



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

SEC.GAL/160/13
23 September 2013

ENGLISH only



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

INVITATION

The OSCE Gender Section and UN Women
cordially invite you to the conference:

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

**11-12 November 2013
Almaty, Kazakhstan**

Background

UNSCR 1325, adopted by the Security Council unanimously in 2000, and the subsequent five UN resolutions (UNSCRs) represent the international legal framework calling for increased roles and representation of women in the security sector, in formal peace processes, in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in transitional governments and post-conflict rehabilitation. They also stipulate taking into account gender analysis of peace and security issues as well as the prosecution of sexual violence as a weapon in war and conflict situations.

In spite of this comprehensive international legal framework, the representation of women in the security sector, in conflict prevention and conflict resolution mechanisms remains disturbingly low. Sexual and gender-based violence in conflict is not being prosecuted and continues unabated whenever and wherever conflict erupts. Women's specific needs in refugee camps and in efforts around demobilization, disarmament, peace-building and reintegration are often still largely unmet. In 2009, women made up 30% of UN civilian mission staff, but represented only 8% of police officers and 2% of military personnel in UN peacekeeping operations. Since the establishment of OSCE field presences there have been only seven women out of 124 Heads of Field Missions, three of them having been appointed in 2012, while the Annual Evaluation Reports on the implementation of the 2004 Gender Action Plan clearly outline the low number of OSCE projects accomplished by field operations in the first dimension to include a gender perspective.

As far as participating States are concerned, up to now 27 have developed a National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 as a tool for building national consensus and ownership in support of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The goal of NAPs or other implementation strategies is to gender mainstream any area related to peace and security. Thus, countries without high risks of insecurity and conflict are among those who have created NAPs on 1325. Their NAPs include commitments to support gender mainstreaming in peace-keeping operations, improve gender balance in the national security sectors, and contribute to gender responsive peace-building and conflict prevention within the development aid programming, among others.

With a purpose to promote a dialogue and to assist participating States to better formulate their position and directions for an efficient creation and implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, OSCE and UN Women are organizing a high-level conference in Almaty on 11-12 November 2013. This conference will offer the opportunity for representatives from participating/member States to learn from each other about the status, progress and perspectives of practical enforcement of the UNSCRs, to discuss best practices and define further plans and perspectives.

The main objectives of the Conference are:

- To raise awareness of the respective participating States on international commitments reflected in UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security;
- To take stock of and review existing efforts, best practices and lessons learnt to develop, implement and monitor the NAPs or other implementation strategies related to the UNSCRs;
- To share voices and opinions of women peace activists in regard to challenges and perspectives of mainstreaming gender equality dimensions into peace building and post-conflict reconstruction processes, as well as to support their meaningful participation in on-going dialogues and initiatives on peace and security at all levels;
- To define ways and perspectives to support and address demand of countries in the respective regions for knowledge, expertise and resources available in regard of practical implementation of UNSCRs.

To register for the conference please send the registration form to jana.palaversa@osce.org **no later than 10 October.**

Preliminary Draft Agenda

Opening session

Session 1:

Women, peace and security agenda: current trends at the global and regional levels.

Session 2:

Best practices and lessons learnt at national levels.

Session 3:

Policies and strategies to encourage and support participating States to enhance implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Session 4:

Practical examples of women's participation and leadership in conflict prevention, reconciliation and peace-building processes.

Session 5:

Monitoring and measuring progress in implementation and enforcement of commitments related to women, peace and security.

Session 6:

Reports back from the sessions' rapporteurs.

Concluding session

Conference on

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

**11-12 November 2013
Almaty, Kazakhstan**

REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline: 10 October 2013

Please send a completed registration form to jana.palaversa@osce.org

1. Country:
2. Name of Organization or Institution:
3. Ms. Mr.
4. Participant Last Name(s):
5. Participant First Name(s):
6. Occupation / Position / Title:
7. Organization/Institution's postal address:
8. Phone number / Mobile number: E-Mail:
9. Will you be bringing additional materials (brochures, publications, etc.) for which you require display space? Yes No