all of these aspects was launched in June 2010 although the training has been carried out since February 2010.



Women work on UN project in Timor Leste.
UN Photo/Martine Perret 2007

As part of the Open Day agenda, SRSR Ameerah Haq and other UN officials also visited the border district of Covalima, where high levels of gender-based violence have been reported. “Very important work has been undertaken in Timor-Leste on all fronts to engage and promote women in peacebuilding and decision-making, to protect them from sexual and gender-based violence and to promote gender equality,” the SRSR said in her address. She pointed to the recent adoption of legislation on domestic violence, to trainings on mediation provided to women by local civil society organizations, and to trilateral consultations with Ireland and Liberia on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). But Ms. Haq also emphasized that much more remained to be done, for example in ensuring equal access to justice and resources.

Annex A

Indicators to track the Implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000)¹

No	Indicator
1a	Prevalence of sexual violence
1b	<p>Patterns of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations Text of recommendations section to report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of measures (proposed vs. implemented) • Types of violations • Type of perpetrator • Specific groups affected (ethnicity, geographical location, age)
2	Extent to which United Nations Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions include information on violations of women and girls' human rights in their periodic reporting to the Security Council
3 a	<p>Extent to which violations of women's and girls' human rights are reported, referred and investigated by human rights bodies Report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and types of cases reported, referred and investigated • Account of actions taken / recommended to address violations
3 b	Number and percentage share of women in governance bodies of National Human Right Bodies (NHRB)
4	Percentage of reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by uniformed, civilian peacekeepers and/or humanitarian workers that are acted upon out of the total number of referred cases
5a	Extent to which measures to protect women's and girls' human rights are included in Peacekeeper Heads of Military Components and Heads of Police Components Directives
5b	<p>Extent to which measures to protect women's and girls' human rights are included in national security policy frameworks Existing and new gender-specific language to report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of document • Context analysis of security threats to women and girls • Types of measures

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6	<p>Number and type of actions taken by the Security Council related to resolution 1325 (2000)</p> <p>Report on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count of actions • Types of actions: request inquiry, setup a specific mechanism, mandate peace keeping operations, impose sanctions, authorize the use of force, establish an international tribunal, refer a situation to ICC • Type of document (i.e. resolution, PRST)
7	<p>Number and percentage share of women in the Executive leadership of relevant regional and sub-regional organizations involved in preventing conflict</p> <p><i>Regional and sub-regional organizations will include those identified in A/RES/55/285.</i></p>
8	<p>Percentage of peace agreements with specific provisions to improve the security and status of women and girls</p>
9	<p>Women's share of senior UN positions in field missions</p>
10	<p>Percentage of field missions with senior level gender experts</p>
11a	<p>Representation of women among mediators, negotiators and technical experts in formal peace negotiations</p>
11b	<p>Women's participation in an official observer status at the beginning and the end of formal peace negotiations</p>
12a	<p>Women's political participation in parliaments and ministerial positions</p> <p>Report on women's share of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seats in parliament • Ministerial positions
12b	<p>Women's political participation as voters and candidates</p> <p>Report on women's share of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons registered to vote • Persons who actually vote • Parliamentary candidates
13	<p>Extent to which Security Council missions address specific issues affecting women and girls in the Terms of Reference and Mission Reports</p>
14	<p>Index of women's and girls' physical security</p> <p>Survey-based indicator to measure three dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of physical security of women and girls (by location, time of day) • Proxy variables measuring how women's and girls' ability to participate in public life has been affected • Proxy variables measuring how women's and girls' regular activities have been affected

15	Extent to which national laws to protect women's and girls' human rights are in line with international standards
16	Level of women's participation in the justice and security sector
17	<p>Existence of national mechanisms for control of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SA/LW)</p> <p>This indicator reports on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of a national coordination agency on SA/LW or National Focal Point (paragraphs 4 and 5 of Section II of the POA) • Record keeping on holdings and transfers of SA/LW (para 9 in section II of the POA)
18	Percentage of (monetary equivalent, estimate) benefits from temporary employment in the context of early economic recovery programmes received by women and girls
19	Percentage of referred cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls that are reported, investigated and sentenced
20	Hours of training per capita of decision-making personnel in security and justice sector institutions to address SGBV cases
21a	Maternal mortality rate
21b	Net Primary and secondary education enrolment rates, by sex
22a	Proportion of budget related to indicators that address gender equality issues in strategic planning frameworks
22b	Proportion of budget related to targets that address gender equality issues in strategic planning framework
23a	Proportion of total disbursed funding to Civil Society organizations that is allocated to address gender equality issues
23b	Proportion of total disbursed funding to support gender equality issues that is allocated to Civil Society organizations
24a	Proportion of disbursed Multi Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs) used to address gender equality issues
24b	Proportion of total spending of UN system used to support gender equality issues
25	Extent to which Truth and Reconciliation Commissions include provisions to address the rights and participation of women and girls
26a	Percentage of (monetary equivalent, estimate) benefits from DDR programmes received by women and girls
26b	Percentage of (monetary equivalent, estimate) benefits from DDR programmes received by women and girls

Annex B

Acronyms

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BINUB	Integrated Office of the United Nations in Burundi
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration
DFC	Deputy Force Commander
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DSRSG	Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
ESRSG	Executive Representative of the Secretary-General
ICC	International Criminal Court
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUSCO	United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
NAP	National Action Plan
OP	Operational Paragraph
OPA	Ouagadougou Political Agreement
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RC	Resident Coordinator
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRSR	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
SSR	Security Sector Reform
TJRC	Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNAMID	United Nations-African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNIOGBIS	United Nations Integrated Peace-Building Office in Guinea-Bissau
UNIPSIL	United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone
UNFICYP	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations Refugee Agency
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMIN	United Nations Mission in Nepal
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNPOS	United Nations Political Office for Somalia
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central
UNSCR	UN Security Council Resolution



UNITED NATIONS



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