

Colloquium

International Colloquium on Women's
Empowerment, Leadership Development,
International Peace and Security 2009

Call to Action on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; Monrovia, Liberia: 7-8 March 2009

We participants in the UNSCR 1325 sessions representing women's organizations from around the world, UN Member States, the UN Secretariat and its agencies, academe, media and other institutions, thank Her Excellencies, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia, and President Tarja Halonen of the Republic of Finland, for convening the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security which took place from 7-8 March 2009 in Liberia. The Colloquium provided the forum for advocates of the UNSCR 1325 to reflect on the practical gains made, as well as the gaps that still exist in relation to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

In this regard, and in light of the continuous violations of women's rights in armed conflict, we request UN Member States to take special measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and we recommend the following:

On the representation and participation of women and men at all levels of decision-making

The UN and its Member states must go beyond establishing a database and nominate women in decision making positions; ensure equal representation and participation of women and men in all activities related to the UNSCR 1325 and put in place measures including education and mentoring systems.

On the Peace Keeping Operations

The UN Security Council (UNSC) must incorporate UNSCR 1325 provisions in all peacekeeping mandates. It should strengthen measures to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) The UNSC should also require all troop contributing countries to increase the number of female civilian and military personnel in peacekeeping missions. In addition, more women must be appointed to serve as Special Representatives and Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary General.

The UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations should require all peacekeeping, military and civilian personnel to undergo comprehensive and relevant pre-deployment and in-mission gender training.

We also demand that the UN recognize and develop strategies to address the complex legal issues relating to the obligations of peacekeepers in relation to custody, maintenance, transfer and citizenship of children born during conflict and displacement.

On Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration, Resettlement and Repatriation (DDRRR)

The UN, Member States and Agencies are urged to recognize local communities as leaders in DRRR processes. Women should be involved in every aspect of the DRRR process and special measures should be taken to ensure that long term needs of female ex-combatants, including their access, eligibility and protection from stigmatization, are considered.

The UN, Member States and Agencies are requested to consider declaring systematic rape and sexual violence in conflict a weapon of war that needs to be part of the disarmament process. Thus, if rape and sexual violence continues, reintegration compensation should not be processed. The climate of impunity that still persists in many countries must be brought to an end.

The UN, Member States and Agencies are also urged to respect the human rights of returnees, especially women and children, and to ensure that adequate support is provided for their reintegration into the community and ensure their sustainable livelihoods.

On National Level Implementation of UNSCR 1325

Member States must develop, implement and monitor UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans; and strengthen the capacities of their national gender machineries to take an active role in the full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325.

On Women at the Peace Table

The UNSG must nominate a gender adviser to UN mediation teams and demand that all parties in negotiation have women in their delegations and ensure that peace agreements are gender responsive.

On the UN Secretary-General's Reports

The UN Secretary-General's report on UNSCR 1325 must reflect the voices of women in local communities. Women's groups and NGOs advocating for women's participation in all aspects of peace building and conflict resolution must be fully consulted during UNSC missions.

We mandate President Halonen and President Sirleaf to:

Take our voices to the UN General Assembly to demand a General Assembly Resolution calling on all Member States to fully and effectively implement UNSCR 1325 at the national level through the development of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans with a definite budget line amongst other measures;

Call upon the SC to enforce UNSCR 1325 by creating a permanent working group on women and armed conflict and adopting additional resolutions to strengthen it further by the year 2010;

Call on the UN Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative for Women and Armed Conflict, accompanied by adequate resources, who will further raise awareness on the differential impact of violent conflicts on women and men and the key roles women play in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace building and decision-making; and

Present the implementation of these recommendations at the 2010 Ministerial Review Conference of Resolution 1325.

Adopted in Monrovia, Liberia; 8th March, 2009