

23 June 2015

Excellency,

I write you in reference to the Global Study on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. In October of this year, the Security Council will convene a High-level Review to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) over the past 15 years. In preparation for the High Level Review, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General in resolution 2122 (2013) to commission a global study highlighting good practice, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action. The Council further invited the Secretary-General to submit, within his annual report to the Security Council in 2015, the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations.

As the lead author of the Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325, I would first like to take this opportunity to thank Member States for their ongoing support to this important process. UN Women, as host of the Global Study secretariat, has received almost 50 responses from Member States to a note verbale, as well as numerous inputs from regional organizations, all of which provide important information about progress, gaps and challenges. I am also grateful for the support of the ‘Friends of the Global Study,’ a Member State group chaired by Canada, Chile, Ireland, Japan, and Namibia, which has provided valuable feedback on the content of the Global Study. Many other Member States around the world have been gracious hosts and participants in national and regional consultations.

On 26 May, I had the opportunity to speak with many Member States at an open briefing on the Global Study, hosted by the Government of Japan. At that time, I discussed several key themes which have come through in research and consultation for the Global Study. I also shared a selection of recommendations that are aimed at strengthening the United Nations’ institutional capacity to implement resolution 1325 (2000), including the creation of an informal expert group in the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security; strengthened gender architecture of the UN, the creation of an Assistant-Secretary-General position at UN Women on conflict, crises and emergencies, and a requirement that the mandates of all senior leaders of the United Nations system have women, peace and security included as an area of priority. Lastly, I emphasize the full implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General on sexual exploitation and abuse, with due consideration given to the establishment of a United Nations tribunal on sexual exploitation and abuse, mandated to hold UN peacekeepers accountable for violations.

I would like to share with you a broader set of recommendations that will be specifically relevant for Member State and UN discussion and action ahead of the High Level Review in October. The attached document highlights recommendations which focus on the following: (1) strengthening the flow of quality information for timely and consistent action by the Security Council; (2) fortifying the gender architecture of the UN system; (3) targeted measures to remove obstacles and incentivize greater participation of women in peace and security; (4) financing for women, peace and security; and (5) accountability for women, peace and security commitments.

I hope that by sharing these recommendations, I will give energy and focus to ongoing Member State discussions on implementation of resolution 1325, and concrete ideas for commitments which can be made during the High-level Review in October. Please feel free to contact the Secretariat of the Global Study at globalstudy1325@unwomen.org with any questions. I look forward to collaborating with all of you in the coming months in preparation for the launch of the Global Study.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Radhika Coomaraswamy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Radhika Coomaraswamy
Lead Author

Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

Relevant Key Recommendations for UN and Member States Global Study on Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

The Global Study on implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) was mandated by the Security Council in resolution 2122 (2013). Through an extensive process of global consultations, Member State, UN entity and civil society inputs, as well as commissioned research, the Study's lead author, Radhika Coomaraswamy, has developed initial findings and recommendations which are shared in summary here.

The priorities within the women, peace and security agenda are interpreted differently in regional contexts—with many western member states and civil society placing a great emphasis on the issue of participation and women in Asian and African conflict areas insisting on local level community recovery efforts as a priority. The Global Study recognizes however that the pillar of participation has experienced the greatest gap with regard to implementation. Many women's organizations also believe that if women's participation is ensured at every level—local national, regional and international—then the remaining challenges will also be met.

Women's participation is a key tool for sustainable peace and security and must be treated as such. This means moving beyond the current 'add on' or ad hoc approach. Real implementation will require a holistic set of measures which spans: consistent implementation by the Security Council, financing, accountability, targeted measures to address obstacles and create incentives to women's participation, and strengthening the gender architecture of the UN. Some of the key recommendations emerging from the Study are set out below.

Key recommendations

While the Study reviews the different components of the women, peace and security agenda in its various chapters, the recommendations relate to one another in that the approach taken has been to examine the eco-system of peace and security and the obstacles to implementation, recognizing that only through addressing the various obstacles as they inter-relate will we be successful in moving the agenda to full implementation

Strengthening the flow of quality information for timely and consistent action by the Security Council

- Informal expert group: The Security Council should establish an informal expert group to maximize information, monitoring and support capacity from the UN system as a whole. Initially the Group should be focused on 3-4 countries to provide a comprehensive and targeted approach as well as monitoring of consistent implementation by the Council of resolution 2122, including ensuring that WPS information is part of all briefings and reports to Council and that questions are asked consistently of senior leaders on these issues.
- Increased channels for flow of information from Human Rights Council and related bodies: Mandate holders with conflict relevant mandates and Human Rights Council commissions of inquiry and fact finding bodies can provide important sources of information for Council deliberations and outcomes. More consistent approaches, including regular Arria meetings with

Human Rights Council established commissions of inquiry on countries of concern to the Security Council should be established

- Sanctions: Expand the designation criteria for sanctions regimes to include more consistently human rights violations, including sexual and gender based crimes.
- Ensure each sanctions experts groups has dedicated gender expertise and gender crimes investigative capacity.
- Regular civil society briefings to the Council, including in particular women's organizations, not only on thematic but on country-specific deliberations.
- Greater and more effective capacity for gender analysis in conflict-affected countries (see below, strengthening the gender architecture of the UN).

Strengthening the gender architecture of the UN system

- Senior Gender Advisers in all peace operations missions, situated directly in the office of the SRSG with access to senior leaders and decision-making with gender technical experts in each of the technical units of the mission (e.g., DDR, SSR, elections, etc.). *In existing missions:* backstopping to be undertaken by UN Women in collaboration with DPKO/ DPA. *In future missions:* piloting of a new model for integration to be undertaken in two future missions, with UN Women's integration into missions on a similar model as OHCHR. The model would aim to strengthen horizontal linkages with UNCT, better integration of missions and more effective eventual mission draw-down.
- Strengthened UN Women capacity in conflict countries: As the primary entry point to the UN for women's organizations and an important source of early warning and conflict analysis
- Strengthen numbers and seniority of DPKO and DPA gender units at HQ.
- Dedicated ASG and budget for UN Women on conflict, crises and emergencies to ensure senior-level dedicated capacity to lead the agenda, provide visibility for resource mobilization, and strengthen accountability in the system as well as a high level mechanism for follow up of the Global Study recommendations.
- Increased and regular interaction between senior leaders in-country and women's organizations.
- WPS to be core to the UN's peace and security efforts: UN Women to participate in all crisis committee and security planning as well as IASC on humanitarian to ensure this perspective is integrated.
- Require Peacebuilding Commission configurations to appoint a country to lead on gender in the specific country configuration.

Targeted Measures to Address Obstacles and Incentivize Greater Participation of Women in Peace and Security

- Financial incentives to be provided for troop contributing countries through a 'gender premium' to reach gender balance.
- A third category of duty station to be introduced—duty station for couples without children—in addition to family and non-family.
- Integration of a gender budgetary lens on peace operations to ensure conditions conducive to increased numbers of women civilian and military staff as well as utilization of the budget of these operations to stimulate women's economic recovery locally.

- Peace talks, donor conference, national dialogue processes and other peace and security forums should not be supported by Friends groups if they do not meet a minimum threshold for women's participation and inclusion. Positive measures such as financial incentives for women's participation, as well as hosting of national and inclusive consultations should be employed.
- National and regional action plans to be adopted by all Member States—conflict and non-conflict—which adhere to best practice, are developed through broad-scale consultations, are led by key ministries, and have monitoring frameworks, indicators, accountability for delivery and dedicated financing.
- Appointment of senior special envoys for regional organizations such as the existing practice for NATO and the African Union.
- All local level peacebuilding efforts should be preceded by mapping exercises to ascertain what programmes are relevant for communities affected by war. There should not be a one size fits all policy.

Financing

- Donor member states to adopt the UN's 15% target: earmarking 15% of aid flows to crisis and conflict contexts to address women's needs and further gender equality. Better mainstreaming of gender in the other 85 per cent of aid and systems to track, monitor and evaluate these targets.
- Application forms for funding from conflict pools should include criteria on 1325 implementation.
- Commit long term and dedicated funding support to funds directed at women's organizations in crisis contexts, in line with resolution 2122, including in particular the Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace—a pooled funding mechanism developed at the initiative of the UN, Member States and Civil Society to bridge the funding gap for women, peace and security implementation, provide targeted funding to women's civil society organizations alongside capacity-building, knowledge generation and expertise

Accountability

- Consistent implementation of the agenda should be encouraged through integration of language from Security Council resolution 2122 into terms of reference for senior leaders.
- Senior leaders performance management and reviews should include women, peace and security criteria and evaluation against this criteria should directly inform promotions and future postings.
- The UN Secretary General and Member States should consistently play their respective roles on accountability. For example, Security Council members can hold senior leaders accountable on implementation of 2122 through direct questioning of reports and briefings (see above, strengthening consistent action by the Security Council).
- Women, peace and security outcomes should be included in Resident Coordinator terms of reference and evaluation as the lead in country on UN commitments.
- The Global Study endorses and calls for the full implementation of the recommendations enclosed in the Secretary General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/69/779). Including, in particular: suspension of payments to troop contributing countries until the completion of effective investigations; a six month deadline for completing investigations; naming of countries of origin of peacekeepers investigated for SEA

not just the number of cases; establishment of immediate response teams within the UN to preserve evidence; linking of reporting by the SRSGs on Children and Armed Conflict and Sexual Violence in Conflict to which States can contribute troops; establishment of investigative requirements and oversight for any troops authorized by the UN, even non-UN forces; and compensation and support for victims.

- In addition to these comprehensive measures, due consideration should be given to the establishment of a UN tribunal for all serious crimes, including sexual exploitation and abuse, covering both peacekeepers and civilian staff.
- Women, peace and security commitments should be integrated into the relevant work of all UN and treaty bodies, including use of CEDAW reporting and UPR, as well as consistent implementation in the relevant areas of the UN General Assembly, Peacebuilding Commission and Human Rights Council.