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Roadmap to 1325 – a Project for Engendering the European Peace and Security Policy

Input to The Conference in Brussels:

WOMEN: FROM TARGET GROUP TO STAKEHOLDERS IN PEACE AND SECURITY, 6./7.11.2007

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(Thank you for the invitation and for giving me the possibility to present to you the project "Roadmap to UNSCR 1325" of the German Women's Security Council and of the Gunda-Werner-Institute for Feminism and Gender Democracy in the Heinrich Boell Foundation: In the first step we want it to realize within the EU.)

I would firstly like to refer to the political background of the project, then I will present to you the idea of the project "Roadmap to 1325", thirdly I'll outline our concrete activities. Finally, I will speak about our further plans, strategies and ideas to step forward together.

1. The Background of the project

At a global level the EU and the European member states are becoming more and more part of military interventions. We have examples in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Lebanon or the Democratic Republic of Congo. Civilian forms of intervention and conflict management are increasingly forced into the background. A further militarisation of the European Security and Defence Policy is looming with the formulation of the European Security Strategy, the development of EU intervention forces and the building of a European Defence Agency.

At the same time, the implementation of Resolution 1325 is still outstanding in the institutions of the EU and the European states although some European countries – the

United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland - have adopted national action plans on this subject. Other countries, like mine, Germany, refuse to develop an action plan. The German government repeated several times in letters addressed to us, the German Women's Security Council, that they do not see any need for an action plan.

Maybe, I have shortly to explain: What is the German Women's Security Council?

We are a network of approximately 50 women experts, partly individuals, partly representing different political organizations and groups involved in peace and development, and political foundations and peace studies institutes. We started in 2003, when Germany was member of the UN Security Council for two years. We saw our main task in critically accompanying the government concerning activities to realize 1325. We made detailed proposals, we gave them ideas for conceptions and especially observed whether there was progress concerning the implementation of the Resolution, especially in conflict regions. We wrote a shadow report and organized public events to inform about the resolution, and its implications and put pressure on the government by formulating demands.

Since 2003, we have had a lot of exchanges and discussions with representatives of the German government, and I can say: we achieved an increasing attention and consciousness as well in the public as by the responsible politicians. But look at the facts: there has been no real change in the central field of peace and security policy, neither in Germany, nor within Europe. Facing the increasing militarization of the European Security strategy, we got more and more doubts if there is really the political will to make women participate in all fields of peace and security policy.

It was this perception that led us to our project "Roadmap to 1325". The idea is to ensure succinct and coordinated activities that aim for an implementation of the resolution 1325 in Europe, that means in the European Security Policy, in EU-Countries and in those which are targets of EU-intervention.

2. Roadmap to 1325 – the idea and the concept

We had two starting points: the first arose from the fact that in the first half of 2007 Germany was holding the presidency of the European Union. This was a perfect setting for a conference on Gender and the European Union's peace and security policy in Germany, as a first step. The German government should utilise the presidency of the European

Union to play a decisive role in the implementation of Resolution 1325 at the European level.

Secondly we analysed the realization of actions plans in some European countries. They were the result of more or less intensive lobbying by non-governmental organisations and women's networks. So, for us it was quite clear: To achieve a gender-sensitive EU-policy on peace and security and also to reach an EU-wide action plan on 1325 a new strategy had to be developed:

Part of this new strategy was a symbolic relay race through the countries of the EU, headed by the respective EU- presidencies.

The concept behind this relay race is to combine activities of the civil society organisations with the respective presidency of the European Union. By regular conferences and other activities, step by step, in all the EU member states, the demands for an implementation of UN Resolution 1325 can be ensured and lobbied for. By doing that, we also design a time-frame to concentrate on concrete events in one country of the EU with one aim: a European-wide implementation of this Resolution – the realisation of “Roadmap to 1325”.

3. The activities, further plans and possibilities to support

So, we organised a conference last May in Berlin, supported by a lot of NGOs and other organisations like Womnet, amnesty international, filia, medica mondiale, and 1000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe, and we had three central goals:

1. Raising awareness for the different effects of the EU's peace and security policy on women and men.
2. Building a European network of actors and experts who are working for the implementation of Resolution 1325.
3. Starting a European-wide relay race for the implementation of Resolution 1325 into the European peace and security policy.

The more than 150 participants of the conference were peace and security experts within bodies of the EU, political representatives and members of peace research institutes. Representatives of various parts of the world, living in central conflict regions which are targets of EU-intervention, like Kongo, Sudan, Israel/ Palestine and Afghanistan. As a

result, we all formulated a catalogue of demands. The main point was an EU-wide action plan to realize UN Resolution 1325. It was sent as well to the German government as the current EU-presidency, namely to the Chancellor Angela Merkel, as to the European Commission and Council. The participants expressed particular concern for the situation in Sudan and Kosovo demanding for the immediate participation of the female peace activists in negotiation talks. – You can find the letter and answers on the website www.glow-boell.de

And we decided to continue this relay race “Roadmap to 1325”. Representatives from Portugal and Slovenia - the next EU-presidency-countries - agreed to stand up for that relay race concept. And, indeed, there was a first exchange concerning UN resolution 1325 in Portugal, last month. Also here in Brussels the Roadmap-idea continues in the form of a 1325 EU partnership round table. And this conference here is in the spirit of the “Roadmap to 1325” –project, too.

4. So, what are the outcomes and the next steps?

Firstly, we are continuously in contact with some of the Slovenian women, e.g. Svetlana Slapsak and Sonja Lokar who are busy to organize the next relay race event in spring 2008 in Ljubljana/ Slovenia. It shall be a Follow- up of ideas and projects initiated since the first conference and a discussion about further networks and linking up of actors and experts within Europe, especially from the Balkan region. A central question will be: in which way can non-governmental with governmental actors cooperate and what model is useful?

Secondly, in the 2nd half of 2008, France will have the EU-presidency. Until now, we did not succeed in getting contact to French peace organisations or women NGOs. So, if there are some representatives from France, I would be very happy to get in contact. If you share our ideas we could think about how to continue the relay race there.

Thirdly, we have to think about how we can design an effective European 1325 network. We need to find concrete ways to concentrate our energies, share our experiences and develop possibilities how to work together. From the experience of the German Women’s Security Council, I ask: Could a European Women’s Security be a model? Which alternatives are thinkable?

Lastly, it is also important to think about how to broaden our activities and how to make participate more men. For example, last week we had a discussion with Felicity Hill, gender advisor of UNIFEM. We realized that very often, in the mainstream of Peace and security policy, the resolution is abused for other purposes. Especially the concentration on women as victims and on their problems and deficits neglects the role of men and the conception of dominating masculinity in most societies.

So, what about the idea of a new strategy and, maybe, UN-resolution, concentrated on “**Men** peace and security”?