



Concept Note

Virtual Dialogue

“Planning for Action: Good Practices on Implementing UNSCR 1325 on a National Level”

3rd -21st November 2008

To highlight existing efforts and strengthen the analysis and replication of good practices, UN-INSTRAW is launching a virtual dialogue and platform to foster the dynamic exchange of experiences between member states, which plan to or are in the process of or have already published a national action plan on women, peace and security. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security was a milestone in terms of gender equality and the empowerment of women in conflict affected contexts. It was the first time that the Security Council acknowledged the unique position of women during conflict and post-conflict, as well as the importance of women’s contributions to conflict-resolution, peace-building and decision-making processes. Resolution 1325 further called for a significant change in the process, evaluation, traditions and attitudes of individuals and institutions from all UN Member States with regard to women’s role in situations of conflict and peace.

Despite the clear mandate of the resolution however, there has been limited progress in its implementation, often with mixed or unspecified results. At the same time, impact of implementation efforts has been difficult to measure. Since 2006, ten countries have developed national action plans and many more are in the process to do so. Policy efforts have significantly increased in the last years. It is important to use this amplified political will, research and policy-making effort all over the world, bringing the different ends together in order to exchange experience and knowledge and facilitate further action planning processes.

In order to support a more comprehensive and sustainable implementation of Resolution 1325 at the national level, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) produced *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security* (2006), which aims to provide UN Member States with concrete suggestions on how to initiate and implement a national-level action planning process on Resolution 1325. However, much more has been done since at the national level to support the implementation of Resolution 1325 that hasn’t been systematically documented.

To highlight existing efforts and strengthen the analysis and replication of good practices, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (**UN-INSTRAW**) with the support of **International Alert** and the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (**OSAGI**), is launching a virtual dialogue and platform that will facilitate the exchange of experiences, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned between those countries that have already, or are in the process of, preparing a national action plan on women, peace and security. The systematic exchange of information, resources and experiences aims to facilitate the implementation process for Member States that are developing and implementing UNSCR 1325 at a national level. Participants can share their knowledge and experiences, support each other and exchange insight. The need for this dialogue and a permanent platform for exchange and coordination was expressed by various governmental representatives during the regional High-Level Dialogues on the National Implementation of Resolution 1325 in Santiago de Chile and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which were organized by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI).

The discussion will last for a period of three weeks and include three separate modules: On conclusion, the summary of the discussion will be made available to all participants and feed into the second edition of the UN-INSTRAW policy guide *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace (2006)*.

1. Getting started

This module starts with a look at the different questions that have to be resolved before starting to develop a National Action Plan: Should a separate action plan be created or is it enough to simply integrate women, peace and security issues into existing initiatives, laws and policies? What key planning methodologies should be included in the action planning process? What are good strategies for building political will within different institutions? What have been the most efficient tools for fundraising on women, peace and security issues? What role can donors play? What role can civil society organisations play in advocating for a National Action Plan?

2. Good Practices in drafting National Action Plans

What methodologies have been successful in guiding the development of National Action Plans? Why? What recommendations can be highlighted or practices replicated in other countries? The aim of the second week's discussion is to collect a series of good practices for analysis. By the end of the module we will be able to share several good practices that participants can learn from.

3. Monitoring and evaluation of National Action Plans

How do we know whether a National Action Plan is being implemented? Who is responsible? What monitoring and reporting arrangements exist? Will an assessment be conducted at a later point? Current NAPs have been criticized for not paying enough attention to monitoring and evaluation components. The aim of this module is to share experiences and suggestions for monitoring the success of National Action Plan, including the development of indicators and follow-up activities. What are the different methods, definitions, monitoring and evaluation tools used in National Action Plans? How are gender sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data developed?

For more information and requesting participation please contact:

Jasmin Blessing
Email: jblessing@un-instraw.org
Discussion Moderator
Gender Peace and Security
UN-INSTRAW

Or

Nicola Popovic
Email: npopovic@un-instraw.org
Programme Officer
Gender Peace and Security
UN-INSTRAW