Outcome document of the EPLO-GPPAC Online Dialogue on "Implementation of UNSCR 1325: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward", 3 to 7 October 2011.

Introduction

From 3 to 7 October 2011, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) organised an online dialogue on "Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Europe and Beyond: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward". The dialogue was held on the PeacePortal, with over 20 civil society representatives and individuals registered to participate from Liberia, Fiji Islands, South Africa, Croatia, UK, Italy, Nepal, Belgium, Canada, Georgia and the Netherlands.

The dialogue was structured around 5 major topics, each with a few guiding questions: (1) Strategies and Policies; (2) Implementation, Impact and National Action Plans (NAPs); (3) Monitoring and Evaluation; (4) Advocacy; (5) Challenges and Ways Forward[1]. Participants were encouraged to contribute to the discussion by posting at least two comments per day. In addition, some participants were involved in the dialogue as resource persons, providing initial impetus to the discussion, and keeping the flow of the debate together with two moderators.

The specific challenges identified by participants cut across the five major topics initially provided for discussion. For practical reasons, this outcome document does not follow the structure of the initial five topics but rather offers a summary of eight key challenges identified by participants, as well as related recommendations. Recommendations to various actors involved in SCR 1325 implementation are provided for each of the eight challenges. An additional set of recommendations that relate specifically to the work of civil society organisations is provided at the end of the document.

The online dialogue aimed to provide a virtual space for civil society organisations (CSOs) to share their views and experiences, evaluate progress on different strategies to implement SCR 1325, exchange lessons learned and identify ways forward towards a full and effective implementation of the Resolution. While this outcome document cannot be an exhaustive summary of all the discussions, we hope it provides a comprehensive overview of challenges and opportunities to implement SCR 1325, 11 years after its adoption by the UN Security Council.

The online dialogue by GPPAC and EPLO was supported by the

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[1] A list of the five topics and questions can be found in Annex 1.

Contents

List of acronyms

CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EU	European Union
GPS	Gender, Peace and Security
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SGBV	Sexual- and Gender-based Violence
SCR	Security Council Resolution
UN	United Nations
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Main challenges and recommendations identified in the dialogue

Overview

<u>Recent developments</u>

Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, considerable steps have been taken to advance women's roles in peacebuilding, combat gender-based violence in conflict settings, fight impunity, ensure greater presence of women in police and military forces, and support gender-sensitive peace and security policies. This has included the formal tabling of 32 NAPs.

<u>Liberia, leading by example but still a long way to go.</u>

Internationally, Liberia is one of the countries leading by example on implementation of SCR 1325. After 12 years of civil war, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf was elected the first female president; a Ministry of Gender and Development was established; the NAP was adopted in 2009; gender inequalities in the legal framework were beginning to be addressed, for example by increasing the maximum sentence for rape and guaranteeing women's rights to property under state and customary law; a sharp increase in the number of women in the police forces, including at senior-level, has been registered. In 2011, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and Leymah Gbowee, a peace activist and leader of a women's peace movement that led to the end of the second civil war in Liberia in 2003, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize along with Tawakkul Karman, "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work".

However, progress has been uneven across countries and many factors contribute to a slow implementation of SCR 1325, including the lack of effective monitoring systems, dedicated budgets, and clear lines of responsibility as well as realistic benchmarks for NAPs. At institutional/ state level, UN Member States are adopting NAPs but fall short of results in the implementation phase. At civil society level, CSOs in many countries still struggle to make the case for their full involvement in the implementation and monitoring of the NAP.

<u>Underlying structural challenges</u>

While this outcome document focuses on eight key challenges to SCR 1325 implementation today, a few structural challenges kept coming back in various parts of the dialogue as challenges related to the nature and content of SCR 1325. They have been highlighted already on several occasions over the past years and are briefly mentioned here as: (1) The fact that SCR 1325 is not legally binding and reporting is not compulsory; (2) the complexity and lack of prioritization within the Resolution as well as between the different pillars identified within it; and (3) that the language employed where SCR 1325 makes references to 'women' and 'gender' appears to use the two terms interchangeably. While the key issues were discussed more extensively, the structural challenges often provided an important backdrop to the discussion.

Key challenges identified during the dialogue

Eight key challenges to effective SCR 1325 implementation were identified during the dialogue and are outlined in further detail below:

1. Communicating the message of SCR 1325;
2. 'Instrumentalization' and 'militarization' of SCR 1325;
3. Enduring gender stereotypes;
4. Tendency to treat gender as a separate issue;
5. Insufficient engagement of civil society in the development of NAPs;
6. Tension between institutionalism and activism;
7. Lack of minimum standards in the NAPs;
8. Contextualising SCR 1325 and related resolutions and providing adequate funding at local level.

1. Communicating the message of SCR 1325

Participants of the online dialogue perceived a low awareness of SCR 1325 among citizens in general (including women) but more importantly among peacebuilding and development practitioners. The resolution means different things to different people, whether in government, academia or civil society, as well as within civil society itself. One participant noted that, in the context of the 2010 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, some women attending the session were not familiar with SCR 1325 and some thought that it promoted war and victimized women. While SCR 1325 continues to be used as a main advocacy tool, misunderstandings seem to prevail about how it is used in different contexts and what those who use it aim to advocate for. The difficulty in communicating the message of the resolution prompted one participant to ask whether practitioners in developed countries are speaking a different language *with* women in the field, or if they are speaking a different language *than* women in the field. In relation to different understandings of the prevention pillar of SCR 1325 another participant pointed to the 2010 Report 'What the Women Say'[2] which argues that originally prevention in the resolution represented the prevention of conflict and not the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as it is widely referred to today.

Recommendations:
- Civil society organisations should make an effort to increase cross-pillar understanding of SCR 1325 in their awareness raising and training activities, and develop partnerships so that pillars are not implemented in isolation from one another;
- In awareness raising and/or advocacy campaigns, institutions as well as civil society should ensure the message of the resolution is delivered in its entirety and avoid misrepresentations.

2. 'Instrumentalization' and 'militarization' of SCR 1325

In many countries, implementation of SCR 1325 has become equal to increasing the number of women in military forces, or, as referred to in a dialogue post, the "feminization of the army". This trend is visible both in European and non-European countries. At EU-level, the European Parliament is in the process of adopting a resolution on the situation of women in conflict which, in its first draft, contained reference to the promotion of 'war heroines' as role models[3]. Commenting

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[2] What the Women Say, a case study assessment by the International Civil Society Action Network and the MIT Center of International Studies.

[3] Draft EP Report on women's situation in war

on this, references were made to Cynthia Cockburn's reflection on the feminization of soldiering and the instrumental use that some institutions and organisations, such as NATO, were making of the resolution[4]. The question that follows is whether specific countries, regional and international organisations are implementing SCR 1325 selectively, co-opting elements of the feminist agenda to advance their specific institutional objectives and how this adversely affects women's rights. In this context participants highlighted the important role of CSOs to "safeguard" SCR 1325 and related resolutions.

Recommendation:
- CSOs should closely monitor the militarization of the message of SCR 1325 and other attempts to instrumentalize it.

3. Enduring gender stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are far from being dispelled in both Western and non-Western societies. During the dialogue it was noted by some participants that SCR 1325, although itself empowering for women, leaves the door open to both patriarchal and feminist interpretations which can lead to stereotyping. Participants highlighted the risk that, in implementing the resolution, gender stereotypes may be reproduced by assigning specific roles to women based on assumptions that they are, for example, better carers or listeners and tend to resort to violence less than men. In light of these stereotypes, women in police forces or military peacekeeping forces tend to be predominantly assigned to SGBV-related functions. The trend towards increased numbers of women in police and military forces should be complemented by increased attention to ensure women are not being confined and side-lined for carrying out functions that reproduce heavily gendered stereotypes.

Recommendations:
- Women's roles in police forces and peacekeeping military forces should be extended beyond SGBV-related functions;
- Combating SGBV should be closely linked with justice reform and broader Security Sector Reform (SSR) matters and not treated as a separate issue.

4. Tendency to treat gender as a separate issue

The tendency to treat gender as a separate issue is another recurring trend. Gender is still seen as a piece of the puzzle that can be added last minute once a policy or programme has been planned and developed. The result is that the effort to increase women's active participation often relies heavily on quantity rather than quality. Yet, equal participation does not only refer to numbers and should be paired with an equally vigorous effort to integrate gender concerns in the planning and designing of, for instance, SSR policies and programmes, in order for women to be fully involved in a meaningful role.

Recommendation:
- Policymakers should integrate gender concerns at the early stages of programming in peace and security policies.

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[4] For the specific reference to Cynthia Cockburn see postings under topic 5. Challenges and Ways Forward in the online dialogue forum at http://www.peaceportal.org/web/1325ineuropeandbeyond/discussion-forum/

5. Insufficient engagement of civil society in the development of NAPs

The full engagement of CSOs is crucial for implementation of SCR 1325, in particular given that the resolution resulted from powerful CSO advocacy in the first place. Yet, consultation with CSOs in the development of a NAP and their involvement in mechanisms that monitor and evaluate implementation is still limited. Some best practice examples of civil society involvement include the revision of the Dutch and UK NAPs. However, in most cases consultation is limited in scope, duration and quality, often because of limited resources allocated for it. In Italy, for instance, consultation with civil society took place just before the adoption of the NAP and civil society input was not taken into account in the final version due to lack of time and dedicated resources. Furthermore, participants stressed that specific consultations with women's organisations in conflict-affected countries are often missing from the process, with the result that NAPs fail to take into account specific needs and views of women directly affected by conflict. This is highlighted for both NAP developments in conflict-affected countries but also and importantly for NAP processes by countries in the Western world that engage in conflict-affected countries as actors and/or donors.

Recommendation:
- The development of an NAP should be a multi-stakeholder process which ensures adequate consultation with civil society in both of the donor and the relevant conflict-affected countries, and which explicitly consults women as civil society representatives.

6. Lack of minimum standards and dedicated resources

It is widely recognised that NAPs with no minimum standards stand a very small chance of being properly implemented. Participants noted that the lack of meaningful monitoring mechanisms as well as concrete indicators to track implementation of SCR 1325 is particularly harmful. One participant suggested that NAPs with no minimum standards are just 'invisible'. It could even be added that they can eventually be counterproductive, as they shield governments who claim to be actively implementing SCR 1325 from further questioning about their commitments. Furthermore, participants were concerned that the monitoring and evaluation systems in place, even when sufficient, are not supported by adequate investments in staff and programming and provide little room for civil society involvement. In most cases where monitoring is done to some extent, CSOs are leading the way by producing monitoring reports where no government reports are yet available[5].

Recommendations:
- Future NAPs and the second versions of already existing ones should all include realistic benchmarks, timelines, lines of responsibility, dedicated resources (both human and financial) and meaningful indicators;
- NAPs should provide for an adequate role for civil society in monitoring and evaluating implementation, with adequate resources to carry them out.

7. Tension between institutionalism and activism

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[5] See for example the report on Women, Peace and Security in Italy by Actionaid and Pangea in the Resource section.

Is there a natural tension between institutionalism and activism when it comes to implementing SCR 1325? Implementation of the Resolution is a state responsibility – yet it is mostly CSOs that are taking action in multiple ways to raise public awareness, lobby governments for the adoption of NAPs and hold them to account for their implementation. Civil society activism is instrumental in creating renewed impetus for implementation of the Resolution and also to counter the attempts of institutions to capture and exploit feminist ideas to advance their agenda in ways not intended by the Resolution. The interplay between state institutions and civil society also has implications for the broader discussion on the way we understand security and particularly the tension between the traditional realist idea of state-centered security and that of human security.

> Recommendations:
> - SCR 1325 activists, academia and institutions should work together to produce a gender-sensitive definition of human security;
> - Institutionalize the co-operation between state institutions and civil society in the development, implementation and monitoring of NAPs and other peace and security policies.

8. Contextualising SCR 1325 and related resolutions and providing adequate funding at local level

The debates around policy and strategies particularly at EU, UN or national level usually take place far away from conflict situations and may sometimes shift the focus away from the concrete needs of women and men affected by conflict; ultimately they often fail to take these needs into account at all. Making SCR 1325 and related resolutions context-relevant is therefore crucial to making them empowering. There is a wide-spread perception that funding to implement 1325-related programmes channeled to local civil society organisations is too small. Most GPS-related funding is still channeled through UN agencies and often fails to reach local organisations in conflict affected countries, particularly women's organisations outside the capitals. This contributes to the perception that, in some countries, implementation of SCR 1325 is donor-driven.

> Recommendation:
> - More funding for implementation of SCR 1325 should be made available at local level, including beyond capitals, to women's organisations and other civil society organisations working on SCR 1325.

Conclusion

The online dialogue on "Implementation of UNSCR 1325: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward" has provided a useful forum to develop analysis and policy recommendations. It also highlighted the importance of documenting and sharing positive as well as challenging experiences related to implementation of SCR 1325 and related resolutions. At the same time, it has become clear that action needs to be taken beyond the sphere of 1325 itself. As one participant put it: "I think social and gender inequalities can't just be changed by a resolution, and I think this is one of the major challenges. There is a need in behavioral change and attitude change to have success in full women's inclusion, participation and security".

This outcome document has offered a brief account of one week of rich discussions on many different aspects of SCR 1325 implementation, and from the discussions has pulled together recommendations for a variety of stakeholders involved in these processes. A specific set of recommendations for civil society organizations emerging from the dialogue is collated below.

Specific recommendations for civil society organizations:

Further to the recommendations related to the eight challenges discussed above, a number of additional recommendations and suggestions specifically for civil society organisations working on implementing SCR 1325 were provided during the dialogue:

Data collection, monitoring and evaluation:
- Develop a body of hard evidence, conduct studies and collect data on the actual impact of gender-sensitive policies and programmes;
- Monitor and evaluate own training programmes and their impact over time.

Definitions and use of language:
- Link awareness-raising campaigns on SCR 1325 to the understanding of basic concepts of gender and the gender/security nexus;
- Ensure greater clarity when talking about women and gender;
- Ensure that the message of the Resolution is context-specific and stress the basic message of women's agency in building peace;
- Use local languages in advocacy campaigns;
- Engage in enhanced, empowering partnerships to deliver knowledge but also listen to needs and questions, help adapt messages and support to each specific context, to span the difference between the global policy environment and the lived reality in communities.

Partnerships and collaboration from local to regional to international level:
- Make voices of women and girls in conflict affected countries an integral part of programming and planning SCR 1325 activities;
- Devise and utilize innovative ways to highlight perspectives of local women such as radio programmes and art;
- Help build strong 1325 community groups where regular exchange can take place;
- Create broader partnerships to involve organizations working on the various aspects of SCR 1325 in common activities and build on joint commitments;
- Support women peace networks at regional level by, for instance, supporting radio programmes led by rural women.

Support work on SCR 1325 with other documents and policies:
- Make use also of other documents to support the provisions of SCR 1325, such as the CEDAW and the African Protocol on Women's Rights wherever applicable;
- Try to bring gender to other peace and security policies beyond NAPs (for instance GAPS UK did this in relation to the recent Building Stability Overseas Strategy).

Resources shared/suggested:

Articles/publications/websites

NAPs and regional processes, indicators and reporting on SCR 1325 implementation:

- Comprehensive approach to EU implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security
- Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to EU implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820
- Report on EU indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820
- 2010 UN Secretary General Report on Women, Peace and Security
- Draft European Parliament Report on women's situation in war

Civil society monitoring, planning, reflections & articles:

- 10 Points in 10 Years UNSCR 1325 in Europe
- Women, peace, security, Platform Women and Sustainable Peace
- Planning for action on Women and Peace and Security, International Alert
- Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence, UNIFEM
- Petition for greater representation of Libyan women in the NTC and future governmental institutions
- Are Women Peaceful? Reflection on the Role of Women in Peacebuilding by Hilary Charlesworth
- Women's participation in UN peacekeeping operations: agents of change or stranded symbols? By Catheleen M. Jennings
- Costing of financing 1325, Cordaid and ICAN-GNWP
- Report on implementation of 1325 in Italy, Actionaid and Pangea
- Women Peace and Security: implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Georgia, Women's Information Centre
- Global Network of Women Peacebuilders In-country and Global Monitoring of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325
- Beyond the numbers – Women's participation in the Kenya national dialogue and reconciliation by Meredith Preston McGhie and E. Njoki Wamai
- CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325 – A quick Guide
- Women at War: Possible Lessons for Small States by Fitriani and Ron Matthews
- What the Women Say – Participation and UNSCR 1325 (a case study assessment October 2010)
- Good practices on from different countries implementing SCR 1325 accessible here
- From Global to Local: How UN Agencies Build Capacity to Implement the Women, peace and security Resolutions at the National Level, by Nicola Popovic and Corey Barr, 2011
- Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security

Country-specific information
- Under Topic 2 of the online dialogue, experiences on the NAP processes in the following countries are shared: Austria, Canada, Croatia, Georgia, Italy, Liberia, Netherlands, and the UK (information on Nepal is under Topic 1)
- Under Topic 3, more information can be found on civil society participation in NAP processes in the following countries: Burundi, Canada, Italy, Liberia, Nepal

Organisations
www.femlinkpacific.org.fj is an organisation based in the Fiji Islands which coordinates a regional women's media network on 1325

Campaigns
No Women No Peace , a campaign by GAPS UK which, using traditional and new campaigning methods, calls for full participation of Afghan women in peace negotiations and donor conferences.

Films
The Needed Ones
Pray the Devil back to Hell (website)

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Annex 1: Initial discussion topics for the online dialogue

Topics for the EPLO-GPPAC Online Dialogue on:

Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Europe and Beyond: Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward

Topic 1. Policies and strategies

The EU and several European and non-European countries have taken considerable steps to ensure implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1920. So far, 26 countries, including 13 EU member states have developed National Action Plans. The EU adopted the Comprehensive Approach to EU implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 in 2008, and has developed a set of indicators for its implementation upon which it published a first report in May 2011, showing considerable progress, as well as challenges.

Guiding Questions:
1. Have the EU/ specific countries willing to implement 1325 taken adequate steps to implement 1325 to date?
2. To what extent were civil society organizations involved in developing/implementing these strategies and how does this show in the outcome strategy/implementation?
3. The EU has taken some considerable steps to foster implementation of 1325. However, many responsibilities still lie with the Member States (for example providing adequate pre-deployment gender training to seconded staff in Common Security and Defence Policy missions). How can the EU exert pressure on individual Member States to achieve greater implementation?
4. Can the EU Parliament play a bigger role to hold the EU to account and how? Are you aware of the draft European Parliament Report on Women's situation in war[6] and do you think that it reflects the resolutions adequately?

Topic 2. Implementation, Impact and National Action Plans

To boost implementation of UNSCR 1325, many European and non-European countries have adopted national action plans. The National Action Plan (NAP) is a tool to ensure that, ideally, clear guidelines, realistic benchmarks, lines of responsibility, timelines and funding are in place to ensure effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. The inherent danger is that the NAP becomes a goal in itself rather than a means to an end. Although the process of adopting a NAP is itself relevant, it should not divert the attention from actual implementation. For instance, countries who have adopted NAPs with no minimum standards (timelines, lines of responsibility, benchmarks, funding and indicators) should be questioned about the nature of their commitment to 1325.

Guiding Questions:
1. Have strategies to implement 1325 progressively led to increased involvement of women in the security agenda and to considerable change in women's lives in conflict affected countries?
2. When it comes to implementation, are there significant differences between countries that have and countries that do not have a NAP, but claim to have similar measures in place, such as Germany?

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[6] Draft report on women's situation in war 2011/0000(INI), Rapporteur Norica Nicolai.

3. In your opinion, is the adoption of a NAP with no clear timelines, lines of responsibility, benchmarks, funding and indicators a "start" or is it potentially more damaging as it gives the country an option to argue that something is being done to implement 1325?

Topic 3. Monitoring and Evaluation

As described above, the EU has developed a set of indicators to track implementation of 1325 commitments in its policies and practices and issued a first report on implementation of its Comprehensive Approach to 1325[7] in May 2011. The UN adopted its own set of indicators to enable monitoring of four key women peace and security goals (prevention, participation, protection and relief and recovery)[8]. The UN indicators are divided into three clusters, with reporting on the first cluster due in October 2011, and the others in the subsequent two years. Indicators are a useful means but other mechanisms to evaluate and monitor implementation could be used and strengthened.

Guiding Questions:
1. Are there proper monitoring and evaluation systems in place at national/EU/UN level and what can be done to improve them?
2. Is the presence and/or quality of indicators substantially impacting the implementation of 1325?
3. In your opinion, what additional measures can civil society take to hold the international community accountable for the implementation of 1325?

Topic 4. Advocacy

Many civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, have powerfully advocated for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and sister resolutions and for the adoption and implementation of NAPs. There is general agreement that, in terms of rhetoric and commitment to gender, peace and security issues at the international level, significant – but not yet sufficient – progress was made in the 11 years since 1325. However, the implementation gap remains serious, and at a time of global financial austerity, advocates need to be even more effective to ensure the spotlight does not desert critical issues.

Guiding Questions:
1. In your experience, what have been the most successful advocacy strategies at national, regional and international level?
2. What are the specific issues/aspects of the resolutions civil society should focus on to keep momentum and to maintain concrete objectives for change?
3. What kind of partnerships should civil society promote/engage in to further promote full implementation of UNSCR 1325?

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[7] Report on the EU-indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security

[8] The UN developed a set of indicators at the request of Security Council resolution 1889 (2009, OP 17) by an interagency working group established specifically for this purpose, and presented to the Security Council in October 2010 (S/20120/498). The set was originally presented to the Security Council in April 2010 (S/2010/173). The Security Council, in its presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/8) noted that the indicators would need technical and conceptual development before becoming operational and requested a inclusion of a reviewed comprehensive set of indicators in the next report to the Council on women and peace and security due in October 2010.

Topic 5. Challenges and Ways forward

The major strength of UNSCR 1325 is that it is comprehensive. However, the interconnection of the pillars of the Resolution has not been fully exploited, giving rise to only limited implementation. There is also a wide spread 'resolution-fatigue' due to the number of resolutions adopted and the ensuing confusion about their reciprocal relevance and interaction. Last but not least, the focus on empowerment and support to women resulted in a tendency to see the Resolution as relevant exclusively to women, while men have only recently been involved as partners in gender-sensitive peacebuilding.

Guiding Questions:
1. Eleven years on from the adoption of UNSCR 1325, what are in your opinion the current challenges/obstacles to effective implementation?
2. In your perception, what are the most 'successful' provisions of UNSCR 1325 and how can they better link up to the most neglected ones?
3. How can institutions and organisations involved in the implementation of 1325, including women's organisations, better reach out to men to involve them in gender-sensitive peacebuilding activities without losing sight of the Resolution's aim to enhance women's agency?

Annex 2: Summary of online discussion of "Key points to successful advocacy"

Under Topic 4 of the one-week online dialogue, the following strategies have been mentioned as key to successful advocacy:

Being concrete and focused:
- Being able to suggest concrete solutions, persons to be involved;
- Having a base-line study to be able to monitor and evaluate in a good way;
- Monitor and evaluate those trainings and the training material or used campaign material
- Monitor who is really taking part in that training (age groups, religion, ethnic groups, educational background, gender, geographical region) and how are the skills used? And investing the time to monitor this;
- Coalition-building: Building up strong 1325 community groups – regular meetings – regular exchange;
- Creating broader partnerships that involve several stakeholders and build on joint commitments;
- Making use of documents with more legal force than UNSCR 1325 wherever applicable.

Addressing barriers at different level:
- Consultations at local level to determine policy impact;
- Linking/applying 1325 provisions to concrete activities;
- Ensuring flexible budgets;
- Providing mentoring as well as role models, including from other countries (eg female peacekeepers, doctors).

Supporting women peace networks at regional level, through:
- On-line training programmes;
- Offer text (SMS) for key-messages - one message a day given to someone who can read it out and forward it by "mouth" to the community members;
- Community radio programs by rural women.

Annex 3: Summary of the online discussion on Monitoring & Evaluation

Under Topic 3 of the one-week online dialogue, the discussion on M&E has been summarised as follows:

- M&E appears to be an area of major concern to CSOs: M&E systems have been neglected to date – either not present at all, or not properly used, hence our ability to speak about impact is limited to anecdote and impression;
- We are at the very beginning of the process with M&E;
- So far the results show we are still process/output oriented and there is more progress on the 'bureaucratic' than the 'field' end of business;
- CSOs' role in ensuring accountability is felt to be vital, but has not yet been effective in pushing institutional actors to do their part (the EU is exceptional in having produced a monitoring report on its WPS commitments; Netherlands, Canada and few other countries have reviewed their NAPs)
- Even though the EU report is welcomed, it is not (nor does not claim to be!) comprehensive; for example, there was no data or analysis on Italy despite the adoption of its NAP since December 2010;
- Participants noted the GNWP Global Civil Society Monitoring Report as a worthwhile initiative (launched in 2010, 2nd edition coming in late October 2011);
- Proper M&E costs money and requires human resources: donors and governments should recognize and act accordingly with regard to their own activities and the CS ones they support. In Canada, for example, it was undertaken by volunteers who had some difficulty always to access data from government, etc.;
- In Nepal, M&E has been done and has shown poor implementation and in particular poor linkage from national through to village level; the challenge is then what to do next (revise plans, reallocate resources, find new ways to generate political will);
- The UN and EU must try to hold national governments accountable at the highest level, aided by the monitoring efforts of civil society.