



Femmes Africa Solidarité

International Secretariat

8 rue du Vieux-Billard

P.O. Box 5037

1211 Geneva 11 – Switzerland

Tel: (41 22) 328 80 50

Fax: (41 22) 328 80 52

Email: info@fasngo.org

<http://www.fasngo.org>

10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325:

Ensuring Women's Participation in Peace and Security

Egmont palace, Brussels, 9th of September 2010

Background Note and Recommendations

by Ms. Bineta Diop, Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)

This paper briefly highlights FAS work on the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR 1325 in the Great Lakes region (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda) and Mano River countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea). In these activities FAS has received support from the Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG) on Women, Peace and Security co-chair by Ms Mary Robinson and Ms Bineta Diop which has been mandated to advise the High-Level Steering Committee, and ultimately, the Secretary-General on UNSCR 1325 implementation. Drawing on these cases and on its knowledge and experience in the African Continent in Prevention, Participation and Protection, FAS offers a number of recommendations for the advancement of UNSCR 1325.

Femmes Africa Solidarité¹ (FAS) is a non-governmental organization working in conflict and post conflict situations in Africa to promote the leading role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in the Continent. Since its inception fourteen years ago, FAS has been advocating for the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and for the last ten years it has worked in its promotion and implementation. The recommendations with which the organization contributes to this meeting are the result of its experience as an implementer of projects in Africa, and as a civil society organization that partners with other actors at the national, regional and international level to listen and to echo the voices of African women. Among the specific activities that the organization has recently undertaken regarding UNSCR 1325 are:

In the Great Lakes region (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda) FAS has been working in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. In 2007 it launched the National Action Plans (NAPs) project for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 to promote gender equality and its integration in peace, security and development policies. As a result of a consultative process including a large number of diverse actors, the three countries have developed and later implemented NAPs. An important step forward was taken on 13th – 14th August, 2009, with a regional consultation on strengthening the NAPs, held in Bujumbura, Burundi. The meeting was attended by Ms. Rachel Mayanja, the UN

¹ For more information, visit: www.fasngo.org

Regional Office

Immeuble du Pied du Phare des Mamelles

Appt. 1 et 2, 1^{er} étage

P.O. Box 45077 Dakar Fann

Dakar – Senegal

Tel: +221 33 860 20 48

Fax: +221 33 860 20 47

Email: infodk@fasngo.org

New York Representative

777 United Nations Plaza

5th Floor

New York 10017

New York, USA

Tel: +1 212 687 13 69

Fax: +1 212 661 41 88

Email: infony@fasngo.org

Special Advisor on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, and Ms Elizabeth Rehn, Former Defense Minister of Finland and representatives of the Government of Finland. Delegations from the three countries reviewed the situation of women in the region and came up with a common paper based on a synthesis of their NAPs. A committee was created among the members of the national steering committees to follow-up the execution of the document. So far three workshops have been organised to include comprehensible indicators and budgeting clauses.

In the Mano River countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast) FAS has been implementing programmes in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway. In 2009, FAS facilitating the process that brought to the successful adoption of the National Action Plan by advocating at the highest level in the government. Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast have adopted NAPs and Guinea is in the process of drafting its own NAP. FAS has convened a meeting to favor a regional perspective on the implementation of Action Plans.

Recommendations:

- After the successful adoption of gender-sensitive indicators on UNSCR 1325 for monitoring and reporting by the European Union, the United Nations should develop a set of indicators for use at the global level, by regional organizations and Member States, and actively follow their further testing, improvement and operationalization. Moreover, we encourage the participation of women as data collectors to help create an environment in which women are not afraid to talk.
- The establishment of UNWOMEN offers an opportunity to include in its mandate the promotion, implementation and evaluation of UNSCR 1325. It will be necessary to provide the new agency with adequate funding and skilled staff to work with other UN entities to provide Member States with technical and capacity-building support. About 15% of its pledges in post-conflict recovery should be reserved for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Regional Bodies such as the EU and the AU should establish a Special Representative on Gender, Peace and Security. The holder of this high-level position should be appointed with leadership functions to coordinate the initiatives taken on gender, peace and security by Member States.
- The UN and regional bodies such as the EU and the AU should promote the nomination of women as Head of Peace Negotiations and as Mediators as well as to endorse their participation in other senior positions within negotiations missions. Their Terms of Reference should include knowledge and experience on UNSCR 1325 and other gender-sensitive mechanisms.
- NAPs should be prepared through consultative processes involving key actors such as women's group. In the absence of conflict, prevention should be the main focus. Military personnel involved in peacekeeping missions should receive specific gender-sensitive trainings. The plan should include time-bound goals, indicators and accountability mechanism, and be backed by adequate financial and personnel resources.
- Mediation and Peacekeeping operations should count with a Gender Unit to bring in gender considerations. Job descriptions should include knowledge and experience on UNSCR 1325 and other gender-sensitive mechanisms.

- Field visits by the UN Secretary General and representatives of the Security Council should include meetings with representatives of women's organizations, women community leaders, etc.
- Regarding prevention, the UN Department of Political Affairs should work with gender-sensitive indicators related to UNSCR 1325 and others legal instruments in their early warning mechanisms.
- A synergy approach should be use between the existing women's human rights frameworks such as UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW for early warning and conflict prevention.
- There must be an understanding of the key role of women and women's organization in restoring peace and building stable societies within a broader concept of inclusive security. This will institutionalize the contribution of local women to decision-making in conflict prevention and their proactive role in building local capacity as part of peacebuilding. Eventually this recognition would enable women to be more and more present at the negotiation table and consult in peacebuilding processes. Representatives in the field should identify women leaders and women's civil society groups that have the capacity and commitment to bring peace to their communities and ensure systematic consultation and partnership with them.
- The interaction between the co-chairs of CSAG and the UNSC Members has been welcomed during the Security Council Retreat hosted in Austria. Based on the relevance of such interaction we are recommending that a type of CSAG body should be institutionalised to meet and bring Civil Society voices and to be an advisory body to the Security Council on UNSCR 1325, with appropriate funding and staff.
- The EU should adopt specific measures to support the fight against impunity for violence against women in conflict and post-conflict countries. Those measures should also support the participation of women in transitional justice processes by drawing on women protection measures. Adequate resources should also be provided to support transitional justice processes and related programmes for women in reparations programmes.
- On post-conflict reconstruction, the Peacebuilding Commission should continue to enhance its capacity in order to build partnership with local partners and especially women in the countries on its agenda. The seven strategic point of the Peacebuilding Commission should be adopted and supported.

FAS is convinced that women are bringing an added value in peace and security. The 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 is an opportunity for making positive changes to restore their dignity in armed conflicts, promote their rights, enhance their meaningful participation in decision making even at the highest level, ensure their protection under the law, prevent crimes and violation against them and persecute perpetrators of atrocities. The mentioned recommendations should be included in the Secretary General Report which will be presented to the Security Council fort Members States take concrete actions.