

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security

Implications of UNSC Resolution 1325: Three Years On

Founding Documents of UNSC Resolution 1325:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), 1979
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995
- ECOSOC agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming, 1997
- Security Council Presidential Statement (Bangladesh), 8 March 2000
- Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations, May 2000
- Outcome doc. of the UN General Assembly Special Session *Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century*

Key Commitments Made in 1325:

- Gender Parity at All Levels of Decision-Making
- Gender Perspective in SG Reports and in SC Missions
- Protection of and Respect for Human Rights of Women and Girls
- Gender Perspective in Post-Conflict Processes
- Gender Perspective in Peacekeeping

Who has to implement 1325?

- Security Council
- Secretary-General
- Member States
- All parties to armed conflict
- All those involved in planning for DDR
- All actors involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements

Gender Parity at All Levels of Decision-Making

UNSC Resolution 1325 calls for MORE

- Women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict
- Women as Special Representatives and Envoys of the UNSG
- Women as military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel

Yet,

Only **one** of approximately 50 Special Representatives of the SG and Special Envoys on peace support operations is a woman- the Special Representative of the SG to the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). There are **four** women deputy heads in peacekeeping missions: MINUGUA, MONUC, UNMEE and UNOMIG.

Gender Perspective in Peacekeeping

UNSC Resolution 1325 calls for

- Mission planning [since 2000, Integrated Mission Taskforces]
- Senior level gender advisor/ gender units
- Gender training of all peacekeeping personnel

Yet,

- To-date, only five peacekeeping missions have had staff working directly on gender issues: East Timor (UNTAET), Kosovo (UNMIK), DRC (MONUC), Cote d'Ivoire (MINUCI), and Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).
- These gender units continue to be understaffed and weak, as a result of a lack of mandated authority: in Cote d'Ivoire (MINUCI) a UN Volunteer is the only staff member working on gender issues from within the Human Rights Unit.
- While a gender training module is compulsory for peacekeepers during their induction program, its integration relies on the political will of each mission; in some missions, the gender training module has been reduced to approximately 2 hours, even facing an attempt to eliminate it completely.

Protection of and Respect for Human Rights of Women and Girls

UNSC Resolution 1325 calls for

- Respect for international law, as applicable to women and girls
- Special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict
- An end to impunity, including for those responsible for committing sexual violence against women and girls
- Respect for the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps
- The integration of the particular needs of women and girls into the design of refugee camps

Gender Perspective in Post-Conflict Processes

UNSC Resolution 1325 calls for

- The adoption of a gender perspective in repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction
- The consideration of the different needs of female and male ex-combatants
- Respect for the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps

Where women have been active participants in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, gun collection in their communities has been more successful. In Elbasan, Albania, women collected 2,332 weapons and 1,801 tons of ammunition. These women were supported in a UNDP *Weapons for Development* collection by UNIFEM. - Independent Experts. Assessment Report, Women, War and Peace, 2002

Gender Perspective in SG Reports and in SC Missions

UNSC Resolution 1325 calls for

- The SG to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes
- The SG to report on progress in gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions in all of his reports to the SC
- The integration of gender considerations and the rights of women in SC missions
- SC members. consultation with women.s groups and organizations while on mission

Yet,

“Last year in June, when the Delegation of the Security Council visited Kosova, UNMIK didn’t plan for the delegation to meet with women’s groups, which reflected that all the UN’s resolutions about the role of women in peace and post-conflict decision making, are nothing more than lip service. If it wasn.t for the Ambassador.s (Mr. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, head of delegation) persistence to meet with us, which we highly appreciate, we would have no chance to give any of our views face-to-face. Despite all these meetings with UN High Representatives, UNMIK continues to ignore women.s vital role in peace-building ...”

-Kosova Women’s Network to UN Security Council Delegation in Kosova, 15 December 2002, Prishtina, Kosova

Weaknesses of Resolution 1325

Chapter 6 v. Chapter 7

“Under Chapter 7 they [resolutions] are enforceable by the Security Council in the event of noncompliance. Under Chapter 6 they are not automatically enforceable. But in either case they are equally legally binding. Even under Chapter 6, in the event of non-compliance, there are provisions of the UN Charter under which the UN secretary general can take specified actions for implementation of the resolution.”

-Pakistan’s High Commissioner for India Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

Weak language contained in the resolution

Weak language as compared to other resolutions ,i.e. Counter-Terrorism resolution (1373);

UNSC Res. 1325: expresses, emphasizes, requests , calls upon

UNSC Res. 1373: decides, directs, declares, calls upon

Thematic resolution v. Country-specific resolution

The Security Council gives more weight to country-specific resolutions, over thematic resolutions.