

## ***Enhancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Region***

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Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends and colleagues,  
First of all let me thank to the organizers, both the OSCE and UNWOMEN, for inviting me to such a prominent and important event. This is my first time in Kazakhstan, in this beautiful region that reminds me on Balkans and I am honored to represent my country together with my colleague from the partners organization.

Let me go briefly through the history of UNSCR 1325 in Serbia. The NAP was adopted by decision of the Government of the Republic of Serbia in December 2010 (for the 5 years period). Thus, Serbia became the second Western Balkan country to adopt such a document. The first one was BiH, in July 2010. The development of the NAP was a process that lasted a year and a half. First, the Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, launched a project for the development of guidelines for drafting the NAP, in May 2009.

Based on these guidelines, Ministry of Defence began to draft the NAP, in June 2010. This process lasted till mid-November 2010. In fact, the bodies tasked with its implementation were not set up until ten months after the adoption of the NAP, which significantly delayed the implementation process and the achievement of the goals set out in this document.

The third year of NAP is almost closed. These are the main challenges/lessons learnt (it can be applied to the Western Balkans region).

1. Serbian NAP is consisted of 7 areas, more than 16 specific goals and 100 activities. Very optimistic, comprehensive and ambitious plan I would say. A wish list. And difficult to apply. Almost impossible. We need more operational and simple plan. For example, take a look at the Macedonian plan (real and reachable outcomes).
2. Too much of one P: too much of participation. Actually, that is a problem of interpretation I would say. Most of the Security Sector members think that 1325 is all about the participation. But the paradox is that we have less women in the sector than before.
3. Again it's about the interpretation. There are different interpretations of what 1325 truly means (Security sector, women organization, think tanks, international organizations, etc). Civil society organizations are not monolith. It's difficult to compile all of them in one specific document, but we have to try.
4. A complex set of mechanisms for the UNSCR 1325 implementation pays off, although it was not the case in the beginning. More talking, more attention. One of the best practices in the world is the oversight mechanism - Parliamentarian Monitoring Commission.
5. Strong leadership versus the danger of individualization of the process - many things still depends on private efforts. There were many who pushed the process when it was most welcomed - they save the process.

6. Lack of adequate indicators: easy to identify quantitative, but hard to find qualitative indicators
7. UNSCR 1325 Agenda needs to be translated to understandable 'language' and particularly to the local level

Recommendations:

1. The effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 is primarily a political process. As it is not simply a matter of improved administration, resolution realization efforts necessitate strong political will and consensus as to social and institutional change.
2. NAPs/AP and other actions to implement UNSCR 1325 should equally address the three pillars that constitute the women, peace and security agenda:
  - **Participation** of women at all decision-making levels at the local, national, regional and international levels in conflict prevention, management and resolution (peace negotiations);
  - **Protection** of women and girls; and
  - **Prevention** of conflict and its disproportionate impact on women and children.
3. Governments would be well served to provide sustainable funding for the realization of development, peace and gender equality. Effectively addressing budgetary challenges should include gaining an overview of available partnership opportunities, the identification of possible national (NGOs) and international partners, partnership development and the engagement of reliable implementation partners.
4. The substance of UNSCR 1325 is furthered when it is:
  - "Translated" to the specific needs of women and men on the local level; and
  - Articulated, not only through UNSCR 1325 action plans, but through its mainstreaming in other national and regional strategies and political processes including the European Union integration practice.
5. Concrete action towards sustainable models of women's empowerment and leadership, rather than short-term (problem solving) initiatives should be defined, developed and undertaken.

Thank you.