

**Date / time**            **9 September 2010**

**Nature / purpose of the conference**

October 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. You are co-hosting this conference together with Belgian MFA Steven Vanackere. This conference, in addition to another conference promoted by the EU in Geneva on 15 September (on the protection of women in armed conflict), aims to raise the profile of Resolution 1325, draw international attention to the need to speed up implementation and confirm EU leadership in this field in the run-up to the UN Security Council open debate at high level to take place in late October.

**Logistics / Handling**

The event will take place in the Palais d'Egmont, Brussels, from 9am-1pm, followed by a lunch.

The Belgian Princess Astrid will also attend as an observer. She will arrive at one minute before 9. Belgian Protocol indicates that it would be best if you arrived at 8.50 in order to, together with Minister Vanackere, welcome the Princess and enter the meeting room all at once. The title of address for Princess Astrid is "Madame".

The press has been invited to participate throughout the conference, and there will be Council video coverage during the arrivals and roundtable (9h-9h40), released to the press via Europe by Satellite and the Council's TV newsroom.

The lunch takes place in the Egmont Palace, 2 minutes away from the conference room. It is a closed, seated lunch with Princess Astrid and the VIPs. No speeches are foreseen, informal setting.

**Participants**

Participants will be mainly external/security policy or gender experts from EU Member States, EU and UN officials and international NGOs; attached the latest version of the participants list (approximately 300 registrations so far). To date, there are 13 ambassadors on the list and no Ministers have confirmed their participation.

Confirmed **speakers** (see further descriptions in the attachment):

1. Mrs. Rachael Mayanja, Assistant UN Secretary General, Special advisor on gender issues and Advancement of women;
2. Mrs. Margot Wallström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on sexual Violence against women in armed conflict;
3. Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Prize 1997 for her activities of defence of human rights in Iran;
4. Mrs. Luz Mendez, President of the National Union of Guatemalan Women active in the Guatemalan peace process;

5. Mrs. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan;
6. Mrs. Bineta Diop: Executive Director of Femmes Africa Solidarité, NGO specialised in the promotion of African women's participation in peace and security;
7. Mr. Alain Le Roy, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations at the United Nations;
8. Mr Giampaolo Di Paola, Admiral, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee
9. Mrs Inès Alberdi, Executive Director of the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM);
10. Ms Kamilia Kuku Kura, Executive Director of the NGO "Nuba - Women for Education and Development Association (NuWEDA)", on Behalf of 40 women meaders in the Horn of Africa.

### Moderators:

1. Mrs. Sabine de Bethune, Senator (CD&V/Flemish Christian-Democrats-group), Belgium, active at the national level on women, peace and security, born in Kinshasa;
2. Mrs. Elisabeth Rehn, former Finnish Minister for Defence and United Nations Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Key Objectives

- To raise the profile of Resolution 1325;
- To draw international attention to the need to speed up implementation of Resolution 1325 in the run-up to its 10th anniversary in October 2010 and confirm EU leadership in this field;
- To agree on a joint Outcome Declaration, listing a set of key political deliverables in order to speed up implementation of Resolution 1325. A draft Outcome Declaration, proposed by the Belgian Presidency, is currently being circulated for agreement by the participants represented in the panel.

### Key messages / points to make

- Need to step up effective implementation of Resolution 1325, through the promotion of global accountability and monitoring, notably by the UN Security Council;
- Women's participation in peace processes requires focused action in order to make it happen;
- At the national level, need to concretise commitments, for example through National Action Plans on Resolution 1325.

**Draft Speech**

10 years ago, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security underlined the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Other (Security Council) Resolutions have since reaffirmed this commitment.

However, 10 years down the road, this commitment has not been fulfilled. The mass rape of women and children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in August is a sober reminder that, after all the discussions, strategies and papers, the international community has not been able to effectively address the plague of violence against women in conflict-affected countries.

Beyond the issue of sexual violence, the numbers of women in formal peace negotiations remains unacceptably low. According to the UN, women accounted for less than 6 % of formal peace negotiators during the period between 2000 and 2008. Their participation remains critical to the effectiveness of peace accords to ensure that women's needs and interests are reflected in post-conflict planning and financial decision-making. It makes it much more difficult to achieve lasting peace and security in any country or region in the world, when only half of the population is represented at a negotiating table or in talks on post-conflict reconstruction.

There are remarkable examples of peace processes in which women have made a difference, across the world, from within the EU's own borders, in Northern Ireland. And further afield in Somalia, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Timor Leste and in Israel, and in many other countries more, women have mobilised, formed peace movements, practiced silent diplomacy and written proposals for post-conflict reconstruction programmes.

Since I started this job, I have personally seen the role of women in peace and security in places as different as Kosovo, Gaza, Ramallah and Kabul when I been able to meet women and have been privileged to listen to their inspiring stories and better understand the challenges they face. supporting women in these endeavours is absolutely critical to achieving lasting peace and security.

Afghanistan is a case in point: I had the opportunity to meet the Commissioner for women's rights from Afghanistan's Independent Commission for Human Rights earlier this year. A few weeks ago, ahead of the Kabul Conference in July, SoS Hillary Clinton and I met a number of Afghan women leaders and activists. The progress women have made, notably through politics and in civil society, is closely linked to improving prospects for peace and security in Afghanistan. Whatever the outcome of the attempts to find political or military solutions, we have to ensure that women are involved. I emphasised at the Kabul Conference that Afghanistan cannot afford to marginalise women. Indeed, Afghanistan's success will depend on safeguarding women's rights as the political process takes shape and Afghan people expect this process to become more inclusive for all.

Next month we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325. Firm and concerted action within our respective countries and organisations can make a significant difference. Business as usual is not enough now. Together we need to step up our respective commitments. And I believe that the EU should lead by example. Let me give you some practical ideas of what we are doing.

We established a **dedicated policy** on women, peace and security in 2008, by adopting a master plan – the 'Comprehensive Approach to EU Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security'. This document covers the whole 1325 agenda from prevention to protection and participation

and therefore making use of EU tools as diverse as development cooperation, Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and political dialogue.

**EU crisis management** plays a significant role. We have revised our operational approach to the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 within the CSDP and installed specialised gender advisors or focal points in each of our EU crisis management missions all over the world, in places as diverse as Chad, Kosovo, the DRC and Afghanistan. Later this year, we will put into place specific training modules on gender and crisis management, emphasising women's participation.

In June, the EU Council endorsed the EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality in **Development Co-operation**. The Action Plan will ensure that gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the EU's work with partner countries – at all levels from political dialogue through to project implementation on the ground. We will build on best practice and the experience we already have from our work in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. Focusing on both the **protection** of women who have suffered from sexual violence and equally on the **prevention** of violence. By reinforcing the capacity of the justice and police systems in affected countries to fight against impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence.

The European Union works closely with the **United Nations** on these issues, with a joint steering committee overseeing partnership projects across the world, in Nepal, Indonesia and Cameroon to name a few. And I was delighted when my ex-European Commission colleague Margot Wallstrom, whom you will hear from shortly, was appointed Special Representative to the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict. We will continue to link our EU efforts with new developments such as the setting up of the UN gender entity, 'UN Women'.

In order to further boost women's participation in peace and security, we attach the greatest importance to **co-operation with civil society and women's networks**. For 2011, we are planning specific capacity building actions under the Instrument for Stability for civil society working on women, peace and security (estimated budget: € 2 million). Moreover, inspired by the UN example, our EU Delegations and CSDP missions will be organising 'Open Door' days over the coming months to mark the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325, in order to further promote exchanges of views in on the ground between heads of mission and local women's groups and civil society organisations in country.

Finally, we want to be **accountable for our policy**. This is why, in July, the EU adopted 17 implementation indicators which we will use to measure our performance. We intend to publish the first report about EU implementation of the Comprehensive Approach in October. Several of our indicators directly measure women's participation, be it around peace negotiation tables or within our Common Security and Defence Policy. I hope that these indicators may of use to other regional organisations as well as one way of measuring progress against our commitments.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Efforts made to date are important, but need to be further pursued in practice. I am personally committed to driving forward action in this respect, particularly within the European External Action Service. When I first started this job, at my first EU Foreign Affairs Council meeting, I was the only women in a room with 27 male European foreign ministers. And when one of them drew attention to this, I pointed out that I was the one in the chair! Things are changing, and I now have 1 female ministerial colleague, Lene Espersen from Denmark. Similarly, when I started not one of the EU Special Representatives was a woman. In August I was delighted to appoint the first female EU Special

Representative, to Sudan. And in the EU's new External Action Service we have a commitment to ensuring a gender balance. This will be a priority for me as we set up the new service, and for which I will need Member State support to put forward strong candidates for posts.

Above all, we need a sharper focus on the impact and the results of our actions. In this respect, the 10th anniversary should bring about concrete outcomes such as the official endorsement of the global indicators on the Resolution 1325 and, I hope, the setting up of a global accountability mechanism involving the Security Council. Ten years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, all UN Member States must assume their responsibilities on the situation of women in conflict. It is now time that each and every Member State is made accountable before the international community to make Resolution 1325 a reality on the ground.

## **Background**

### **1. UN Security Council Resolution 1325: success stories and challenges**

- In 2000, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325, the first formal and legal acknowledgement by the UN of the importance of gender in processes of peace building, peace keeping and conflict Resolution. Three new UN Resolutions on women, peace and security have been adopted since then (Resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889), putting the emphasis on the fight against sexual violence and concrete action in combination with targeted sanctions.
- Evidence shows some promising developments in certain specific chapters of 1325, not least the promotion of a culture of fight against impunity against perpetrators of violence against women and the nomination of a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on sexual violence in armed conflicts. Nonetheless, implementation remains inadequate. Sexual violence, and impunity for it, remains widespread, as demonstrated by events of 30 July and 2 August 2010, when at least 154 civilians were raped in 13 villages in North Kivu province's Banamukira, Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. The atrocities had been blamed on the Mai-Mai militia and the ethnic Hutu Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR). The implementation of deliverables in 1325 regarding women's participation in peacebuilding still lag behind. Moreover, as of today, there is no mechanism at the international level to oversee the implementation of these Resolutions.
- To mark the 10th anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325 a debate at ministerial level should be organised in the Security Council in October 2010 under the Presidency of Uganda, in order to examine ways to further enhance the impact of Resolution 1325. This open debate will be preceded by a commitment conference promoted by a civil society advisory group led by Mary Robinson (25 September, New York).
- Looking ahead, EU MS have made clear that they would like the Security Council deliberations in October to deliver a concrete outcome, preferably in the form of global indicators to better measure and improve accountability of Resolution 1325.

### **2. EU policy on women, peace and security**

- On 8 December 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted the "Comprehensive Approach on EU Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security". As a parallel key policy development, the Council adopted on the same day the operational paper 'Implementation of UNSCR 1325 as reinforced by UNSCR 1820 in the context of ESDP'.

- Recent CSDP activities on the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach, include a 5-6 July 2010 meeting of CSDP Human Rights and Gender experts in Brussels. The meeting was dedicated to identifying lessons from mainstreaming human rights and gender aspects into the practical work of CSDP military operations and civilian missions. In October 2010, the CGS will organise a joint thematic meeting for HoMs and Commanders on human rights and gender, including feedback from the lessons meeting and a briefing on wider human rights and gender developments related to CSDP. The GSC has initiated the elaboration of standard elements for training on human rights and gender in the CSDP context.
- The EU External Assistance and Development Co-Operation finances a number of initiatives in this area. For instance:
  - In the DRC, the Commission is active in the area of addressing the issue of sexual violence. The support is three-fold: 1) Assistance to victims through medicine provision; psychological and psychosocial aid; training of medical staff; 2) Fight against impunity, in particular through the REJUSCO project (11,8 M€ of which 7,9M€ via the EDF) which seeks to support the justice sector including in relation to sexual violence; 3) Prevention: Dialogue with the Government of the DRC, awareness raising campaigns, carried out mainly by DG ECHO.
  - In Somalia: since 2005 the Commission has supported the establishment of a "Somali Women's Agenda (SWA)", which brings together for the first time and in a systematic way, all clans, the Diaspora and organisations across the country, in a common vision and shared strategy for improving gender equality in Somalia. Mobilised as members of a platform representing a constituency of approximately 100,000 Somali women, SWA is presently composed of 17 organisations. Fight against violence against women is an integral part of their work.
- The **EU Action Plan on Gender in Development Co-Operation**, adopted on 14 June, contains 2 specific objectives (with activities and indicators) on women, peace and security using development tools.
- On 26 July 2010 the Council adopted 17 indicators to measure the EU's implementation of the above-mentioned commitments. On the basis of a questionnaire, sent to all Member States, the relevant EU institutions and CSDP missions, **the HR/VP's services will prepare a public report on the EU implementation of UNSCR 1325 in October 2010.**