DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE

Human Rights, Gender and Security Programme (1300610)

FUNDED THROUGH
EXTRABUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Warsaw, September 2012

Human Rights, Gender and Security Programme (1300610)

Current Budget: EUR 500,000[1]

1.   Background

Respect for and protection of human rights are essential elements of security. Threats to stability can arise through a security sector in which human rights and gender obligations are not properly fulfilled or the presumed objective of protecting state security is too narrowly defined. The 2003 Maastricht Document recognizes the importance of 'human security.' This approach places the rights of individuals at the heart of the security functions and recognizes that the primary aim of security sector institutions is to adequately and effectively provide service to *all* individuals in the community. Thus, while implementing its functions, security sector institutions should respect and protect the rights of men and women, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion or any other status. Reinforced by the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, a range of commitments on women, peace and security and binding international instruments,[2] this programme assists OSCE participating States in integrating human rights and gender considerations into their security efforts and initiatives.

2.   Approach

The programme's objectives are to: increase the effectiveness and responsiveness of the security sector by applying human rights and gender equality standards in its work; improve respect for and protection of the rights of all those working within the security sector; and increase the diversity of the security sector by providing equal access and opportunities for advancement to men and women of all backgrounds.

2.1   Planned activities for 2011-2014 (funds permitting)

<u>Increasing the effectiveness and responsiveness of the security sector through human rights and gender equality standards</u>
Gender sensitization training for law enforcement, armed forces and border management based on ODIHR's *Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit*[3] will be carried out in OSCE participating States according to the results of a mapping exercise.[4] As required, new training materials and brief publications will also be prepared for this. ODIHR will assist defence and police academies to mainstream human rights in their curricula where needed, using review of new or existing Codes of Conduct for various security sector actors from the human rights perspective as a starting point.

<u>Improving respect for and protection of the rights of security sector personnel</u>
Based on continued engagement in OSCE participating States where the *Handbook on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Armed Forces Personnel*[5] has been presented and

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[1] For the period 1 October 2011 to 31 December 2014.

[2] A list of applicable OSCE commitments and binding international instruments is available upon request.

[3] The *Toolkit* was published by ODIHR, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN INSTRAW) in 2008 (see http://www.osce.org/odihr/30652).

[4] The starting point for the programme was an initial mapping exercise to identify current problems under each objective and to prioritize programme activities accordingly (questionnaire and field interviews).

[5] The *Handbook* was published by ODIHR and DCAF in 2008 (see http://www.osce.org/odihr/44257).

depending on the results of the mapping exercise, ODIHR will undertake follow-up "peer-to-peer" events or other activities (legislative drafting, capacity building, etc.). Further training materials may be developed to support these events as appropriate.

Increasing diversity in the security sector

The mapping exercise has identified where training based on the *Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit* is most needed. ODIHR will educate law enforcement, armed forces and border management personnel about the importance of gender mainstreaming in their institutions. ODIHR will continue to review UNSCR 1325 national action plans[6] and advocate their development in all OSCE participating States. Additional training materials and information on increasing ethnic diversity in the security sector will be researched and developed as required.

2.2   Indicators of achievement (examples)

- Number of training events/individuals in law enforcement, armed forces, border management and parliaments trained on the basis of the Toolkit;
- Number of national defence and police academy curricula which include human rights courses after ODIHR's intervention;
- Number/quality of tailored materials prepared.

2.3   Strategy/methodology

The programme has been developed following extensive consultations with OSCE and external stakeholders. It takes account of their capacities, resources and expert assessment of the challenges/gaps and complements assistance already on offer. Specific target groups, e.g. law enforcement, armed forces and border management personnel are prioritized. NGOs are continually involved in the programme. Activities will be undertaken in co-operation with relevant ODIHR staff, OSCE Institutions and field operations, other international and local partners. ODIHR continues to consider and respond as needed to additional requests from relevant security sector stakeholders. An external evaluation will inform future plans.

2.4   Assumptions and risks

Political will on the part of OSCE participating States is a key component for governments working with ODIHR on this topic. Programmatic success also depends on the level of co-operation among governmental and non-governmental actors themselves within the national context of a particular OSCE participating State.

2.5   Quality factors

The OSCE's three-dimensional approach presents a unique environment. ODIHR's role is based on its mandate in the human dimension, but the programme benefits from links with the politico-military dimension. ODIHR has established important contacts with national and international actors working with and in the security sector on a human rights and gender sensitive approach. The promotion and dissemination of *practical* instruments and resource materials is key to their acceptance. These user-friendly tools demonstrate how integrating human rights and gender equality can improve the effectiveness and responsiveness of the security sector.

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[6] These provide the national policy foundation for gender mainstreaming and gender sensitizing the security sector.