642nd Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
Presentation on Human Rights and Crisis Management
- including the Relevance of UNSCR 1325

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Human rights – a key success factor for sustainable crisis management

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Universal and inalienable

- Human rights belong to all individuals simply because they are human
- Are based on the inherent dignity of the human being
- Enshrined in international body of norms by which States must abide

Comprehensive security

- Human rights at the core of global security promotion
- OSCE Comprehensive security concept - human dimension commitments
- EU's Security Strategy recognizes human rights as one of the best way of strengthening European Security

Integral to conflict cycle

- Human rights as causes and symptoms of conflict
- Crisis management operation must address both simultaneously
- Requires halting hostilities and immediate violence whilst dealing with underlying structural causes (political, social, economic etc.)
- Justice & accountability must be ensured for violations committed during conflict

Human rights mainstreaming in CSDP missions

- Systematic integration of human rights into mandates, guidelines and procedural documents of crisis management operations
- Human Rights and Crisis Management – A Handbook for Members of CSDP Missions

UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

- Disproportionate and unique impact of conflict on women
- Importance of women's full and equal participation in prevention & resolution of conflicts, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction
- Marginalization of women is a security issue hindering the establishment of sustainable peace

Practical implications of UNSCR 1325 for crisis management operations

- Improvement in gender balance in operations
- Specialized gender advisors
- Sensitization of peacekeepers
- Gap in gender awareness amongst mission members prevents realization of UNSCR 1325

Added value of a gender perspective

- Ensures that interests, needs and priorities of all persons – male and female – are taken into account
- Special measures may be necessary to enable certain groups to access & enjoy their rights
- Value of creative thinking

Challenges

○ Customs, attitudes and practices which compound and legitimize discrimination and violence against women and girls

○ Requires sensitization of local authorities and local population

○ Sensitivity to culture, customs & religious factors whilst safeguarding integrity of human rights norms

Sustainability and local ownership

○ Anchor activities to local initiatives

○ Involving all actors who have a direct stake in the outcome ensures best results

○ Consider local stakeholders as equal partners

○ Involve groups that do not normally get heard, such as women

○ Avoiding paternalistic attitude

Recommendations

- Enhance exchange of good practices and training resources
- Strengthen dialogue and cooperation on crisis management