



## **Meeting Summary**

### **IPI-DPKO/DFS Roundtable**

***“Implementing Security Council Resolution 1325:***

***A forward-looking Agenda for Troop and Police Contribution Countries”***

**International Peace Institute’s  
Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security and Development  
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#### **Executive Summary**

Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security (2000) mandated the United Nations peacekeeping missions to support the participation of women in peace processes and to integrate a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations.

So far, the implementation of the resolution in the peacekeeping context has included the development of a wide range of policy, guidance, and training tools and efforts to document good practices and lessons learned. While progress has been made in policy debates and at both the national and field levels, many obstacles towards effective implementation in peacekeeping practice still remain.

To complement activities surrounding the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325, the International Peace Institute (IPI), in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS), convened a roundtable discussion with a select group of representatives from troop and police contributing countries to review progress to date on the implementation of resolution 1325, and to identify key-priorities for a forward-looking strategy for the resolution in peacekeeping policy and practice.

The meeting was convened under the Chatham House rule of confidentiality and non-attribution.

#### **Taking Stock and Learning from Experience**

##### *Policies & Partnership*

Over the past decade, there has been a significant development of policies, guidelines, and training tools to support the implementation of resolution 1325, however much work remains before these are translated into peacekeeping practice on the ground.

Many TCCs and PCCs pointed out that a National Action Plan (NAP) is an indispensable tool in order to accelerate implementation of resolution 1325. Having such a plan in place greatly improves strategic planning among all the national services by providing a set of clear objectives for the police, military, and government agencies. They also provide mechanisms for monitoring and tracking progress and for sharing lessons learned on gender challenges in the field. It was emphasized that budget resources must

be made available to support the implementation of NAPs and that member states that have not yet adopted one should be encouraged to do so.

The range of tools that have been developed by DPKO/DFS also provide opportunities to strengthen implementation of resolution 1325 in the field. These include the Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming that now are available for both military and police, and training tools such as the DPKO/DFS Gender Training Strategy. In 2011, Member states will also be able to make use of the UNPOL toolkit for tracking gender mainstreaming in national and international police peacekeeping.

Many TCCs and PCCs stressed the importance of the role of gender advisers to facilitate that gender challenges are taken into consideration in the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. In many cases, the presence of gender advisers has helped to integrate gender in a practical and hands-on manner. However, it was noted that there are still gaps in the reporting on 1325 from missions, particularly on gender considerations in the areas of DDR and SSR.

Furthermore, the appointment of gender advisers in military contingents deployed to peacekeeping missions was cited as an innovative practice which can reinforce the role of gender advisers in overseeing the implementation of resolution 1325 in all the activities of the mission.

Another way to accelerate implementation of 1325 is through partnerships at the national, regional, and global levels. These are crucial in order to share lessons learned and best practices between police and military services in different parts of the world.

Finally, a sustained dialogue and partnership between DPKO/DFS and TCCs and PCCs will be essential in order to move the 1325 agenda forward. Such regular interactions will assist in setting priorities based on common objectives and in identifying obstacles that need to be addressed. Importantly, it will also help in making assessments on possible gaps on the peacekeeping support-side.

#### *Participation and Representation*

To achieve the ambitious goals set forward in resolution 1325 on women's participation in peace processes, efforts must continue to integrate gender considerations into peacekeeping planning and to consistently involve local women in all stages of peace processes. It was noted that beyond resolution 1325, the Secretary General's Report on Women's participation in Peacebuilding (2010) provides a good complementary strategic framework for strengthening the role of women in peace processes.

While participation is important, the debate must be broadened beyond simply stressing the need to increase the numbers of female military and police personnel. It is also essential to increase the quality of women's representation. The upcoming Contingents Owned Equipment (COE) review was highlighted as an opportunity to support enhanced conditions of service for women deployed to peacekeeping missions. In addition, TCCs and PCCs should also review their legal sectors to identify possible local impediments to reaching gender equality.

The call for global action by UNPOL to increase the quota of female police officers to 20 percent by 2014 is beginning to show progress. Since the launch of the call for action in 2009, 400 female police officers have joined UN peacekeeping missions, bringing the total percentage of female police peacekeepers up from 7 percent to 9 percent. The establishment of a networking forum for information-sharing among female police officers is also envisaged to support these efforts. However, many PCCs emphasized that reaching the 20 percent goal in time will be difficult, considering the current capacity-gap of national police forces to nominate female officers with the right skill-sets. To address this challenge, better pre-

deployment training opportunities must be offered, particularly in areas such as driving, firearm, and language training.

On the military side, gender statistics on women's participation in UN peace operations still show a significant under-representation. Over the past three years, the number of female military officers in UN peace operations has increased modestly from 2.69 percent in 2007, to 3.28 percent in 2010. To reach the DPKO/DFS target of 10 percent female deployment, substantive investments must be made in pre-deployment training and in improving conditions on the ground so that they take into account the needs of female peacekeepers. At the highest level of military command, the appointment of a female Force Commander or Deputy Force Commander was noted as a realistic goal to pursue in future.

### *Protection*

Efforts on both the military and police side must continue to underline the operational necessity of deploying female officers to peacekeeping missions. In addition to the value of having them serve alongside their male counterparts in all areas of mandated tasks, the presence of female officers facilitates outreach to women in local communities to address specific challenges, including sexual and gender-based violence.

Reaching the next level in this work will require an assessment of the success-rate of protection strategies in the field so far. This should include assessing the role of national police force special units for sexual violence, the impact of increased patrolling in vulnerable areas, and the experiences from special mentoring programs for victims of sexual violence.

A step in the right direction is the recent DPKO/DFS and UN Action Against Sexual Violence initiative to develop an inventory of military strategies that have proven successful supporting the protection of women and girls from sexual violence in various situations. Other important achievements include the special toolkit developed by UNPOL to support the work of police personnel in addressing sexual violence. In 2011 this will be complemented by training modules that will form the basis for host-state development of specialized police units.

It was also noted that the ongoing DPKO/DFS capabilities development project will play an important role to enable more targeted and specific requests to TCCs and PCCs that better respond to the protection needs of women and girls.

### **Looking Forward: What 1325 Strategy for the Next Ten Years?**

The future 1325 strategy must be comprehensive and continue to integrate a gender perspective throughout the entire process of the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. This will require a full-circle approach, starting with the planning processes for the establishment of new missions, continuing with the development of specific policies and guidelines, and following through with training and staffing procedures. To be complete, the strategy must also address gender issues within the peacekeeping support components. This requires integrating a gender perspective in all peacekeeping support areas, including in engineering, logistics, and finance and budget procedures.

Ultimately however, no strategic plan will be effective without strong political leadership and dedicated political action. The next ten years of the 1325 agenda must therefore be supported by political leadership at the highest levels and by increased financial resources.

Another key-aspect for the future is to continue to tell the success-stories of female peacekeepers and police officers in the field. Sharing and collecting such stories will help in formulating an evidence-based

strategy that clearly demonstrates the link between women's participation and operational impact. In this regard, strengthening the role of local women in peace processes and addressing the specific protection risks in post-conflict societies must be at the heart of all future efforts.

To strengthen implementation at the national level, member states that have not yet adopted a National Action Plan should be encouraged to do so. Capacity-building partnerships that transfer best practices between TCCs and PCCs on the implementation and development of National Action Plans, such as so called bilateral "twinning projects", should be pursued.

At the broader UN system level, the ongoing effort to adopt standard indicators for tracking implementation of resolution 1325 has potential. For the indicators to be effective however, a more substantive and consistent engagement between DPKO/DFS and the Security Council on the reporting on the implementation of the resolution will be necessary.

Another opportunity within the UN is the establishment of UN Women. The strong field-component proposed for this new UN entity generates additional prospects for collaboration to implement resolution 1325 in the field as well as at the national level. It is important that the new entity focuses not only on pushing the agenda forward in post-conflict countries where peacekeeping missions maintain robust gender components, but also at the national levels as part of a broader effort to advance women's rights.

Finally, a sustained and regular dialogue, both formal and informal, between DPKO/DFS and TCCs and PCCs will be crucial in order to move the 1325 agenda forward. Together with increased interaction between the Security Council and DPKO/DFS on the 1325 indicators, such consultations will help to set priorities based on common objectives and to define effective strategies for the coming decade.

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