



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Secretariat**

UNSCR 1325: Moving Beyond Theory to Maximize Security in the OSCE

Sarajevo, 27 and 28 October 2011

The year 2010 marked the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, which addresses women's role in peace and security. The resolution broke new ground calling for stronger involvement of women in conflict prevention, crisis management and peace-building. It introduced a different approach to peace and security and provided the tools to identify women as a crucial cornerstone for creating sustainable peace. By signing up to UNSCR 1325, the international community committed itself to promote the active participation of women in conflict prevention, peace-building and security processes.

Up until the passing of UNSCR 1325, the traditional definition of national security rarely included any analysis of women's specific roles and needs, and with the adoption of the resolution, the concept of security had to be adjusted and redefined. The implementation of UNSCR 1325 is intricate as it goes to the very core of how nations define peace and security and makes them reassess policies and mechanisms that govern sustainable peace and security for all segments of society. To date, only a minority—25 countries—have chosen to integrate the resolution into their policies and have created National Action Plans (NAPs). In a majority of countries it is still an ongoing process. However, with the creation of policies there is no guarantee of a full-fledged implementation. Both states and international organizations that influence sustainable peace and security development work have struggled to take the resolution beyond theory and integrate it into their practical work. The link between theory and practice is often lacking, and consequently the practical exercise of including women in peace and security is often overlooked. There are commendable initiatives by regional and international organizations, such as the UN and EU, to enhance the implementation of the resolution by creating indicators for its implementation, but the process of creating a harmonized set of indicators still needs to be addressed and developed.

The OSCE has committed itself to engage women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation through Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 which builds partially on UNSCR 1325.

The Gender Section of the OSCE/OSG has an active role in supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and MC.DEC/14/05 within the OSCE, and promotes several initiatives for awareness raising and discussions amongst the participating States. The Section seeks to raise awareness on the importance and benefits of including gender issues within the scope of activities related to peace and security.

In 2011, the Gender Section intends to revitalize the discussion on UNSCR 1325 within the executive structures and among OSCE participating States building on the momentum offered by the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, and the rich literature produced for this occasion. The conference hopes to offer alternatives to further the resolution's implementation and motivate all actors to move towards the adoption of NAPs. The primary target group of the conference is the OSCE participating States.

The aim of the conference

The Gender Section intends to organize a two-day conference in Sarajevo from 27 to 28 October 2011, to discuss how to improve the implementation of UNSCR 1325. The conference will bring together experts from the whole of the OSCE region and will invite contributions by international and local organizations such as NATO, country and regional offices of UN Women, EUFOR, EUPM and NGOs, such as, Žene Ženama.

The conference will address:

1. Good practices and challenges in the implementation of National Action Plans (NAP). What are the lessons learnt in creating, implementing and monitoring of NAPs? How can the process be enhanced in countries that already have a NAP, but also for countries that are in the process of creating one?
2. What are the key factors for a successful implementation of the NAPs? What resources and human capacities should be set aside and what structures need to be enforced or created?
3. What are the synergies between State structures, CSO and International Organisations when creating and implementing NAPs?