

DAY 1

Conclusions and Recommendations

Below are the main conclusions and recommendations based on working group discussions on day 1. We will use this second conference day to adjust, refine and concretize them during the parallel.

Conclusions, if possible to be translated into recommendations/action points:

- The definition of security is too narrow and would improve if brought in line with the concept of Human Security as developed in the 1994 Human Development Report > resulting in better cooperation of DG Dev and DG Relex.
- Enlisting assistance of women's organisations in disarmament processes is key. Acknowledge that women have a more significant interest in disarmament than men do; they have in-depth knowledge about hiding places for weapons; and their involvement in disarmament strengthens their position within society. It is thus recommended that disarmament strategies be aimed at dependants as well, they should be informed, involved, and their valuable information and insights should be taken into account
- In its interventions in post-conflict societies the EU should address the fact that violence against women and its effects continue unabated in times of political peace.
- While focussing on gender mainstreaming do not abandon targeted programming on women and girls, such as land rights, heritage issues (widows and children), children born out of sexual violence, women associated with armed groups.
- Apply a creative approach to incorporate conditionalities and/or incentives for the operationalisation of 1325 in EU assistance.
- Impunity: For women to step forward in tribunals and TRCs there is a need to increase their protection. The international community can and should play a role in that.
- Women's rights need to be addressed separately from human rights in general.
- Acknowledge women are not a homogeneous group. Take into consideration the different categories that women represent.
- There is a need for disaggregated data on different groups (including widows, single headed households, child headed households, etc.) of women affected by armed conflict.

Recommendations:

On Peace and Security

- All EU missions (mediation teams, peace keeping, police forces, delegations etc) must include women at all levels. Concrete targets must be set.
- All EU presence should include a gender focal point, with sufficient mandate and resources.
- Local women's needs and demands must be included in conflict prevention, conflict transformation and post conflict recovery programs. The EU should develop a concrete framework on how it will consult with local women's organisations, resulting in design of activities that promotes women's needs and perspectives.
- Where the EU is involved in peace processes as a promotor or mediator it should ensure the inclusion of women at the negotiation table.

- Promote female leadership in IDP/Refugee camps, by earmarked ECHO funding to IDP and Refugee camps. In addition, ECHO needs to fund NGO programmes aiming at improving the capacity of female leadership.

On Political Dialogue

- EU is drafting a Governance Profile (governance standards for governments that receive development assistance): the section on internal and external security does not refer to gender/UNSCR1325. Although many other conventions are mentioned. Please include this very important resolution as benchmark of good governance.

On Human Rights and Protection

- There is a need for gender specific guidelines for human rights defenders as the existing EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders do not take into account the specific threats to and needs of female human rights defenders.
- In its efforts to assist reform of legal systems, the EU should especially look at the dimension of how these systems can be made to effectively address gender based violence. There needs to be a specific capacity building programme dealing with prosecuting violence against women (explaining women's rights/constitutions/laws to administrators, lawyers and judges, train female police officers, judges).

On Knowledge and Monitoring

- The EU should support exchange networks: South-South and South-North. Together organisations are stronger. And it provides the EU with the wealth of knowledge within NGOs on the implementation of UNSR 1325, making EU interventions more effective.
- Ensure accountability and monitoring of implementation of UNSCR 1325 with specific benchmarks, targets and timelines in every intervention. Design (in cooperation with CS, governments) a monitoring mechanism that ensures that the monitoring and documentation work of local women's organisations is taken into account.
- There is a clear need for documenting progress on implementation of UNSCR 1325: women's organisations are often the only ones who document cases. It is however very difficult to get funding for this kind of activities. The EU (Delegations) should give more financial or political support for documentation work.
- Priority for EU special representatives and EU Delegations and Member States: monitor (and press for) National Action Plans on 1325, implementation of laws, conventions and protocols of peace agreements dealing with the position of women in (post-)conflict countries.