



**ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING BETWEEN THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,
THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE,
THE UNITED NATIONS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE “TRIPARTITE-PLUS” FORMAT**

1. High-level representatives of the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations (UN) met on 14 June 2010 in Vienna for their annual consultations in the “Tripartite-Plus” format¹. Under the theme “Gender and Comprehensive Security: Lessons learned and possibilities for enhanced co-operation”, participants discussed prevention and resolution of conflicts through the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and combating violence against women.

2. In the context of the ongoing dialogue on the future of European security (“the OSCE Corfu Process”) and in the spirit of the United Nations Secretary General’s High-Level Retreat with Heads of Regional and Other Organisations on “Cooperation in Times of Crisis” (New York 11-12 January 2010), *participants* reaffirmed the vital role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacemaking and promotion of sustainable peace and security. They considered that the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 represented an opportunity for collectively galvanizing partnership efforts towards its implementation.

3. Participants reaffirmed their long term commitment to enhance the role of women in political, social and economic development by promotion of women’s role in political and economic life and in the decision making process.

4. *Participants* shared information on how the principles and recommendations of UNSCR 1325 had been integrated into their respective institutional frameworks and operational activities, and exchanged views on how to increase the representation of women at all levels in their organizations and in the mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.

5. *Participants* analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of UNSCR 1325 implementation processes and identified gaps and challenges for further action. They welcomed the initiatives of the international community to address these, including the development of indicators, rosters, capacity-building, dissemination of information through the organization of thematic meetings and conferences targeted at all stakeholders in peace and security-processes, support provided to civil society organizations and specifically to women’s organizations to ensure their participation in peace processes, and the development of guidelines and tools to integrate a gender perspective in activities related to early warning systems, conflict prevention, crisis management, peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction.

¹ The meeting was the 19th in a series initiated in July 1993. The annual discussions – which are chaired and hosted in turn by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe (CoE) and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) on behalf of the United Nations – are intended to share information and improve practical cooperation by drawing on each other’s expertise and know-how. The number of participating organizations has increased since the inception, so that the consultations are informally referred to as the “Tripartite-Plus” process. The European Union (EU), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who participate as affiliated members, were joined for this meeting by the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). A wide range of representatives from the United Nations system – including Secretariat departments and offices, as well as funds and programmes – also participated.

6. *Participants* emphasized the drafting of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 as an important tool for implementation. Welcoming those National Action Plans that had already been drafted by Member and participating States, the participants formulated recommendations for countries considering adopting a National Action Plan.

7. *Participants* underlined the following areas for future co-operation and increased co-ordination, subject to their respective mandates:

- Sharing of information to continue building a body of knowledge on the broad range of issues associated with UNSCR 1325, including Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, Security Sector Reform, and Small Arms and Light Weapons control with a view to identifying and promoting good practices, developing joint projects and implementation tools, and reinforcing advocacy;
- Improving the co-ordination of activities at the level of field operations and enhancing the role of Gender Advisers through increased funding, staffing and ensuring the participation of their representatives in all coordinating and implementing mechanisms from the country team to local levels;
- Exploring jointly ways to improve the monitoring of the implementation of UNSCR 1325, such as assisting countries in developing NAP and UNSCR 1325 monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Coordinating the support for national-level implementation of UNSCR 1325 by strengthening national networks linking government representations with NGOs and other local actors to identify priorities and create practical resources;
- Working jointly on the integration of a gender perspective into early warning systems to improve their effectiveness by gathering more specific information and allowing for in-depth, detailed analysis in order to generate more accurate and measurable responses.

8. *Participants* reaffirmed that violence against women is one of the most serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They declared violence against women an impediment to the achievement of gender equality, comprehensive security and economic and social development. They agreed that violence is present in numerous spheres of women's lives during peace time and is always exacerbated in conflict settings.

9. *Participants* identified sexual violence during conflict as a war tactic which causes great suffering to women and the community and obstructs proper participation of women in peacemaking and in post-conflict reconstruction. They confirmed their commitment to supporting measures designed to prevent reoccurrence and to assist victims and prosecute perpetrators.

10. *Participants* welcomed efforts undertaken by the United Nations to address sexual exploitation and abuse, including violence, committed by peacekeeping forces and underlined the importance of continuing the implementation of the "Zero Tolerance" policy.

11. *Participants* welcomed the development of initiatives and campaigns by international organizations to combat violence against women, including support provided to States in the development of national legislative and policy frameworks to combat violence, the compilation of good and innovative practices, and initiatives taken by all organizations to highlight and increase the important role men and young people should also play in order to effectively address violence against women.

12. *Participants* analyzed the challenges encountered and welcomed the efforts that Member States have undertaken to combat violence. They called on Governments to:

- Ensure implementation of national legal frameworks to combat violence against women, with a special focus on guaranteeing that effective judicial procedures are in place and crimes are prosecuted;

- Make all efforts to ensure that services for the protection and recuperation of victims are given adequate human and financial resources to ensure quality of delivery;
- Establish effective co-ordination and consultation mechanisms with civil society and acknowledge their important, often leading, role in the fight against violence against women;
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programmes developed at a national level and analyse progress, challenges and adjustments to be made.

13. *Participants* announced their determination to strengthen co-ordination and co-operation among themselves and discussed additional opportunities for joint action, including:

- Greater involvement of men in the prevention of violence against women as agents for changing attitudes and behaviour that perpetuate violence;
- Development of indicators to ensure all organisations and partners are able to evaluate change and measure progress in addressing violence against women;
- Implementation of national legislation and development of international instruments, such as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence which application in times of war or other public emergency as well as post-conflict situations should be ensured;
- Initiation of twinning projects on the topic of violence against women in order to promote good practices and to share lessons learned.

14. It was agreed that the next Tripartite meeting would be hosted by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in 2011.

Vienna, Palais Hofburg
Monday, 14 June 2010