
Arria Formula Meeting, 19 October, 4 - 6 p.m.
Conference Room 3.

Concept Paper

On 26 October 2010 the Security Council will hold an Open Debate to mark the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women, Peace and Security”. At this occasion the Security Council will consider the recommendations contained in the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498) which focus on ways to strengthen the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Member States, the UN system, international and regional organisations and civil society have also been invited to make concrete commitments to action which address some of the key challenges and gaps in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). To complement this debate the Permanent Missions of Austria, Mexico and the United Kingdom will host an Arria Formula meeting to assess what impact resolution 1325 has had in conflict-affected countries over the past 10 years, what measures have been met with success and to identify where additional work is needed.

With the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) for the first time the security concerns of women in situations of armed conflict and their role in peacebuilding were placed on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Over the past decade, progress in the implementation has been slow and uneven. The resolution’s real impact on the ground in many areas remains to be substantially felt in the very societies and regions where women remain disproportionately affected by armed conflict and widely under-represented in peace processes. Studies by UNIFEM (part of UN Women) and others have clearly demonstrated how the relative absence of women from peace negotiations and post-conflict planning processes puts women at a significant disadvantage. Women are not counted amongst the new leaders of the nation, they are not able to ensure their issues are addressed in institutions that implement peace accords, and they are not in a position to ensure prioritisation of their needs in planning processes nor that adequate financial allocations are made to address them. Their absence is not only an issue of equality but a fundamental obstacle to long-term reconciliation and sustainable development in countries emerging from conflict.

Resolution 1325 (2000) addresses some specific recommendations to peacekeeping, including calls to: integrate a gender perspective in all peacekeeping activities; establish gender components in peacekeeping missions; provide gender-sensitive training to uniformed and civilian peacekeepers; protect the rights of women and girls from sexual violence, including through legal, judicial and constitutional reform processes; increase the numbers of women serving in peacekeeping missions, particularly at senior levels; and regularly report to the Security Council on progress related to gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions.

UN peacekeeping operations have taken decisive steps in this direction including through the adoption of policies, guidelines and training tools to enable peacekeeping personnel to practically translate the provisions of resolution 1325 (2000) into their operational tasks. Targeted investments have been made by peacekeeping missions in countries such as Afghanistan and Burundi and Timor Leste to support women’s participation in political processes. Support has also extended to governments and civil
society groups to enact laws on women’s rights in some cases, whilst efforts to support reform of security institutions including missions in Liberia, Kosovo and Sierra Leone, have stressed the establishment of specialized police units to respond to sexual and gender-based violence crimes. Gender experts play an important role in putting the key questions of the resolution at the center of mandate implementation. The catalytic role of gender advisers has supported the integration of a gender perspective in mandate implementation in areas including: disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), security sector reform (SSR) and elections support.

Despite various achievements, however, a substantive gap between policies and their implementation remains, high prevalence of sexual violence against women persists and often goes hand in hand with impunity for such crimes. Support to women in political processes is limited and the numbers of women field personnel and peacekeepers remain low. Further, the participation of women in UN facilitated peace processes remains limited and as a consequence the extent to which peace agreements address their concerns to stop sexual violence, provide for justice and reparations for war crimes against women, empower women to engage in statebuilding and economic recovery, and ensure women’s participation in post conflict planning and oversight of public spending remains limited. There is also a need to fight impunity, provide assistance to victims and reparations for war crimes committed against women, and uphold perpetrators accountable.

After 10 years we still know relatively little about the progress achieved in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) or the actual impact of policy decisions or programs on the daily lives of women in conflict and post-conflict areas. Tools for measuring progress can contribute to the identification of those areas of implementation requiring urgent attention and can be an important means of early warning. The most pragmatic new tool to support implementation of the women peace and security agenda is the comprehensive set of indicators on 1325 (2000) to track implementation at a results level, as proposed in the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/498). They are intended to enable security institutions - whether UN, regional institutions or relevant authorities within Member States - to determine whether efforts to engage women in peacebuilding and address their protection and recovery needs are having an impact. However, until these become fully operational, case studies and knowledge of where implementation has been more or less successful can inform policy decisions and programming and make sure that these decisions are based on best and effective practices. This knowledge is a prerequisite for sound planning, policymaking, research, monitoring and reporting.

**Key issues – The invited speakers will address:**

- Strengthening accountability for and monitoring of the implementation of the objectives and goals contained in resolution 1325 (2000), including the role of a set of indicators on resolution 1325 in this regard.

- Information and operational gaps in the work of the UN system and the Council.

- Good practices and lessons learned that have emerged in the implementation of the objectives of resolution 1325 (2000) over the past 10 years, that can be replicated.

**Key questions:**

- UN missions make multiple contributions to women’s empowerment. Besides the immediate challenge of protection of women civilians, their roles in supporting electoral processes, DDR, SSR, and other aspects of stabilization provide them with critical entry-points to empower women. In which areas have peacekeeping missions
achieved most progress towards engagement and empowerment of women to contribute to peace processes? What approaches have been most successful and why?

- What strategies have ensured sustainability of such support to women in the transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding?
- What operational and partnership strategies with peacekeeping missions have proven effective to facilitate better protection of women and girls?
- How can partnerships between civil society, the Security Council and the United Nations systems and other actors in the field be strengthened?
- How can prevention and early warning capacities of the UN system at headquarters and at the field be strengthened to prevent sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and provide more protection for women and girls?

**Speakers:**

- Mr. Alain Le Roy
  Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations
- H.E. Annette Musu Kiawu
  Vice-Minister of Gender and Development of Liberia
- Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa
  Founder and Chair of the Association of War Affected Women and Founder and President of the Association of Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action, Sri Lanka
- Ms. Betty Achan Ogwaro
  Chairperson of Sudanese Women Forum of Darfur Southern Sudan affiliated to Femmes Africa Solidarité

**Format of the Arria Formula Meeting:**
This Arria Formula Meeting will provide Security Council Members with an opportunity to hear from and discuss with experts on the ground and civil society representatives. The Co-Chairs will make introductory remarks before giving the floor to the invited speakers to make their individual presentations. The session will then be opened up for questions from invited non-governmental organisations and Security Council Members. Interventions should be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes in order to allow for a lively interactive dialogue.

Non-Members of the Security Council are invited to attend.