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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

WOMEN CONNECT ACROSS CONFLICTS

Women and Governments:

Towards Greater Accountability in Fulfilling Women, Peace and Security Resolutions

A Review of Best Practices, Lessons Learned and Challenges



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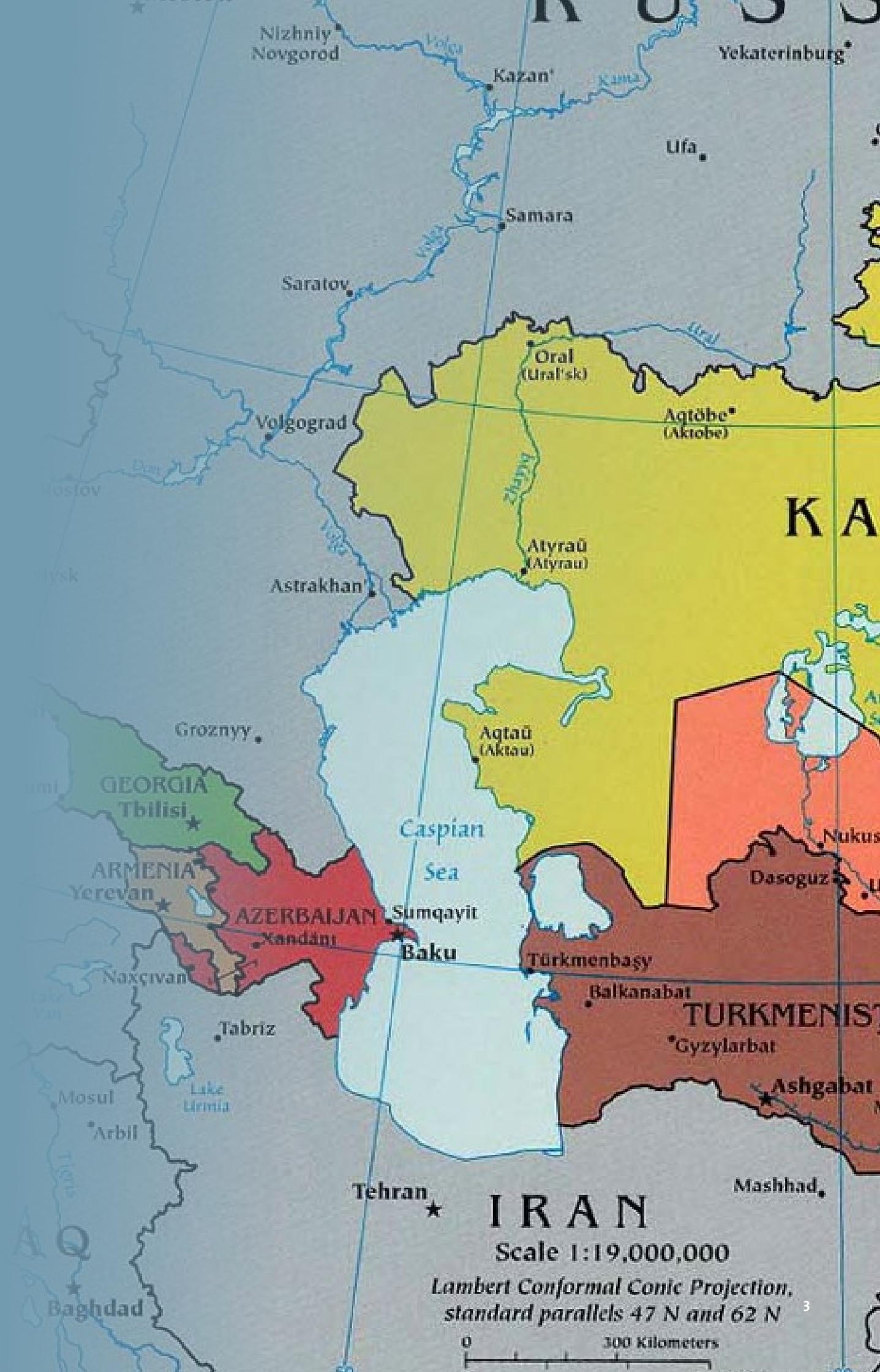
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GEORGIA
Tbilisi

ARMENIA
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Xandani

Caspian
Sea

Sumqayıt
Bakı

Türkmenbaşy

Balkanabat

TURKMENISTAN

Gyzylarbat

Ashgabat

Tehran

IRAN

Mashhad

Scale 1:19,000,000

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection,
standard parallels 47 N and 62 N

0 300 Kilometers



KAZAKHSTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

CHINA

PAKISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

INDIA

Boundary representation is

Women and Governments:

Towards Greater Accountability in Fulfilling Women, Peace and Security Resolutions

A review of best practices, lessons learned and challenges



Introduction

The UN Women Cross-regional Programme, entitled “Women Connect Across Conflicts: Building Accountability for Implementation of UN SCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889,” was launched in 2010 with the support of the European Union. Its main aims are to enhance the capacity of women’s human rights activists and gender equality advocates and their networks to effectively mobilize and bring about a dialogue on security and peace issues, both at the regional and national levels. The programme covers the Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia), Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and South Asia (Afghanistan and Pakistan).

The Programme has four specific objectives:

- To facilitate the development and adoption of the National Action Plan (NAP) on 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 for further replication in other target countries.
- To strengthen referral mechanisms that provide redress for sexual and other forms of violence against women in situations of conflict.
- To incorporate gender equality principles into the internal operations of the security sector to promote zero tolerance for the use of sexual gender-based violence as a weapon of war.
- To mobilize national partners at the local level to engage in evidence-based dialogue and advocacy for reconciliation, tolerance building and compliance with women’s human rights obligations in the Fergana Valley, an area bridging Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The Cross-regional Programme has contributed in different ways to realizing SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in the eight countries represented in the Programme. Firstly, National Action Plans (NAP) on SCR 1325 were elaborated in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, with other countries like Armenia planning to follow suit in Phase 2. In Georgia measures to help victims of gender-based violence were introduced when the State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of Domestic Violence Victims’ mandate was expanded to domestic violence victims. In Georgia the Ministry of Defence made important progress on implementing SCR 1325 in a number of important areas, including the lowering of physical tests requirements for women to encourage female recruitment into the armed forces. To promote women in the defense and security sector institutions the National Defence Academy of Georgia adopted a curriculum to mainstream gender issues and principles relating to women, peace and security. With regard to women’s human rights, in the Fergana Valley, Tajikistan region, a Human Rights Monitoring Team monitored early marriage. In South Kyrgyzstan a second Human

Rights Monitoring Team monitored the local council elections in late 2012 to ascertain if the 30 per cent quota for female candidates was observed. The success of these Programme initiatives was due in considerable part to the capacity-building training workshops and awareness-raising workshops on SCR 1325, CEDAW and other themes held in the framework of the Programme. The fact that eight countries from three different geographical regions participated in the Cross-regional Programme led to a productive exchange of ideas on how to implement SCR 1325 in conflict and post-conflict societies.

This publication summarizes the Programme's achievements, lessons learned and challenges that were highlighted and discussed at the Final Conference held at the Holiday Inn, Tbilisi, Georgia, on 14-15 March 2013.¹

¹ The agenda to the Final Conference can be found in Annex 1.

Final Conference

Holiday Inn, Tbilisi, Georgia. 14-15 March 2013

OPENING SESSION

Credit: UN Women



Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women Eastern Europe and Central Asia Sub-regional Office, Almaty, opened the Final Conference. She gave the opening statement on behalf of Damira Sartbaeva, Regional Programme Director, UN Women Eastern Europe and Central Asia Sub-regional Office:

The theme of women, peace and security was started by UNIFEM several years ago with a Caucasus regional programme. Our Cross-regional Programme is the first to cover such diverse countries and partners enjoying such a close partnership with the international community. At the outset mostly women's organizations were involved, but two and a half years on the Cross-regional Programme enjoys the strong representation of governments, MPs and civil societies. Today it is an umbrella programme which contributes to strengthening the women's movements in our region, brings partnerships into play, gives a voice to women and puts peace activities on the national and global agendas.

Women activists in the region played an important part in developing new recommendations by the CEDAW Committee regarding the development of international standards on how women's interests can be included into peace building activities.

Two major processes are now ongoing. Firstly, new global consultations are underway at the global level regarding a new international development agenda for post-2015. As you know the MDG goals accepted by the UN General Assembly in 2000 will be finalized by 2015. Our region quite actively participated in the global consultations on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda via our women's networks, and their inputs will be integrated into the new development post-2015 agenda.

Secondly, the 57th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, (4 March-15 March 2013),¹ is meeting in New York this week and discussing "issues of prevention and overcoming violence against women." National delegations, especially those of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Central Asia, are actively participating in the global consultations. Issues of female security, women participation and women's role in peace and dialogue were high on the agenda.

Our Programme first brought together partners from different countries – from the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan, – thereby providing an important venue to speak about human security and regional stability.

This is not a Final Conference, but a meeting to see what more can be done to further implement international commitments made in UN Security Council resolutions.

¹ On 15 March 2013 over 130 countries attending the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women agreed on a U.N. blueprint to combat violence against women and girls. Michelle Bachelet, then Head, UN Women, called it historic because it establishes global standards for action to prevent and end "one of the gravest violations of human rights in the world, the violence that is committed against women and girls."

H.E. Ambassador Philip Dimitrov, Head, EU Delegation to Georgia: *This project marked a step forward and we hope for future undertakings in which the EU can take part as human rights, gender issues, peace building and conflict-resolution are principles that are high on the EU agenda. The idea of lasting peace is an important one. It is important to have all stakeholders involved in the process and we believe this was a very successful project. It is also important to mention resolution 1889, especially as regards issues of women peace and security as it condemns sexual violence in conflict situations, provides protection for women, but also includes them in the peace building process given their inherent skills in this domain. For women are an 'asset' in peace building.*

Simone Wolken, Acting UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia: *UNSCR 1325 and ensuing resolutions represent a landmark. They need to be fully implemented and included in all government policies to embrace a wider range of issues, such as displacement, health and education. Both women and men are involved. When sex and gender-based violence is linked to displacement – based on the experience of operational agencies on the ground and research undertaken – quite a bit of violence is caused by men losing their traditional roles, while women continue their household-related roles. Conflict and displacement can affect both men and the balance of societies. Ninety-five percent of UN peacekeepers are men, therefore it is really desirable to have more gender equality as peacekeepers work with communities... Positive models are needed to induce women to join the security sector. An inspiring foreign example is the 120-strong Indian women police force serving in the UN Mission in Liberia which made a real difference.*

In addition the UN's Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peace-building is important in regard to conflict-resolution, economic recovery and implementing the resolutions on women, peace and security.

Guguli Magradze, MP, Parliament of Georgia, Member, Gender Equality Council: *"The Georgian Government should promote NGOs in implementing the resolutions. Women and men have important contributions to make in helping to resolve conflict-prevention, conflict-resolution and peace-building. Women are not only victims of conflicts, but are a very important asset in promoting peace. They can build relations with women on the other side of the divide in Russia, and with our counterparts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We want to get back their hearts, not the territory -- women have an important role to play in this regard."*

Introductory Session. Setting the Framework: Overview of Key Objectives, Achievement, Lessons Learned and Challenges

Graziella Piga, Programme Manager and Chief Technical Adviser, Cross-regional Programme, provided an overview of the key objectives, achievements, lessons learned and challenges of Phase I of this EU-funded project. Phase I lasted two years and was part of a five-year project.

The Cross-regional Programme embraces eight countries and three sub-regions: Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (South Caucasus); Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (Central Asia); and Afghanistan and Pakistan (South Asia).

The Programme had four main components. Firstly, *National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security* were elaborated to create more accountability in SCR 1325's implementation. Georgia was the first country in the Programme to adopt a NAP in December 2011, and an inter-ministerial working group was subsequently established under the Gender Equality Council (GEC) to monitor NAP implementation. Kyrgyzstan followed suit in February 2013 and benefited from a full documentation of Georgia's work in this regard.

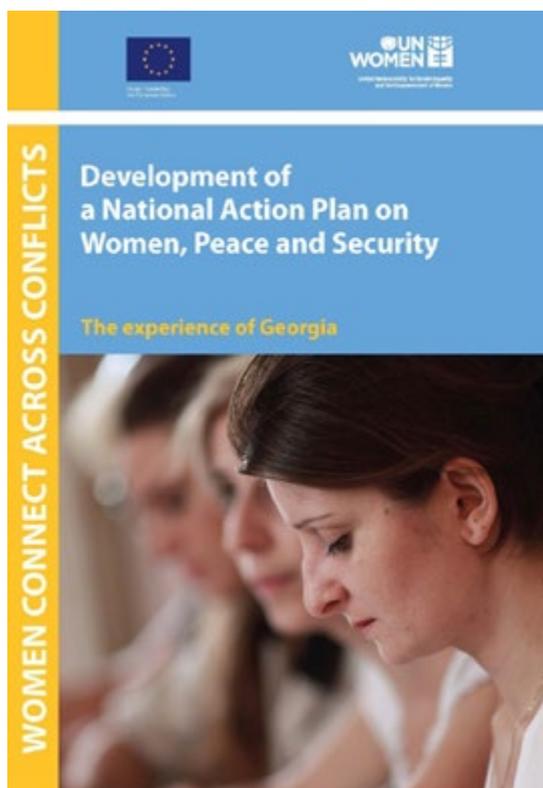
Secondly, the programme element, *Mainstreaming Gender into Security Sector Reform*, was to create zero-tolerance to using sexual violence as a weapon of war. Comprehensive participation of security sector institutions was secured via national consultations held in April 2012. The Georgian Ministry of Defence was a bellwether in this regard, adopting an internal decree on how to support the implementation of the NAP on Women, Peace and Security in June 2012.

Georgia was also the country involved in implementing the third component, *Improving the National Re-*

ferred System for victims of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), which it did by having the State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking include new provisions for rehabilitation and provision of assistance to victims of sexual violence. More broadly, in Georgia SGBV during conflicts was put on the agendas of the relevant government bodies.

Fourthly, in the Fergana Valley, a region bridging Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, evidence-based dialogues and advocacy for reconciliation were promoted. National and local stakeholders used CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 to promote women's rights and participation in peace dialogues. Three districts, one each in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, were selected for human rights monitoring in regard to representation of women in local elections, where the barriers were most intractable in the rural areas, and early child marriage in Tajikistan, again a mostly rural phenomenon.

The Cross-regional Programme resulted in a number of entry points being identified through mapping exercises undertaken for all the countries in the programme, as the following examples illustrate. In March 2012 and January 2013 civil society in Georgia met with the Georgian participants to the Geneva Talks, – a mediation forum established in the aftermath of the 2008 Georgian-Russia war and bringing together the EU, OSCE, UN and the US as mediators. Another entry point: last year two women activists from the Southern Caucasus were invited by the Belgian Senate to attend high-level consultations at the EU in Brussels, an important event since the EU co-chairs the Geneva Talks. Armenia for its part held a national consultation and identified an entry point for UNSCR 1325. In some countries like Pakistan the implementation of UNSCR 1325 can only be achieved via CEDAW.



Three knowledge products were published: *Development of a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. The Experience in Georgia* (English and Russian), the *Gender and Security. Training Manual*. (English and Georgian) and *Using CEDAW and UNSCR Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security for Advancing Gender Equality*.

In the Fergana Valley women rights activists engaged with national and local stakeholders – using CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 to promote women’s rights and women’s participation in peace dialogues. In Tajikistan national consultations on finalization of the peace and security chapter of the NAP on Gender Equality, were held in Dushanbe on 2 May 2012. Following its approval regional debates and training workshops were organized: national and regional women’s committees and local government bodies were mobilized, national and regional consultations were held, public debates took place at universities, the staff of the Ombudsperson office and the Committee on Women Affairs received training.

Training represents an important component of the Cross-regional Programme, an activity recorded in the different chapters in this publication. Cascade trainings took place in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan: a team of trainers was created to raise awareness on the complementarities of CEDAW and UNSCRs on women, peace and security at the national level. The fact that training on CEDAW and UNSCR 1325 took place in Tashkent and the Fergana Valley part of Uzbekistan, represents an important entry point.

Some of the most important lessons learned cover a variety of spheres: instability and security threats in some target countries means a longer time was needed for awareness-raising, for governments’ decision to participate and for capacity-building in NGOs. National consultations on gender and security sector reform need to be conducted more extensively in all relevant countries’ provinces to raise awareness. Budgetary constraints preempted their taking place at the grass roots, an activity envisaged in Phase 2. NAP costing should be conducted, along with NAP development, to ensure a stronger commitment and accountability. Women’s participation in formal mediation processes calls for a full capacity-building and coaching programme.

The challenges are diverse – political, economic, geographic, social. They include impediments to programme implementation and follow up due to instability and security threats in some target countries. Frozen conflicts and highly politicized formal peace talks means gender issues face hurdles in featuring on an agenda. The broad geographical scope of the Programme and a tight timeframe hampered close cooperation with other ongoing projects. Gender mainstreaming at all levels of the security sector is confronted with entrenched gender stereotypes and poor infrastructure. Although prevention and protection of women from GBV and SGBV is gaining prominence and recognition, real access to justice and prosecution of perpetrators remains a challenge. Gender-responsive budgeting, which plays a major role in gender mainstreaming, remains a rarely utilized tool, and is often limited to the social affairs ministries, while it would be crucial to ensure a gender self-assessment and gender-responsive budgeting in all security sector ministries.

Since we have received much positive feedback from individual countries taking part in this Cross-regional Programme, funding will now be sought for a second phase. In the next phase activities will be incorporated into other UN Women projects and managed by the new UN Women Regional office opening in Istanbul in July 2013.

UNSCR 1325 addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict-management, conflict-resolution, and sustainable peace. The Security Council acknowledged the changing nature of warfare, in which civilians are increasingly targeted, and women continue to be excluded from participation in peace processes. The experiences of men and

women in war are different. For their part, women offer a vital perspective in the analysis of conflict, as well as providing strategies toward peace building that focus on creating ties across opposing factions and increasing the inclusiveness, transparency and sustainability of peace processes.

There are four follow-up resolutions that provide support for Resolution 1325 and concrete areas for implementation. These three resolutions are: Resolution 1820 (2008), Resolution 1888 (2009), Resolution 1889 (2009), and Resolution 1960 (2010).

Resolution 1820 (2008) recognizes that conflict-related sexual violence is a tactic of warfare, and calls for the training of troops on preventing and responding to sexual violence, deployment of more women to peace operations, and enforcement of zero-tolerance policies for peacekeepers with regards to acts of sexual exploitation or abuse.

Resolution 1888 (2009) strengthens the implementation of Resolution 1820 by calling for leadership to address conflict-related sexual violence, deployment of teams (military and gender experts) to critical conflict areas, and improved monitoring and reporting on conflict trends and perpetrators.

Resolution 1889 (2009) addresses obstacles to women's participation in peace processes and calls for development of global indicators to track the implementation of Resolution 1325, and improvement of international and national responses to the needs of women in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Resolution 1960 (2010) contains an accountability

system for addressing conflict-related sexual violence, and builds on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by creating institutional tools to combat impunity. There are consequences for sexual violence, such as listing in the Secretary-General's annual reports, referrals to UN Sanctions Committees and to the International Criminal Court.

A Summary of CEDAW

The CEDAW Treaty contains 30 articles that provide a practical blueprint to promote basic human rights, achieve progress and overcome barriers of discrimination against women and girls, while recognizing that it is up to each country to determine how best to bring their policies and laws in line with ending discrimination against women. A summary of the key articles follow:

Article 1: Definition of Discrimination. Defines discrimination against women to cover all facets of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 2: Country duties. Countries must eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, and practices in their national legal framework.

Article 3: Equality. Women are fundamentally equal with men in all spheres of life. Countries must take measures to uphold women's equality in the political, social, economic, and cultural fields.

Article 4: Temporary special measures. Coun-



The UN Security Council commemorates the tenth anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325, 26 Oct. 2010

Credit: UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

tries may implement temporary special measures to accelerate women's equality.

Article 5: Prejudice. Countries agree to modify or eliminate practices based on assumptions about the inferiority or superiority of either sex.

Article 6: Trafficking. Countries agree to take steps to suppress the exploitation of prostitution and trafficking in women.

Article 7: Political and public life. Women have an equal right to vote, hold public office, and participate in civil society.

Article 8: International work. Women have the right to work at the international level without discrimination.

Article 9: Nationality. Women have equal rights with men to acquire, change, or retain their nationality and that of their children.

Article 10: Education. Women have equal rights with men in education, including equal access to schools, vocational training, and scholarship opportunities.

Article 11: Employment. Women have equal rights in employment, including without discrimination on the basis of marital status or maternity.

Article 12: Health. Women have equal rights to affordable health care services.

Article 13: Economic and social life. Women have equal rights to family benefits, financial credit, and participation in recreational activities.

Article 14: Rural women. Rural women have the right to adequate living conditions, participation in development planning, and access to health care and education.

Article 15: Equality before the law. Women and men are equal before the law. Women have the legal right to enter contracts, own property, and choose their place of residence.

Article 16: Marriage and family. Women have equal rights with men in matters related to marriage and family relations.

Articles 17-24: The Committee on CEDAW and reporting procedures.

Articles 25-30: Administration of the Convention.

Internally Displaced Persons and returnees, victims of Tajikistan civil war, return from Afghanistan and wait outside a mobile clinic run by the NGO Relief International, Kabodian District, Tajikistan, 1 Dec. 1994.

Credit: UN Photo/UNHCR/R.Colville.





The Planning Matrix: Momentum for Change

Working group meeting on developing a NAP on Implementing UN SCRs on Women Peace and Security, 20 April 2011

Credit: UN Women



Objective 1. Implementing 1325: a National Action Plan as a policy framework to ensure government and civil society accountability. UN SCR 1325 contains specific provisions on national implementation, particularly regarding women's participation in decision-making and peace processes, protection of women and girls and gender training. Taking note of the slow pace of implementation at the national level, in 2004 the Security Council called on Member States to realize resolution 1325 (2000), including through the development of NAPs or other national-level strategies. From 2010 to early 2013 the number of NAPs on women, peace and security increased from 13 to 39. This has meant higher accountability and more reporting mechanisms on the implementation of SCR 1325 and its sister resolutions. This chapter will look both at best practices and lessons learned in developing this important tool, and also at challenges in both developing such a policy document and in holding stakeholders accountable towards its realization. NAP costing, reporting mechanisms, the issue of accountability and role of civil society will also be touched upon.

Session one: Even a cursory glance at the history of peace processes shows that agreements seldom mentioned women's human rights issues. Donor funding, including UN and EU sources, has allocated negligible funds to women's needs, including in post-war reconstruction. The UN recognized these inequities and introduced the concept of a NAP which was to bridge these injustices. Today 39 countries have "enlisted," including Georgia whose NAP on 1325, coordinated by the Parliament's Gender Equality Council, was passed in December 2011, the result of government and civil society working together. The NAP Working Group received technical support from UN Women, including workshop training on indicators. Kyrgyzstan adopted a NAP on 1325 in February 2013 with the Ministry of Internal Affairs as the coordinator and strong UN Women technical support during its elaboration. In both countries political will, demonstrated by the Gender Equality Council of the Georgian Parliament in the case of Georgia, and of then President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbaeva was a significant factor in developing a NAP on SCR 1325.

The concept of the NAP emerged from the conflicts in Rwanda and Bosnia, the idea that a peace process would not be sustainable without specific responsibilities being laid out. After the UN Security Council passed resolution 1325 in 2000 about eight years elapsed without any significant actions by the UN or regional organizations. A new momentum occurred from 2008 when a series of resolutions following upon 1325 were passed by the UN Security Council

(see p. 12) which, however, failed to result in any substantive change on the ground, despite such resolutions being binding on all Member States.

For example, in 2011 out of 11 peace processes only two specifically mentioned women's human rights, or referred to sexual-based violence. Statistics reflected women's secondary status: they comprised 9% of peace negotiators according to a sample of 500 peace processes studied since 1990. Such barriers to advancement had nothing to do with women's abilities since, when quotas were introduced in post-conflict periods, women's participation equalled or surpassed that of men.

The record in donor funding by international or inter-governmental organizations like the EU and UN was equally inconsiderable in relation to women's needs. Multiparty trust funds allocated only 6.7% to women's priorities and, of money allocated to women's needs, less than 1% went to economic recovery, which includes jobs, although NGOs report employment as women's priority.

The UN recognized these gaps and inequities and sought to bridge them by introducing the concept of NAPs, which were now used as tools for closing such discrepancies, giving visibility to issues and defining priorities. Within countries new alliances between NGOs, civil society and the donor community were being built, which led to both better accountability and fundraising opportunities.

By 2012-2013 progress had been made: in 2013 39 countries had adopted NAPs on SCR 1325, with Kyrgyzstan doing so in February 2013. In 2012 all the five new NAPs had indicators, including Kyrgyzstan's.

*Ana Lukatela, Peace and Security Cluster,
UN Women, New York*

In adopting the NAP on SCR 1325 Georgia made a step forward on the women's rights platform. The document is important because the EU, UN, NATO and the African Union (AU) – as part of their gender policies – implement SCR 1325 on a regional level and Western European governments use this document in their foreign policies and peacekeeping missions.

The Georgian parliament approved a NAP on SCR 1325 (2012-2015) on 27 December 2011. The billboard announcing women's goals read: participation in decision-making, protection from threats, prevention and recovery.

The successful elaboration of NAP on SCR 1325 in Georgia was due to a number of factors: the participation of both government and civil society, an inclusive consultative process which brought together different segments and geographical regions into the debate. For example, about 102 IDP and conflict-affected women's groups in Tbilisi and Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli, Imereti and Samegrelo regions of Georgia participated in the consultations. Another important element was the elaboration of indicators. The working group, under the Gender Equality Council, included the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Integration, National Security Council, and over 25 NGOs. It played an active role in the development of a NAP. The working group was afforded considerable support, for example a workshop on indicators was held in Batumi in the context of the Cross-regional Programme with Kyrgyzstan's and Pakistan taking part. Several other training workshops were also organized.

*Anna Pashalishvili, Chief Specialist
National Security Council, Georgia*



*Indicators workshop for the NAP Working Group, Batumi,
Georgia, 26 July 2011.*

Credit: UN Women

The four goals of the National Action Plans:

1. Participation of women at the decision-making levels in conflict-resolution, prevention and management.
2. Prevention: taking women's needs in conflict-prevention into account and eliminating all forms of violence against women.
3. Protection of conflict-affected women's human rights, and ensuring their physical, social, economic and political safety.
4. Relief and Recovery by addressing the special needs of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Georgia's conflict-ridden post Soviet history with its tens of thousands of IDPs combined with its pro-Western-oriented government made the elaboration of the NAP on SCR 1325 particularly important.

Before beginning work on its NAP on SCR 1325, Georgia had already established gender-related institutions, including the Gender Equality Council, a body that was crucial in coordinating the efforts of the working group.

In Georgia an important factor was finding a balance between civil society and government participation, the key to formulating a document with implementable goals. This was a lesson learned from previous such exercises when too much civil society input had resulted in overambitious targets. In this case the working group was composed of a majority of government representatives and one or two civil society members who served as a bridge to their counterparts and IDP women at the grass roots. Other institutions also played a role in NAP's formulation, for example, the EU Monitoring Mission conducted studies in villages to evaluate needs on the ground. Other participants included gender focal points and line ministries. Personalities played an important role: NAP had its champions in parliament. Within the working groups, NAP had strong supporters. A lot of advocacy took place behind the scenes. Political will was important.

Today the challenge is monitoring and implementation, an exercise in which civil society has an important role to play. The implementation of NAP was a chance to get civil society on board.

Tamar Sabedashvili, Gender Advisor to Georgia, UN Women citing the field research and analysis by Leslie Hough, UN Women consultant.

In Kyrgyzstan the political will for a NAP on SCR 1325 was demonstrated in 2010 by its then President Roza Otunbaeva. In March 2012 UN Women engaged with the country's parliamentary Security and Defence Committee to convince its members of the importance of such a document. The prime minister ordered ministries and agencies to set up a Working Group on SCR 1325.

In Kyrgyzstan the NAP (2013-2014) was coordinated by the Ministry of Interior, the lead working body for the inter-agency communication in regard to the NAP's implementation. Work began in late July 2012. UN Women provided technical support. Georgia's experience, which had been documented to enable its replication in the Cross-regional Programme countries, was taken up by Kyrgyzstan. Within the framework of the Cross-regional Programme a Georgian delegation visited Kyrgyzstan to share their experiences and lessons learned in developing a NAP on SCR 1325. As a result the Kyrgyz working group reviewed its composition to make it more inclusive with the NGOs participation. Also the timeframe was revised allowing for national and regional consultations and draft NAP reviews.

As in Georgia the parliament played an important part, both government and NGO representatives helped to draft the document, indicators were developed, data was gathered on gender-based violence in the context of Kyrgyzstan's inter-ethnic divide.

Examples of priorities included increasing the role of women in security, defence, public order and emergency situations, including in decision-making, and creating and maintaining a safe environment for women and girls in conflict-prevention activities.

Currently Kyrgyzstan planned to synchronize its NAP and CEDAW, with the Ministry of the Interior also taking the lead.

Gulsara Alieva, Head, Information Policy and Development Department, Ministry of the Interior, Kyrgyzstan, and Azamat Abduramanov, Deputy Chief, Department of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior, Kyrgyzstan, Members of the task force on elaborating a NAP on SCR 1325.

Reflections by the Participants

The major challenges faced in relation to the NAP on SCR 1325 was raised. (Andreea Vesa, Human Rights Adviser/Gender and Security OSCE/ODIHR)

In developing this document Kyrgyzstan faced the challenge of how to balance quantitative or qualitative indicators and to measure the appropriateness of the indicators selected. "Each ministry allocates funding for certain activities, implements its programme, and performs its own evaluations, but who will check if funds have been really allocated," commented Azamat Abduramanov, Deputy Chief, Department of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior, Kyrgyzstan.

Three other major challenges were highlighted: firstly, in developing NAPs one should avoid producing a document that remained only declarative, i.e. existing on paper and therefore ineffective. A second challenge was the recent reappearance of early marriage in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, a mark of the resurgence of patriarchal norms, a trend to be countered. Thirdly, pragmatism became the overarching issue when the matter of resources was raised: were resources being used to maximum effect and was civil society coopted into the process? (Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women)

The positive Georgian experience in developing and implementing the nap on 1325 led to a request for UN Women help in guiding a similar process in Armenia. (Natalia Martirosyan, Head, Helsinki Group in Armenia) Given the current plans for opening of a UN Women office in Istanbul in June 2013 that would include an adviser for the South Caucasus, this was a realistic and timely expectation. It was also an opportune moment to lobby for technical and financial support from the Armenian Government. Moreover, Azerbaijan had also made such a request. (Nargis Azizova)

Budget allocations were the foremost challenge identified by the panelists. Budgets should be tied to results in order to track allocations (Ana Lukatela, Peace and Security Cluster, UN Women, New York), and each country needed to write a NAP according to its own priorities and themes. (Azamat Abduramanov)

The Gender Equality Council and UN had a very important role in ensuring the NAP's implementation. In terms of its application at the grass roots, representatives from Kyrgyzstan were well placed to impart to Georgian civil society how its provisions could be applied at the grass roots, including to the local authorities, where it was needed, specifically in the municipal budget, for women and men. Both Georgia and Kyrgyzstan were post-conflict societies therefore a commonality of approach was apposite. (Julia Kharashvili, Chair, IDP Association "Consent", Georgia)

NGOs had a role to play in engaging with communities to explain why NAP was important for the grass

roots. An important tool in this regard was gender-responsive budgeting which was not used enough. In Phase 2 this should be an entry point to the municipalities. In Georgia the environment was conducive to such a policy/action being realized because good cooperation existed between the UN, central and local governments and NGOs. (Tamar Sabedashvili, Gender Adviser to Georgia, UN Women)

In Kyrgyzstan the language of SCR 1325 had been translated successfully into an idiom understandable at the grass roots. The Kyrgyz conflict was inter-ethnic so typically a lot of false rumours about rape on both sides had circulated – and actual rapes were committed by the parties – so peace building and gender-based violence meant that early warning on the latter phenomenon was very relevant. Today it remained a sensitive issue. Resolution 1325 was a relatively new document in the country compared to CEDAW's mechanism, which had clear provisions regarding investigating gender violence against women. Given the specificities in Kyrgyzstan the NAP on SCR 1325 language needed to be clear. (Gulsara Alieva, Ministry of Interior, Kyrgyzstan)

A central question in relation to SCR 1325's goals was raised: whether the inclusion of women in the peace process by both parties would help resolve conflicts. (Gulshan Pashayeva, Deputy Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, Azerbaijan)

The most significant factor, as the case of Scandinavian countries and Rwanda showed, was when a critical mass of women (30%) were on a decision-making body. In such cases efforts had been made to bring the grass roots and civil society into the process: equality and justice issues were at the forefront when women were at the peace negotiating table. The Darfur peace talks in 2011 underscored the importance of having gender advisers on board as they ensured a gender perspective was included in the peace process. While only a single woman peace negotiator had been present during the Aceh 2011 peace agreement talks, the negotiator in question said her presence had ensured such a perspective. (Ana Lukatela)

The case of Pakistan and the government's refusal to accept it was involved in an armed conflict, notwithstanding the reality on the ground, was raised. Had other countries adopted a similar stance in similar circumstances? If so what recommendations had been put forward to overcome such a standpoint? (Fauzia Viqar, Director, Advocacy and Communications, Women's Resource Centre "Shirkat Gah," Pakistan)

Pakistan appeared to be changing its position, if only by a modicum. Pakistan, as a UN Security Council member, last December 2012 declared during a Security Council peacekeeping debate that women were integral to peace building, women should be involved in mediation and women's education and health were integral to a sustainable peace. Al-

though this pronouncement had been made via a vis external protagonists, such public statements, delivered on a global platform, could not but have reverberations domestically.

In its official interactions on implementing SCR 1325, Pakistan appeared interested in international humanitarian and human rights law. If interventions could be formulated in such a language Pakistan would be interested in fulfilling its obligations under SCR 1325, given that the latter resolution and CEDAW both dealt with human rights. Until the situation changed CEDAW could be used to implement SCR 1325. (Ana Lukatela)

A question was raised relating to migration. This was an important theme for Central Asia where 90 per cent of migration takes place within the CIS, – largely from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to Russia and Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan had a ministry dealing with migration-related issues. The ministry in question was closely involved in the NAP's elaboration because one of its priorities is the establishment of a safe environment for women and girls. (Gulsara Alieva)

Key Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities and Entry Points

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Georgia:

- 1. Recruiting women into the security forces:** a Ministry of Defence decree in 2013 defines the implementation of SCR 1325. Physical tests requirements were revised to encourage women to take part in peacekeeping and join the armed forces, and the curriculum is being reviewed for gender mainstreaming.
- 2. Geneva Peace Talks:** For the first time Georgian NGOs' voice was heard by the participants of the Geneva Peace Talks in Tbilisi: the Gender Equality Council and several civil society organizations attended two meetings and will take part in such future consultations.
- 3. Coopting civil society:** the development and implementation of a NAP was a chance to bring civil society on board.
- 4. The NGOs who participated in the training on gender aspects of mediation and negotiation** decided to form a coalition. As a first step they sent a joint letter to Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs who then chaired the EU Presidency. The NGOs advocated for the inclusion of a gender perspective and women's participation in the Geneva Talks.

Kyrgyzstan

1. **Technical assistance successfully met the requirements of the working group**, thanks to UN Women support.
2. **Political will:** Kyrgyzstan had the political will to develop a plan, a prerequisite for its success.

CHALLENGES

Georgia

1. **The ongoing process of empowerment:** Despite numerous trainings by different NGOs and the UN, there are still people that lack legal knowledge and face challenges to economic empowerment. IDPs in particular need to acquire business skills. Government and civil society resources are needed for ongoing awareness-raising. Mobile outreach teams should provide information and undertake monitoring and mentoring.
2. **Adequate budgetary allocations** are needed for the NAP implementation.
3. **The newly-elected government inevitably led to delays in implementing policies and programmes.** A new government also means new appointments, for example, to the Gender Equality Council.
4. **Accountability in national and local budgets.** Even when allocations have been made to the national budget, allocations to ministries are hard to trace. For example, a budget may have an entry on training, but difficulties may arise on identifying the exact allocations for training on SCR 1325.
5. **Grassroots participation may need extensive work:** preliminary awareness-raising of national working groups on SCRs is needed, as is technical support by a national consultant to guide them.
6. **General lack of awareness about SCR 1325** and related issues among the population and government officials and security sector representatives.
7. **Conflict-affected and displaced rural populations** – especially women – lack detailed information on available, free legal assistance programmes.
8. **Displaced and conflict-affected women** face numerous challenges to their economic empowerment, including a lack of appropriate business and professional skills.

Kyrgyzstan

1. **Some ministries were dealing with gender-sensitive issues for the first time.** Key recommendations from the Georgia experience were endorsed and applied.
2. **The indicator question:** In developing a NAP Kyrgyzstan faced a challenge of whether to look at quantitative or qualitative indicators and to measure the appropriateness of indicators selected.

3. **A major challenge in developing a NAP** is to ensure the provisions do not remain on paper only, which translated into concrete terms, means a failed policy. There are many examples of action plans that remained declarative and therefore ineffective.

Applicable to all Programme countries

1. **Resources need to be used to the maximum extent.**
2. **To avoid duplication reporting should be synchronized** with existing reporting mechanisms already in place, for example, in ministries, with regard to CEDAW, or to regional organizations.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTRY POINTS

Georgia

1. **Gender-based budgeting** is an accountability mechanism, a concept often absent in NAPs. It has been identified as an entry point to municipal budgets in Georgia during Phase 2.
2. **Gender-responsive budgeting** is still part of small, pilot/limited actions in the countries in question and often limited to social development ministries. It needs to be addressed in national budgeting beyond these traditional ministries. More specifically, a self-assessment of Security Sector Ministries and gender-responsive budgeting would help to mainstream gender into security sector reform in a sustainable manner beyond funding by international organizations. Any plan to introduce this accounting system would be designed to meet the ministry's needs.
3. **With the support of the Programme a coalition of NGOs is being formed.** The NGOs will be able to unite their efforts and monitor the NAP implementation in a stronger and coordinated manner.

Georgia and Kyrgyzstan

1. **Given the need for awareness-raising both of government and the public in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan,** Phase 2 should have some public information and outreach elements.
2. **The introduction of consultations at the grassroots level in all future Programme countries elaborating a NAP during Phase 2** would attain an important goal of SCR 1325: addressing the real needs and concerns of the victims of conflict: internally displaced persons and conflict-affected rural women.
3. **Georgia's documentation of different stages of the NAP's elaboration, and Kyrgyzstan's successful NAP adoption,** based on the Georgia's experience, makes this a successful tool for other Programme countries wanting to adopt such a document.

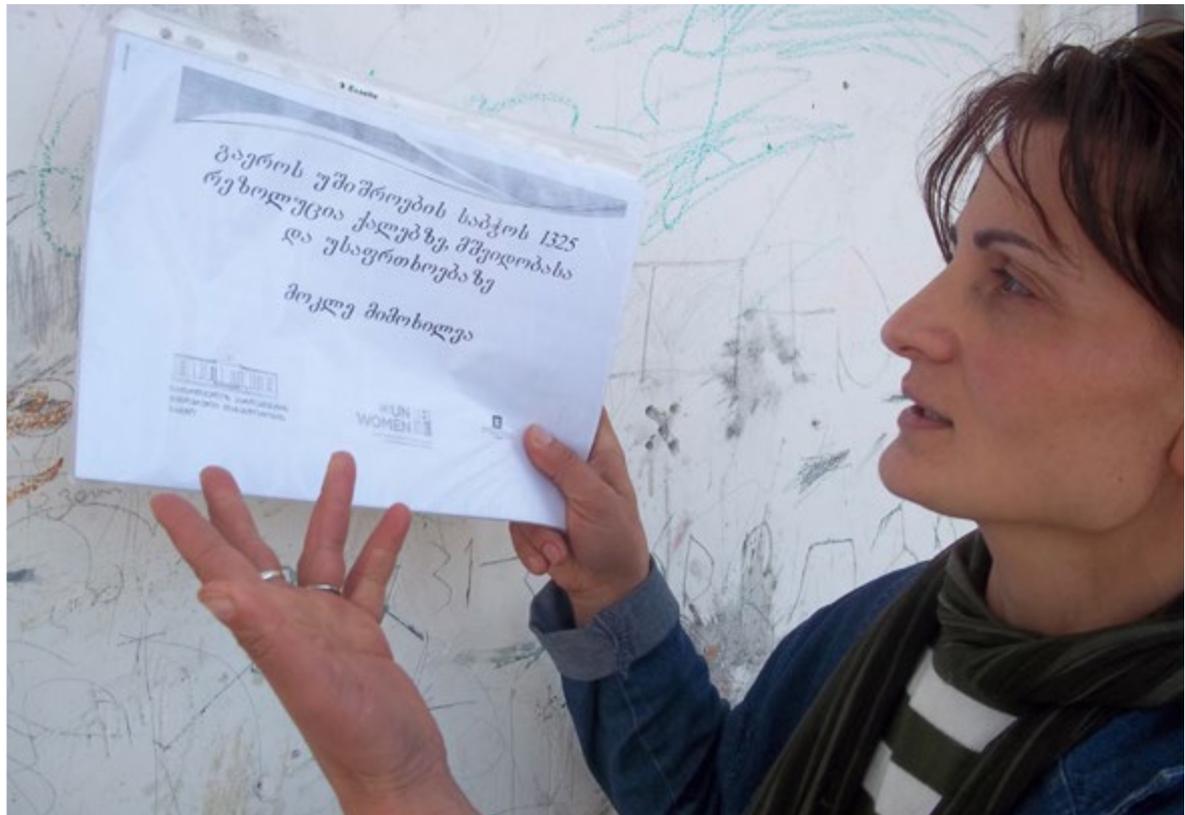




Protecting Women from Violence: Georgia Steps Forward

Grassroots Consultations with IDP and Conflict-Affected Women on SCR 1325, Anaklia, Samegrelo, Georgia, 5 May 2011

Credit: UN Women



Objective: To strengthen the referral mechanism providing redress for sexual and other forms of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. The UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security call for a gender-responsive law enforcement that ensures protection and respect for women and girls' human rights. Part of this involves reforming security and justice institutions to create transparent, accountable and effective services, in addition to introducing gender mainstreaming. UNSCRs on women, peace and security also call for strategies to improve gender-responsive access to justice, prosecution of those responsible for violence, measures to address the needs of victims of SGBV in conflict and post-conflict situations. This session examines the experience of Georgia and its efforts to improve the existing referral, procedures and mechanisms for victims of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual gender-based violence (SGBV). It also describes the situation of human rights defenders in Pakistan, including their assistance to female victims of violence.

National referral systems provide redress for sexual and other forms of violence. In Georgia measures to help victims of GBV were introduced when the State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of Domestic Violence Victims' mandate was expanded to victims of domestic violence. Another positive step: more women police officers are being recruited, with many being assigned to help victims of SGBV. In its 2013 Strategy the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the first time included gender aspects in its policies. In contrast, Pakistan lacks a referral mechanism beyond GBV Sub-Cluster Guidelines containing Standard Operating Procedures for dealing with survivors of SGBV in humanitarian and crisis settings. Moreover, these guidelines deal only with women survivors of SGBV in IDP camps: the onus is thus on civil society to provide assistance to the many thousands of victims of SGBV in the current strifes and humanitarian disasters. In addition, in recent months human rights workers have become the focus of targeted killings, making human rights work a life-threatening occupation.

Georgia took an important step in implementing SCR1385 in December 2012 by introducing measures to assist victims of GBV. New provisions were included in the National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence: a range of assistance will be available to such victims of SGBV, including free legal and psychological assistance, rehabilitation and support, and the safety of a shelter.

The work leading to the strengthening of the NRM was undertaken by a special inter-agency working group, established with the technical support of UN

Women, comprising government entities, international organizations, including UNHCR and UNFPA, and NGOs. The working group in question had reviewed international best practices and lessons learned that led to the development of a set of recommendations for a model to be established in Georgia.

*Khatuna Kunchulia, Programme Officer,
UN Women Cross-regional Programme*

This model envisages expanding the mandate of the State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of Domestic Violence Victims to include victims of SGBV during peace time. The working group also proposed assigning coordination and supervisory functions for the National Referral Mechanism during conflict to the Inter-agency Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law, established in April 2012 at the Ministry of Justice. This would be done by expanding its mandate to incorporate violations of humanitarian law during the conflicts of the early nineties and the August 2008 war, especially crimes of GBV, by setting up an inter-agency sub-group on such crimes performed in times of conflict.

The first recommendation has already been endorsed and the State Fund expanded its mandate to cover victims of SGBV. As regards the second recommendation, the establishment of such a unit within the Ministry of Justice will greatly contribute to the implementation of the NAP on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2015) objectives and activities.

*Irma Aladashvili,
State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory)
Victims of Human Trafficking*

In stark contrast to Georgia, Pakistan has no National Referral Mechanisms for victims of SGBV in conflicts (although there are standard operating procedures in cases of humanitarian disaster as explained above), because the government does not acknowledge its official involvement in international conflict despite several ongoing ones, including ethnic and sectarian strife. This situation means that UNSCR 1325 cannot be implemented since Pakistan is not officially in a situation of armed conflict.

Fighting violence against women in all its manifestations is undertaken by civil society on many fronts, although CSOs are themselves hampered by the absence of an international framework to render such assistance. The challenges are daunting given the scale of humanitarian disasters and conflict, with millions of displaced, for example in NWFP during army campaigns against the Jihadists and during the floods – all of which took an enormous toll on women.

In a sign of the growing impunity in the country, a recent spate of targeted killings against women aid workers in Pakistan is now putting the lives of human rights workers themselves at risk and hampering their work. In some parts of Pakistan schoolgirls have been shot by the Taliban for wanting to attend school. Over 80 per cent of women experience domestic violence, although there is no known correlation between rising domestic violence and extremism in Pakistan. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International reports record the discrimination and violence women face on a daily basis due to the cultural and religious norms that Pakistani society embraces.

The targeted killings of human rights defenders and the violence against women on many fronts evinced the sympathy of the conference participants with inquiries on the best way to help. If NGOs were threatened in the future, international appeals, circulated across women and human rights networks, could put pressure on the Pakistan Government to counter such an onslaught.

*Fauzia Viqar,
Director, Advocacy and Communications, Shirkat Gah –
Women's Resource Centre, Pakistan*

Credit: Shirkat Gah/Pakistan



Georgia has taken several steps in implementing SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Firstly, to help female recruitment into the police force physical abilities for admission tests are more liberal for women. Secondly, in the Ministry of Internal Affairs training curriculum, human rights, domestic violence and gender issues are mandatory, including for patrol and district police officers. There are other such examples. It is important to underline that in its 2013 Strategy the ministry for the first time included gender aspects in its policies, both in terms of increased recruitment and retention of females in senior positions and mainstreaming of gender issues in its operations.

*Maka Peradze,
Head, Project Management Division, Ministry of the Interior,
Georgia*

Reflections by the Participants

The issue of lack of communication between the police and NGOs, especially in the provinces, in Imereti and Chanturia for example, hampers the work of CSOs working on the GBV agenda. The multi layers of bureaucracy creates a wall between CSOs and the police, both federal and patrol. Even inviting the police to a public debate or training is problematic. However, once an NGO makes contact with the police, they are open to cooperation, although the issue of GBV is new to them. The working group members should visit the grassroots level to ascertain the obstacles and challenges that need to be addressed to ensure an efficient referral mechanism is created. (Alla Ghamakharia, Chair, Fund Sukhumi, based in Kutaisi)

One reason for the police failure to communicate back with the public is that law enforcement agencies are closed institutions. Requests for cooperation have to be in writing. However, a special unit for relations with civil society was recently established in the Public Information Department, Ministry of the Interior. (Contact: www.police.ge). (Maka Peradze, Ministry of the Interior)

In other regions cooperation between law enforcement and the public was occurring. In Samegrelo UNDP has set up meetings with local and international NGOs and police officers to discuss gender and domestic violence. IDP organizations reported good cooperation with the Association of Georgian Police Women in domestic violence cases, but lack of shelters remained an issue. In Zugdidi the municipality had allocated housing to a domestic violence victim, but victims would benefit more if aid mechanisms were incorporated in local government. (Kristina Kilanova, Chair, Association "Imedi" – IDP women's movement for peace, based in Zugdidi)

Law enforcement mechanisms should be expanded. Assistance to victims of GBV should not just end at rehabilitation of the victim. Enhanced access to justice is a crucial part of the work along with convic-

tion of the perpetrators. (Graziella Piga, Manager and Chief Technical Advisor, Cross-regional Programme)

One setback impeding effective responses to GBV cases is the lack of shelters in Samegrelo and Kutaisi, for example, although a new shelter will open in Kutaisi this spring. This will be the fifth shelter in Georgia in addition to two in Tbilisi, and one each in Batumi and Gori. (Maka Peradze) An insufficient number for a country of 4.6 million, but, in comparison, Pakistan has 40 state shelters for a population of 180 million. (Fauzia Viqar)

Another issue was the fact that since the expansion of the mandate of the State Fund has just been approved, reporting on sexual gender based violence was almost nil. The State Fund still needed to develop procedures on how to identify and refer victims. (Khatuna Kunchulia, UN Women)

The lack of awareness on GBV in Georgia also needed to be addressed. The Union of Teachers Education and Universe, Kutaisi, included gender issues in its school programme. But more needed to be done at all levels of the education system. (Nanuali Ramishvili, Chair, Union of Teachers "Education and Universe", Kutaisi)

Considerable discussion took place around the impact of culture on violence against women. In a secular society the guiding principles should be the Constitution and government commitments to international agreements. Priority should be on implementing existing laws rather than calling for new legislation. Those guilty of using violence against women as a tactical weapon had to be punished according to relevant provisions in the criminal code. (Nargis Azizova)

The media is an important medium in fighting violence against women. NGOs needed to work with the third estate to ensure high standards in reporting gender violence. (Aliya Ilyassova, UN Women, Kazakhstan). In Pakistan the media does not have the capacity to understand violence against women therefore a civil society priority is to engage with its representatives, build their capacity and help them understand how to cover issues. (Fauzia Viqar)

The persistence of violence against women could be tied to a loss of morals: society had to reimagine the image of mother, wife, sister, which had disappeared in the contemporary world. (Gavkhar Djuraeva, Head, Integration Centre of Migration and Law, Moscow). Such traditional views of women actually perpetrated traditional roles of women in Pakistan, for example. A far greater guarantor of women's dignity was to instill respect for their human rights. (Fauzia Viqar)

Key Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities and Entry Points

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Georgia

1. **The State Fund for the Protection and Assistance of Victims of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking expanded its mandate to also cover victims of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV),** thus endorsing the recommendations of the inter-agency working group established under the Cross-regional Programme.
2. **The Ministry of the Interior established a special unit for relations with civil society** in their Public Information Department. The unit is working actively to promote police-NGO cooperation.

Pakistan

1. **The Cross-regional Programme Training Manual** was a useful tool in the Women's Resource Centre's own capacity-building programmes which train women for leadership roles in post-conflict reconstruction. Specifically, the Women's Resource Network undertook capacity-building of around 400 women to connect them to networks and platforms.

CHALLENGES

Georgia

1. **A need for awareness-raising on the State Fund services for victims of sexual gender-based violence (SGBV).** Now that institutional mechanisms are in place, the public needs to be informed about the availability of these services. Procedures for identifying such victims need to be developed.
2. **Training for justice and legal professionals is needed on GBV.**
3. **Law enforcement mechanisms** should be expanded. Assistance to victims of GBV should not just end at rehabilitation of the victim. Enhanced access to justice is a crucial part of the work, along with the conviction of perpetrators.
4. **Lack of reporting on SGBV:** a mapping study for the Caucasus done by the Cross-regional Programme indicated that there was no reporting on SGBV among DV cases: the consequence – no convictions. It is not clear if cases were not registered by the police or not properly followed up.
5. **Greater coordination of NRM is needed at the grass roots.** The National Referral Mechanisms is only partly coordinated at the grass roots level, according to Roza Kukhalashvili of the NGO "IDP Women's Association from Abkhazia", Kutaisi. Sometimes at school teachers notice violence is occurring in a pupil's family, but they do not know who to turn to.

Pakistan

1. **Violence against women is internalized at a young age** and therefore institutionalized. This poses an enormous challenge to civil society.
2. **Ensuring women's participation in peace negotiations:** In the recent proposed All Parties Talks with the Taliban for peace negotiations, no women were included in the negotiating team. While recognizing the need to include women in all forums, the government does not take measures to ensure women's participation in peace discussions. But civil society organizations are organizing women's leadership training and creating women's peace groups to facilitate their representation.

GENERAL

1. **GBV remains a global problem:** Despite strong laws, institutional mechanisms of support and services for victims of gender violence being in place in Western Europe and the U.S., such violence still exists in modern society, an indication that cultural factors do play a role.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTRY POINTS

Georgia

1. **Civil society is an important government partner in awareness-raising:** Civil society, especially NGOs working near the administrative border lines with Abkhazia, are an excellent resource in any awareness-raising campaign.
2. **Civil society's role in countering GBV can also play an important role,** but closer linkages need first to be established with relevant government entities at the grass roots.
3. The path to upward mobility is a long one given that today only one Deputy Minister (Ministry of Internal Affairs) is a woman and only 12% of the ministry's staff are women. **The Women's Police Association of Georgia,** which the UN Police established to help address job mobility for women in the police force, **can continue to be a medium to such job advancement.** One effective tool is its organization of seminars pertaining to female police officers' priorities on medium and high-level promotions.
4. Training for justice and legal professionals was needed on GBV.
5. A new strategy envisages greater efforts at recruiting, retaining and promoting female officers in the police force.

GENERAL

1. **NRM as a model for other countries:** The National Referral Mechanism established by Georgia showed how such a body could be established in other **Cross-regional Programme countries like Kyrgyzstan and Armenia** where favourable conditions exist.
2. **Istanbul Convention:** If Pakistan signed the Istanbul Convention, a Council of Europe Convention which aims at prevention of violence, victim protection and ending the impunity of perpetrators, this could be one way for Pakistan to counter violence against women. One impediment, given Pakistan's financial constraints, is the cost of its implementation, including in capacity-building.

Khujand city, Tajikistan, became a pilot "Safe City" model. The global UN "Safe Cities" project's principal aim is to make a city safe for girls and women.

Credit: National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan



Forward March

Women are advancing in the ranks of some national armies in the South Caucasus and Central Asia

Credit: Information Agency "Asia-Plus" / Tajikistan



Objective: Incorporating gender equality principles into the internal operations of the security sector to promote zero tolerance in using sexual violence as a weapon of war. Ensuring accountability and creating a safe and secure environment for women and men, girls and boys through security sector reform (SSR) is one of the key commitments of Member States under the UNSCRs on women, peace and security. These resolutions call for higher representation of women at the decision-making level, gender responsive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes and vetting of the armed forces to take into account sexual violence and other violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The present chapter examines the relevant programme's interventions and analyzes best practices, lessons learned and challenges. It will also outline cooperation with other international organizations to ensure activities are strengthened.

Session 3: Gender mainstreaming into SSR has been taken up by numerous countries and defence institutions around the world. In Georgia NAP consultations gave civil society the opportunity to ensure its plans were included, a pragmatic approach given that SSR envisages a strong partnership with NGOs. Kyrgyzstan too developed a NAP on SCR 1325, basing itself on the Georgian example. Both countries benefited from training, including from OSCE/ODIHR which held workshops for Georgian and Kyrgyz police on domestic violence and human trafficking in cooperation with UN Women. However, inadequate budgetary resources across Eastern Europe and Central Asia are hampering SCR 1325's full implementation. The importance of having gender champions to further promote gender mainstreaming was noted.

Gender mainstreaming into SSR is of utmost importance. NATO approaches the question through its commitment to the "3 Ps" approach – Participation, Protection, Prevention. Increasing the percentage of women in peace building efforts, conflict resolution and in all decision-making bodies, including small-scale missions and operations, was necessary to prevent instability and sustain the peace. However, this represented only one part of the solution. The integration of gender perspectives into security reform meant implementing provisions for women and children and protecting them from gender-based violence. This represented the second important solution. Thirdly, women have an important role to play in conflict-prevention because war and conflict often impacts both women and children disproportionately. A comprehensive approach to gender mainstreaming is crucial; as is increased coordina-

tion, together with political and practical cooperation, by countries, international organizations, NGOs, and the local authorities on the ground. The fact that the policy of mainstreaming gender into SSR in Georgia and other countries had become more visible in recent years was a positive development.

*Kristina Baleisyte,
Deputy Head, NATO Liaison Office, Tbilisi*

Four key security sector institutions were represented on the panel: NATO, OSCE, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF) and Georgia's Ministry of Defence. All these institutions are committed to SSR whose key role is to provide a safe and secure environment for all: women and men, girls and boys, thereby serving the needs of the whole community. A key policy to achieving this is the integration of women into the security sector via gender mainstreaming. Another important component of SSR is about including women in security sector institutions. National consultations play an important role in ensuring such policies are incorporated into government policy.

In Georgia, as in other countries, national consultations were held: they allowed civil society, including women's organizations, the opportunity from the outset to ensure its plans were included. The process of consultation with civil society is important because SSR includes a broad range of institutions from the judiciary to border guards, intelligence agencies, as well as oversight institutions like parliament and civil society organizations.

The integration of a gender perspective in SSR contributes to different objectives of the reform process: better delivery of security and justice services; more representative institutions; respect for human rights; strengthened oversight and accountability; and local ownership of the SSR process itself.

SSR is based on a strong partnership between government and civil society, which serves as a watchdog to ensure accountability, as well as adherence to the tenets of international and regional law. During Georgia's national consultations on the NAP on SCR 1325 in April 2012, organized in the context of the Cross-regional Programme and co-facilitated by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), women's civil society groups had the opportunity to meet with decision-makers from Georgia, including from its security sector institutions, and thereby help develop concrete plans for the NAP's implementation.

One aspect of SSR, gender mainstreaming, centres on analyzing the impact of any policy on men and women: the thinking behind this approach is that any policy impacts them differently therefore both genders' participation in security institutions is important.

*Daniel de Torres,
Deputy Head, Operations III, DCAF*

The integration of gender perspectives is generally pursued through two complementary strategies: gender mainstreaming and measures to promote the equal participation of men and women in security sector institutions and SSR processes. These two tasks were undertaken through training for decision makers by UN Women and DCAF within the Cross-regional Programme to ensure that both human rights and gender considerations were included in the work of security sector personnel, and ensure women were present in all ranks.

In Georgia the Ministry of Defence made important progress on implementing SCR 1325 in a number of important areas: 1. Physical tests requirements were lowered for women, a policy of positive discrimination, in order to encourage female participation

in its peace keeping contingent and armed forces. 2. The National Defence Academy of Georgia is in the process of revising its curriculum and intends to mainstream gender issues and principles relating to women, peace and security. 3. Mainstreaming of gender issues and UN resolution on women, peace and security are to be included in educational programmes, guidelines of the Georgian armed forces units and in support-related trainings. 4. The Ministry of Defence has to ensure information on demining activities of explosive remains of war is provided to women residing near the country's occupied territories. 5. From 2012 civil defence and security trainings became a compulsory subject in the national school curriculum.

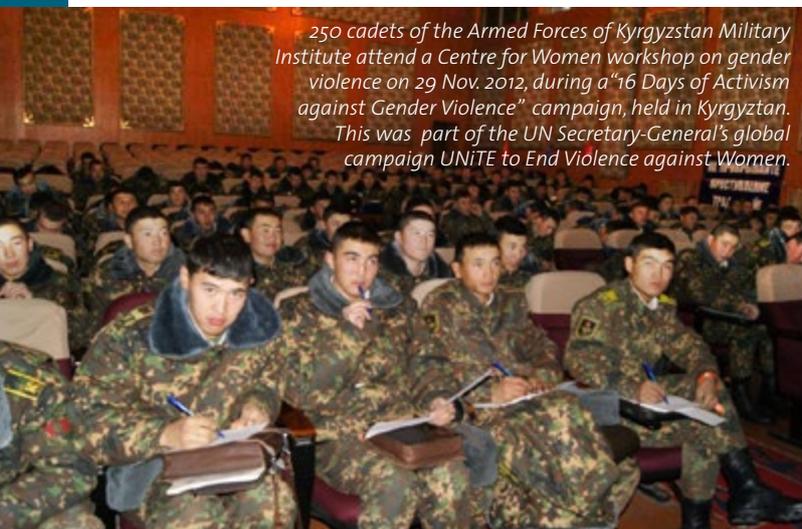
*George Amanatidze,
Head of the International Law and Procurement Contracts
Expertise Division, Ministry of Defense, Georgia*

ODIHR is also playing an important role in SSR. Within its own Programme and in cooperation with the UN Women office in Georgia, and as part of gender-sensitizing training for security sector issues, ODIHR gave domestic violence and human trafficking training to 26 Georgian police officers in Gori in June 2012 so they would respond to domestic violence calls from internally displaced persons' camps, an action the police had failed to do earlier unsure if such requests were within their purview. As an effective way of complementing each other's work, a similar training for 30 senior management officials at the Ministry of Interior, Kyrgyzstan, in June 2012 focused on developing a gender mainstreaming strategy so they could better address security concerns for women, for example in domestic violence. Subsequently, two groups of law enforcement officers, 50 personnel in total, were trained by OSCE/ODIHR in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on how to respond to domestic violence cases more effectively.

The role of national gender champions to further promote gender mainstreaming is important in both Georgia and Kyrgyzstan. In the above-mentioned training in Bishkek, Lieutenant-Colonel Azamat Abdurahmanov, Deputy Chief, Department of Public Security, Ministry of the Interior, Kyrgyzstan, issued an order that all staff had to attend upcoming gender-related training courses.

*Andreea Vesa,
Human Rights Adviser/Gender and Security OSCE/ODIHR*

Three key organizations – DCAF, NATO and OSCE – all working on mainstreaming gender into the security sector, as well as Georgia's Ministry of Defence, which had taken important steps on gender mainstreaming, were represented on the panel. Two key issues needed to be highlighted: DCAF was the main organization working on gender mainstreaming in SSR. SSR involved not just the Ministry of Defence but many different actors encompassing the law enforcement and security agencies in the widest sense. But the main focus was on civil society and the importance of their involvement in the process: in this regard women had a key role to play because



250 cadets of the Armed Forces of Kyrgyzstan Military Institute attend a Centre for Women workshop on gender violence on 29 Nov. 2012, during a "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence" campaign, held in Kyrgyzstan. This was part of the UN Secretary-General's global campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women.

Credit: Women Support Centre, Bishkek

In Kyrgyzstan female representation in the police force is growing thanks to gender mainstreaming policies in the security sector



they spoke about the concerns of their community, not about themselves. A very clear message from the speakers was that women should be working together because there was power in numbers.

*Graziella Piga,
Discussant and Rapporteur*

Female representation in the Armed Forces of Georgia is 5.4 per cent. In the Ministry of Defence, there is an even number of men and women. Twenty per cent of women occupy decision-making positions (Deputy Minister), 40 per cent occupy leadership positions. At the National Defence Academy there are four female students out of 138 students enrolled in the main military educational programme. From 2001 to the present, 77 women passed officers courses in different specialties. As for the Georgian contingent serving in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, five women are serving in ISAF, one is a first lieutenant, three are sergeants, one a corporal.

George Amanatidze

Reflections by the Participants

Several points were discussed, including the following ones: The key role of budgetary allocations for programme implementation, since lack of financial resources meant programmes would remain on paper. The importance of Ministry of Defense holding discussions with civil society, especially women's NGOs, to ensure the community's priorities are included in planning. The role of media as a medium for informing the public. Transparency and its key role in ensuring the Ministry of Defense serves the public in a democratic society, for example by answering public requests for information. The fact that the Ministry of Defense has positive discrimination policies in place, for example the lowering of physical requirements for women, has expanded women's career choices. The important role of education in instilling notions of gender equality and

changing perceptions, together with trainings on mainstreaming, domestic violence, et al. Training is essential to developing the professional skills for women's advancement in the Ministry of Defense. A UN Women Project, "Safe Cities" – a global initiative with pilot projects in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, – focuses on making cities safe for women. The project showcases the issue of harassment-free cities as being part of the global agenda. Open source networks do have a role to play in ensuring violence against women is immediately reported, for example from the grass roots to the wider public during such events as elections, natural disasters, conflict or peacekeeping.

On the issue of adequate budgetary allocations for NAPs (Gavkhar Djuraeva, Head, Integration Centre of Migration and Law, Moscow), – sufficient budgets/ government budgetary allocations do play a key role in determining whether policies will have the requisite resources to implement their programmes. A simple analogy illustrated the point: the choices Ministries of Defense made in their budgets reflected their commitments: whether money would be spent on buying jet fighters or equipping shelters for domestic violence victims. (Daniel deTorres, DCAF)

The presentation on the situation in Pakistan earlier might lead one to ask the government: How many women died in Kashmir, how many at the hands of their husbands? Followed immediately by the second question: "How many resources were allocated to the conflict in Kashmir, how much was spent on domestic violence prevention?" The most important decisions a government makes is how to allocate resources. Women's NGOs should be participating in such decisions, and women's platforms and NGOs had to keep themselves well informed to be able to impact policies. DCAF had just published a new title, *A Women's Guide to Security Sector Reform*, targeted at women's organizations. (Daniel deTorres)

Budgets are important. The question of appropriate budgeting for high-tech communication technologies applied to the following needs: reporting from the grass roots in cases of disasters, or violent incidents, rape, etc., by both sides during conflict or post-conflict so peacekeeping forces could react immediately. (Gavkhar Djuraeva) If budgetary constraints existed, there were other low-cost options. The role of open source networks had been vital in Kenya's elections in 2007-2008 when individual incidents of electoral violence during elections were immediately reported, as well as during Haiti's earthquake. High tech options required budgetary allocations. (Daniel de Torres)

On the issues of strategies for raising awareness in society, covering towns where violence or conflict prevails, as in Nis, Serbia, during the Bosnian war, helps gain access to information. Andreea Vesa, then worked for an NGO with a limited budget, but the NGO linked up with a local counterpart. Political leaders were invited to its training programmes, a move which earned their trust. By opening doors, as in this case, one also gained access to information.

Whilst the Georgian Ministry of Defence had adopted a ministerial decree involving positive discrimination policies for women and different steps to enforce this decree, and women participated in the Georgian forces in Afghanistan, further policies were needed to ensure women continued to advance in the security sector institutions. “Our mapping study showed that 50% of the personnel is female, however when we look more carefully at the figures’ breakdown we quickly realize that senior management positions are mostly reserved for men. The vertical segregation exists in all sectors, but when it comes to the security one, it becomes very striking – the higher one climbs up the ladder, the fewer women there are,” noted Ms. Piga. Education played a key role in changing perceptions about women’s leadership roles and promoting women’s advancement. The Ministry of Defence stressed both education and training of its staff, including National Defence Academy training on SCR 1325 to that end. Today 40 per cent of women in the ministry were in strategic positions, and such institutionalized training meant greater female representation in the future. (George Amanatidze).

Female advancement in the Georgian Ministry of Defence was very important. One way to see this policy realized was to provide training for professional development to allow women to diversify their skills to help them assume leadership positions. Often networks do not exist and women in the lower ranks have no access to information, although it appeared that in the Georgian Ministry of Defence women in senior positions did mentor more junior colleagues, for example by informing women in the lower ranks about upcoming training opportunities. (Andreea Vesa, OSCE/ODIHR)

The issue of harassment and whether it was possible to have towns and even countries that were harassment-free or pilot towns (Rusudan Kervalishvili, Chair, NGO Gender Justice) led to the mention of a UN Women’s programme that focuses specifically on the issue, the “Safe Cities Initiative” involv-

ing municipal governments, local communities and organizations: the principal aim – making a city safe for women and girls. The “Safe Cities” project, implemented globally, implied that urban areas were unsafe for women. In Central Asia, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, became a part of the UN Women/UNICEF Global Safe City Initiative. In 2009-2010 Almaty, Kazakhstan, and Khujand, Tajikistan, became pilot Safe City models, although not part of the UNIFEM Global Safe City Initiative. In Almaty billboards on prevention of Violence Against Women were put up and there was some social advertising to inform the public. (Aliya Ilyassova)

Harassment itself fell into two categories: cultural and legal aspects. Through the empowerment of women individually and collectively, cultural practices, such as verbal harassment, can become socially unacceptable. (Daniel de Torres)

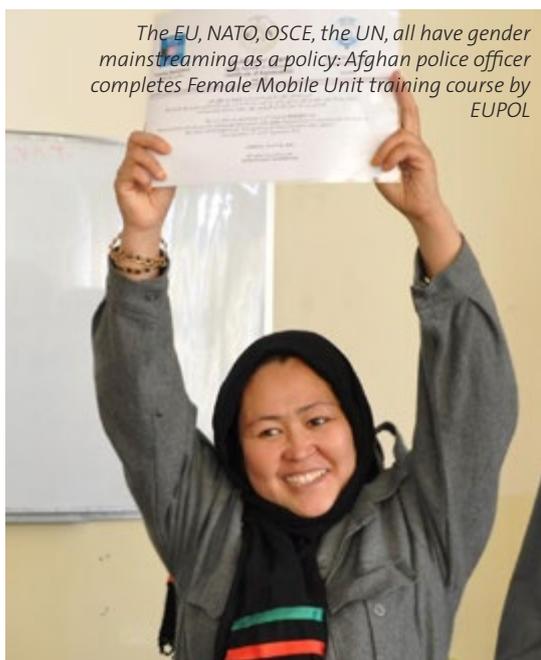
In some countries there were daunting barriers to SSR: the police and judiciary were difficult to access because of hierarchies: the military high command, in part for national security reasons, was even more difficult to access. However, even Western countries’ defence establishments had similar policies in place when the country’s national security was under threat. Institutions like DCAF might be able to propose a few entry points to be applied in the case of Pakistan. (Fauzia Viqar)

In such a situation civil society had to decide whether to take a collaborative or confrontational approach. The media can be a great ally: even the most closed institutions were vulnerable to negative opinion. However, during periods of conflict it was not clear whether civil society had such options. DCAF only undertook training when invited to do so, therefore rendering advice on how to resolve a confrontational situation when the judiciary and military were difficult to access were not in its purview. (Daniel de Torres)

In Georgia civil society had gained important entry points to the military. The question of which factors had contributed to such access was posed. (Fauzia Viqar) The new government made almost all decisions in consultation with civil society. This applied to the Ministry of Defense, parliament, including parliament’s Security and Defence Committee where civil society organizations and military experts made important decisions in close consultation.

The Administrative Code of Georgia’s provisions also reflected a policy of transparency. For example, all government institutions had a maximum period of 10 days to answer any request for information from a private citizen. Even in instances of classified information, in one instance the media played a role in having that information declassified and provided to civil society. Regarding providing information to children, (Gavkhar Djuraeva), the Ministry of Defense provided information specifically for children, when conducting mine-clearance activities. When the ministry held meetings on demining the ministry makes sure women and children take part. (George Amanatidze)

Credit: European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL)



Key Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities and Entry Points

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. The adoption of an internal decree that introduced SSR in Georgia is a step forward in meeting the priorities of women and men in the Ministry of Defence.
2. The close cooperation between civil society and the government, including the Ministry of Defence, is a significant achievement.
3. The training on gender mainstreaming within the security sector and gender sensitization, – especially given UN Women’s ongoing efforts to address violence against women in Georgia, – undertaken in the framework of the Cross-regional Programme, was an important contributory factor to the SSR process in Georgia.

Kyrgyzstan

1. The work conducted by OSCE/ODIHR to complement UN Women’s efforts in Kyrgyzstan is a very positive example of good synergy and coordination.

CHALLENGES

1. **Budgets:** For various SSR reforms to take place adequate budgetary allocations for relevant programmes were needed.
2. **Greater female representation in the security sector** does not mean gender-based violence will disappear. The example of the South African police force can be cited: it has a high percentage of women in its police force yet the country has one of the highest rates of gender-based violence in

the world. Thus attention will be paid to ensure we work on the substance and not only on numbers.

3. **Gender champions in security sector institutions** needed to be found and supported to bring SSR forward.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTRY POINTS

1. Georgia’s numerous women’s organizations make up a potentially influential gender platform which can work with the government in undertaking trainings and monitoring.
2. The involvement of **gender experts, women’s groups and other civil society organizations** that work on gender issues in oversight bodies and accountability processes is helpful.
3. **Georgia should use the gender platform network and its members’ skills**, for example by holding an awareness-raising session within each ministry, or a training on harassment.
4. Georgia and Kyrgyzstan need to maintain the momentum of reform and NAP implementation. For example, in Georgia officials at all levels should assess what the plan means for them, viz. by increasing the number of female police officers in local precincts; addressing women’s security needs in their communities; and asking Tbilisi for help to implement their goals. The issue of lack of clear referral mechanisms between NGOs, police and local government bodies at the grass roots was mentioned by conference participants on the first day which means this issue needed addressing.
5. **Women should be working together because there is power in numbers** – a clear message for all NGOs today. The three-day national consultations meeting organized by UN Women in April 2012 underscored this fact.



Thanks to recent reforms in the Georgian Ministry of Defence to ensure recruitment of women, more females are joining the armed forces.

civil.ge/Guram Muradov

Women’s Rights Face Wall of Traditions and Stereotypes

Parents discuss early marriage with human rights monitoring group, Fergana Valley, Tajikistan

Credit: Dilorom Ata baveva/Tajikistan



The monitoring of women's rights in Fergana was undertaken with several aims in mind: firstly, to raise awareness for the implementation of SCR 1325; secondly, as a first step to identify problems regarding women's human rights and to inform decision makers; thirdly, to strengthen cooperation among decision makers and civil society; and, fourthly, to introduce a gender approach in early warning. The Fergana Valley was selected because of its recent history of violence, political and institutional instability, inter-ethnic tensions, territorial disputes, exacerbated by the war in Afghanistan which has brought narcotics and the rise of militancy among youth. In other words, the conflict and post-conflict situation makes implementation of SCR 1325 a pressing concern.

The Fergana Valley is also a region with a high incidence of early marriage.

"They talk about their duties to take care of their families, but never about their rights," said Dilorom Atabaeva, HR Observer Team, referring to the parents who arrange early marriages for their daughters in the Fergana Valley, Tajikistan. Her team monitored early marriage in Isfara and Gonchi Districts in the Fergana Valley. Early marriage is a criminal offence in Tajikistan. However, since early marriage is illegal – the minimum age of marriage is 18, – the law has had an unintended effect: because couples cannot register a marriage when one party is under 18 years of age, many parents simply have a local religious leader perform the wedding ceremony. Later, if the bride wants to address the courts, for example for abandonment or domestic violence, without a civil registration certificate, she has [few rights](#) in the court's eyes.

The resurgence of early marriage is due to several factors. During the Tajikistan civil war, the instability and violence compelled parents to marry their daughters early. Widespread poverty, a weak economy, mass migration and deeply entrenched traditional conservative attitudes, which resurfaced after the demise of the Soviet Union, means early marriage is increasingly common. Several factors prevent its suppression: parents themselves do not view early marriage as illegal. There is a low respect for the law with villagers falsifying birth certificates to get their daughters married. For their part, law enforcement officials make little effort to uphold the law to deal with early marriage. In this regard their failure to act "complies" with the opinions of society as a whole which views this mostly as a social problem, not a criminal offence. The monitoring teams also found that the staff of the Committee on Women and Family Affairs dealt with routine matters from their superiors in the ministry and had no time to deal with social issues.

The statistics point to a serious human rights problem: Every fifth girl marrying is under 18, 80 per cent of deaths in childbirth pertain to early marriages, polygamy is on the increase. The social consequences include suicide, with the suicide rate increasing in the northern Fergana Valley.

To discuss these human rights violations and find solutions, the monitoring team brought together representatives of the *jamoat* (community), or local authorities, teachers, judicial personnel, religious leaders and parents into different focus groups. The results of the focus group interviews were revealing. Judicial personnel regarded early marriage as a social problem. They had to deal with much more serious issues like fighting drugs trafficking and weapons smuggling. In contrast, government officials were most open to the human rights monitoring team and their concerns that early marriage comprised human rights violations. Early marriage gravely affects the long term emotional and physical health of women limits their lifelong opportunities and violates their human rights. The focus group also included 14-18 years old school girls who were already engaged: the girls all asserted they had not been coerced into marriage, but judging by their passivity during in depth interviews, the monitors noted that it was clear they had no motivation at all to study: all planned to become seamstresses.

During interviews religious leaders said the democratic processes in Tajikistan had increased the role of religion, Islamic canons contained the same rights as those guaranteed in a democracy. There was more respect today for religion than in Soviet times, according to the religious leaders. One reason for early marriage was the downturn in morals and incidents of human trafficking. On these counts, when girls travel to towns to study, many parents prefer to marry their daughter off because of perceived threats and dangers.

In 2012 only two criminal cases relating to early marriage was dealt with by the courts, cases which were punished solely by a fine. The judicial officers noted that the laws in any country should take the specificities of that country into account. In Tajikistan often laws were copied and pasted from other countries, for example from Russia or neighbouring countries. There were also social reasons for early marriage including the fact that people did not view the practice as a legal infringement. Today mass migration to other countries for work has had negative ramifications. Parents married off their sons, often in the false belief they would be motivated to return, and also to avoid army conscription, where hazing was common.

The monitoring group recommendations were severalfold. They included establishing a special department on violence prevention against women at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as a "hot line"; giving rural girls vocational education; increasing social advertising for TV broadcasting; launching information campaigns in the media to raise public awareness; organizing educational programmes for law enforcement agencies; expanding trainings to increase legal literacy on human rights protection; initiating/lobbying for amendments to national laws to close lacunae.

*Zumrat Salmorbekova,
Independent Expert, and Dilorom Atabaeva, Human Rights
Observer Team, Tajikistan*

In Kyrgyzstan the monitoring of women candidates in the local council elections of October-November 2012 covered eight monitoring zones in Osh province (three), Jalalabad (three) and Batken (two). Interviews were conducted with campaign HQ workers, candidates from political parties running for office, local authorities, media, NGOs. In total, 195 interviews were conducted, 40% women, 60% men. The themes included local elections, participation of women in local elections, voter attitudes towards women, political parties' platform, how the media portrayed female candidates.

While in Kyrgyzstan gender quotas have been introduced in the electoral law and the government has adopted a NAP on SCR 1325, the recent local council elections in October-November 2012 showed further laws were required to buttress the 30 per cent quota for female candidates to ensure they were allocated seats after elections.

The monitoring team found that the 30 per cent gender quota was observed by most political parties during the pre-election period when registering their parties for elections. Since the female quota was 30 per cent, that percentage of seats was supposed to be allocated to women in the local councils. However, after the elections, the political parties allocated seats at their discretion: few women on the party lists were selected so the quota remained unfilled.

Moreover, a different dynamic was at play in the different ways the elections were organized, with a proportional system and party lists being used in urban areas, and the undemocratic style of the rural areas, where the self-nomination of candidates was the norm. By tradition very few women are found in local government or in decision-making positions in villages therefore women stood little chance.

To a certain extent, it was in the parties' interest to promote women and to include the more active women on party lists, those who could attract votes. Woman candidates should have evinced a high interest to be involved in new social processes, however, the monitoring team found both a lack of such interest and experience. The media was not very willing to promote women or portray them as effectively able to conduct political activities. The mass media or campaign methods were largely used by men. In fact, gender stereotypes affected the whole election campaign process, which was perhaps to be expected given the low level of awareness of gender issues among the population.

The monitoring of these local elections showed that the participation of women in politics was a major problem, notwithstanding the legal framework to promote them in politics. Out of 31 seats, men (87%) took 27 of the 31 seats and only 4 seats went to women representing 13 percent of the candidates in Jalalabad. In Kara-Suu town out of 31 seats 25 male candidates (81%) and 6 female candidates (19%) won seats. The results were better in Batken where 23 male candidates (74%) won seats and 8 female candidates won (26%) of the seats. Measures needed to

*Kyrgyzstan has a model for its aspiring female politicians:
Roza Otunbaeva, former Kyrgyzstan President and
Foreign Minister.*



be introduced in the post-election period to ensure quotas were observed during both the pre- and post-election periods. Women faced social barriers in the form of gender stereotypes, cultural norms and bias, lack of financial independence, and very few opportunities to participate in decision-making.

*Akbii Musaev,
Human Rights Observer Team, Kyrgyzstan*

Reflections by the Participants

Monitoring can encompass many activities, which was clearly the case in Fergana, and the issue of what comprised the specific goal of the pilot monitoring was raised. (Irada Afandiyeva, Expert trainer of NGO Women Problems' Research Union, Azerbaijan) This was to enhance the capacity of monitors to increase the tools and methods for the promotion of women's rights and their application in practice. The results obtained were reported to the key actors. At the next stage, lobbying will be the main activity, undertaken by those who took part in the pilot monitoring exercise because of their extensive experience in interacting with international organizations, government officialdom and civil society. (Zumrat Salmorbekova, Independent Expert)

The results of the monitoring provided valuable information helping to fill the gaps in data given the absence of reliable statistics in Kyrgyzstan and neighbouring countries. Such lacunae also exist in the field of human rights therefore monitoring will help in human rights capacity-training. One lesson learned from the pilot monitoring was that whilst this exercise was an important step in helping to improve a situation, a more important result was that gathering data made the design of programming possible so that funding applications could be made to donors to solve underlying issues. (Gerald Gunther, UN Women, Kyrgyzstan)

Regarding the monitoring exercises, 16 people participated in the training. The persons were selected for the previous monitoring work in human rights they had undertaken in their own countries; their involve-

ment in programming means they will be a party to the programme which is a key issue, given that behavioural change will take a long time. (Gerald Gunther)

Amendments to the electoral laws of Kyrgyzstan regarding women on party lists were needed. For example, did the monitoring team consider changing the election law so that if a woman candidate drops out of a party list the next woman on the list would replace her? Women's organizations were lobbying for this in Armenia. (Natalya Martirosyan)

When the 30 per cent quota for women candidates was introduced in Kyrgyzstan, the law stated that the distribution of seats would be allocated based on the list prepared and submitted by political parties before the election. Then another law was passed which said the allocation of seats after the election would be at the discretion of party leaders. The human rights observers' monitoring recommendations contain a proposal that seats should be allocated according to a list prepared before the elections, and the experience of Armenia will also be taken into account. (Akbi Musaev, Human Rights Observer, Kyrgyzstan)

In Kyrgyzstan the failure of women candidates to be allocated seats in local councils during last November's elections raises the issue of having laws that remain on paper. Specifically in this case UN Women and NGOs in Kyrgyzstan were very keen to have a gender quota, however, there was little follow up after the quota was made law to see it was implemented in practice. Given the focus on women's rights today, perhaps in future elections in five years time, women would be better represented in local councils. (Gerald Gunther)

In Georgia early marriage also existed among some minorities. In Tajikistan social action groups were established. How did they function? (Julia Kharashvili) This was an initiative started at the district level, and was working quite well. It was promoting peace-building, community projects, economic development, infrastructure development, water supply and irrigation maintenance. If there is continuing support for this initiative it can be used for educational awareness-raising activities on early marriage and for prevention. (Dilorom Atabaeva, Executive Director, NGO Consortium of Initiatives, Khujand).

The issue as to whether early marriage was criminalized and sanctions existed against early marriage in Tajikistan was raised. (Andreea Vesa) Early marriage is regulated by article 168 of the Criminal Code which prescribes up to two years of corrective labour and imprisonment up to five years, punishments imposed on the parents of the girl, but no criminal liability is established for the boy's parents. This legal gap implies that more social pressure can be put on parents of brides as parents of the groom do not face any conviction or fine. Efforts are being made to address this lacuna in the law, but the fact that a fairly high level of corruption existed within bodies authorized to make decisions relating to the marriageable age would negatively impact any effort to change the law. (Dilorom Atabaeva)

This pilot monitoring showed the interest and willingness of government officials to support monitors. Therefore including more government officials in capacity-building could lead to their greater involvement in these initiatives. This will both foster dialogue between civil society and government representatives and increase government officials' understanding of the importance of female participation in decision-making for building a sustainable peace and development. It will also make them understand the need to establish referral and protection mechanisms for victims of SGBV during peace and conflict. In addition, the government and other stakeholders will be accountable for the implementation of the UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security at the local and national levels. (Graziella Piga)

Key Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities and Entry Points

ACHIEVEMENTS

Tajikistan

- 1. Local administrations largely supported the monitoring team's initiatives** and also agreed to participate in interviews and provide some logistical support, for example they allocated rooms in schools so the monitors could organize focus groups and meetings.
- 2. Results of Roundtable in Khujand, Tajikistan:** The participants – government and law enforcement agencies, NGOs and media – were informed about the monitoring results and discussions on the recommendations took place.
- 3. Strengthened knowledge and skills in methodology development and monitoring plans** were elaborated
- 4. Results of training on women's human rights in Tajikistan:** a. A manifest increase in the enthusiasm of monitors; b. An increased understanding of goals and provisions of the SCR 1325; c. Increased understanding of how to undertake monitoring and planning of monitoring; d. Indicators worked out; e. Other issues were successfully resolved: for example, how to collect material, sources of information, potential risks.

Election monitoring in Kyrgyzstan

- 1. The monitoring results provided important information for evidence-based dialogue and advocacy** and can be used to effect changes in the electoral law to ensure quotas are respected.
- 2. The monitoring team was promptly created and trained,** and an integrated team of monitors was established.

CHALLENGES

Fergana Valley

1. The need to strengthen the monitoring team through capacity-building and improving the qualitative and quantitative composition of the team.
2. The need to reinforce involvement of local government officials and make them accountable for implementing laws.
3. Monitoring should be continued for a long period to bring about substantive results and change. Thus women rights' violations should be made a priority and resources allocated by the donor community.

Kyrgyzstan

1. A general distrust towards NGOs/international organizations. There was also distrust towards the local election results in Kyrgyzstan. In Kyrgyzstan a lot of politicians speak about conspiracy theories, alleging, for example, that international organizations/civil society are spies. These negative stereotypes need to be countered.
2. Election monitoring in south Kyrgyzstan: Dissolution of the monitoring team/the monitoring team was formed only for that exercise therefore the skills acquired may be lost if these activities are not continued. An immediate follow up is highly desirable.
3. Female quotas on election party lists: establishing quotas in legislation is not enough. The international community and NGOs need to ensure quotas are implemented in practice.

Tajikistan

1. In Tajikistan the topic of early or arranged marriages was a very delicate one because a part of the local population view this custom as an easy way to solve economic difficulties and in line with emerging trends renamed as national traditions.
2. The rise in influence of extremist and misinformed promoters of Islam and its negative repercussions on girls/women.
3. Capacity-building for the judiciary/law enforcement: given the inaction on the part of law enforcement, capacity-building programmes for law enforcement bodies are needed.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTRY POINTS

HR Monitoring in Fergana

1. The fact that the three countries of the Fergana Valley, namely Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, joined together in one workshop was a necessary first step towards cooperation on issues presently dividing them. The provincial authorities in Sughd, Tajikistan, and Batken, Kyrgyzstan, are keen to work together: under a multi-year framework agreement, some 40 specific technical cooperation issues have been agreed upon for implementation annually, the aim being to facilitate trade and transit between the two regions. This has helped to improve the situation prevailing since the break-up of the Soviet Union by again making borders more open. UN Women hopes to introduce civil society from both sides into the process, and to convene the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in both countries around the provision of technical support in order to implement the agreement. (Gerald Gunther, UN Women)
2. Wide coverage of the monitoring results (including through mass media) should be pursued as a public information policy.
3. A high potential exists among civil society actors in terms of their participation in monitoring, especially in connection with SCR 1325. Ad hoc capacity-building should be continued to ensure accurate and consistent data documentation and gender analysis.
4. Strengthening the regional women's rights monitoring team representing all three countries of the Fergana Valley would be beneficial for conflict-prevention, reconciliation and tolerance-building among communities of the Fergana Valley.
5. Monitoring needs to be conducted for an extended period until changes are made, based on collected evidence of human rights violations, and must have broader coverage. The Fergana Valley is one region, but each valley has its own characteristics.

Monitor one common problem for all countries of the Fergana Valley that is relevant to the women, peace and security issue. Initiating/lobbying for amendments, changes, additions to national legislation to close legal gaps is also necessary.
6. The capacity and involvement of local government officials should be reinforced.
7. Roundtable in Khujand: Develop strategies on implementing the roundtable's recommendations

The Equality Agenda at the Grass Roots: An Ongoing Project

National consultations on SCR 1325 were held in Sughd province, Tajikistan, July 2012.

Credit: UN Women



Objective 5: Bringing UN SCRs on women, peace and security to the local level through CEDAW. In post-conflict countries like Georgia, or Tajikistan, where the peace is fragile, or Afghanistan, a country in conflict – elaborating a NAP and implementing its provisions are key to advancing women’s rights in conflict-resolution and peace processes. As a global human rights treaty, CEDAW, which all three countries have ratified, requires governments to establish the mechanisms and measures needed to fully realize women’s rights. Therefore CEDAW compliments SCR 1325. The two sets of standards are key instruments for advancing gender equality in conflict and post-conflict situations, and they can be used for advocacy at both local and national levels. In Tajikistan the government supports both. However, in the absence of a political will, legislation remains declarative in intent. In Georgia despite trainings and a successful effort to connect IDP women to the national level, a very low level of awareness on gender issues exists, as in Tajikistan. Afghanistan has now included CEDAW/1325 complementarities in its capacity-training for government officials, a move prompted by a Cross-regional Programme TOT last year in Georgia.

In Tajikistan the five year civil war (1992-1997) devastated the country, destroyed its economy, over a million persons fled, and women were severely impacted. It is no exaggeration to say that compared to the Soviet period when women in Central Asia made huge advancements in education and the workforce, the position of women rapidly deteriorated in the nineties. Practices such as early and organized marriage, bride price, and polygamy, which were banned under Soviet law, made a comeback. This is why SCR 1325 and CEDAW are very important for women’s advancement in this post-conflict society, two instruments which the government supports. Tajikistan was one of the first countries to hold national consultations on a NAP on SCR 1325 with UN Women and the State Committee for Women and Family Affairs taking an active part. Tajikistan approached women peace and security issues differently from Georgia as it integrated the SCR 1325 provisions with Tajikistan’s NAP for Gender Equality (2012-2015) in the section on women and peacekeeping.

Despite laws on the book and a strong commitment to women’s rights by the government reflected in its support for a NAP on SCR 1325 and the enactment of other relevant laws, experience shows in the case of Tajikistan’s domestic violence law, for example, that the hiatus between enacting legislation and their implementation is wide, a chasm hampered by the lack of political will and budgetary resources to implement provisions, a state of affairs that calls for monitoring.

Another factor in Tajikistan is the resurgence of traditions and practices, often linked to the misinterpretation and misuse of the Islamic religion, which negatively impinges on women, reflected in the sharp drop in girls’ education, most noticeable in the drop-outs rates in the seventh and eighth grades, the rise in polygamy and domestic violence – all factors which pull society backwards, away from gender equality and human rights.

The government’s commitment to implementing SCR 1325 was demonstrated by the roll-call of consultations held all over Tajikistan: Within the framework of “Open Day” – a regional conference “Women for peace and security” devoted to the SCR 1325 took place in 2010. National consultations on including the peace and security issues into the NAP were held on 2 May 2012; similar regional consultations took place in Sughd Province. There were meetings on SCR 1325 in institutes, universities and *mahallas* (traditional village-level committees used to settle disputes), in Dushanbe and in Khatlon Province. Women’s rights were surveyed in border districts of Sughd Province from 9-14 July 2012. Monitoring of the action plan’s implementation took place in Sughd province. The UN Security Council resolutions were clarified in Dushanbe and Sughd province at meetings with the public at large, public associations and officials from law enforcement agencies.

Based on the monitoring results, local governments, civil society and international donor organizations provided recommendations which were developed

for the next stage of the programme. The work conducted within the Cross-regional Programme created a momentum to advocate for the finalization of the NAP draft which was pending for a long time.

Apart from national consultations, two-day cascade trainings were conducted on the topic “Participation of Women in the Peace-building Process.” Forty-three people were trained on how to apply provisions of conventions to the situation in Tajikistan. The participants included the Ombudsman Office (new institution), head of women’s councils, organizations and institutions of Dushanbe, other towns and districts, Russian - Tajik Slavic University (RTSU) students, law enforcement officers and government officials in Dushanbe.

The training on CEDAW and SCR 1325 had particular resonance with the youth, and all the participants asked for more training on the subject. Participants wanted to know how to apply SCR 1325’s provisions in practice. Publications should be printed in Tajik as today many young people did not know Russian. But as trainers and experts highlighted, it was not enough to just distribute CEDAW and SCR 1325, existing tools and guides on their practical use should be used in training. Feedback from participants showed they would apply the practical help received.

Tribute was paid to UN Women’s Cross-regional Programme, as well as the parliamentary committee and different government institutions, who all undertook numerous activities on resolution 1325 at the regional and national levels.

Despite the positive factors supporting gender equality: a strong legal basis guaranteeing women’s rights via the Constitution, laws against domestic violence, a chapter on women peace and security in the Gender Equality Strategy, active cooperation with international organizations, the adoption of new strategies and laws, and holding of round-tables, consultations, conferences, etc., – in reality gender inequality is still pervasive, especially in domestic and daily life. Moreover, the gap between de facto and de jure equality represents a real challenge, especially in rural areas. Further work was needed and the momentum that exists currently must be used. This was the conclusion of Sanavbar Kasymova, Gender expert and trainer, Tajikistan.

*Sanavbar Kasymova,
Gender expert and trainer, Tajikistan*

In the case of Georgia, two different viewpoints were presented, one by Marina Tabukashvili, Director, Taso Foundation, the second by Irina Zhvania, Gender expert and trainer: in the first instance the participants on the development of the NAP on SCR 1325 and in the second case, the participants of trainings conducted in the regions to raise awareness on gender equality and on obligations under SCR 1325 and CEDAW – showed a very low level of awareness on gender issues. In the first case IDPs at the grass roots were empowered by having their recommendations included in the national consultations on the elabo-



Youth training on complementarity of CEDAW and UNSCRs on women, peace and security, Gori, Kvemo Kartli, Georgia, 4 December 2011.

ration of NAP on 1325 by the Georgian Parliament’s Working Group specially established for this.

The first set of training undertaken by Irina Zhvania in different regions targeted those with no or limited knowledge, the second set of four trainings also in the regions was for representatives of local government, local media, NGOs, youth, teachers, academia. A total of 227 people took part in the training in Georgia.

The level of knowledge was particularly low in the regions. Information was difficult to come by. Therefore to effect change it was important to keep working in Georgia’s provinces so people knew about the government’s obligations under SCR 1325 and CEDAW and how to use existing documents for the realization of equality and new opportunities. The participants, mainly women, were interested in training and in the message, showing that more efforts in this direction could raise awareness, and make people change their situation. The men for their part displayed an even greater lack of understanding: it was therefore important to include them in trainings to expose them to concepts of gender equality, development and democracy.

*Irina Zhvania,
Gender expert and trainer, Georgia*

In contrast, the NGO, the Taso Foundation, which works with IDPs and conflict-affected communities for their empowerment in Georgia, connected the grass roots to the national level in the consultation on Georgia’s NAP on SCR 1325. As one of the NGOs in the Working Group on NAP on SCR 1325, Taso helped women’s organizations from these communities take part in the document’s elaboration. By ensuring that the perspectives and priorities of women from the grass roots were reflected at higher levels, Taso fulfilled the transformative intent of SCR 1325.

More recently, self-help groups (SHGs), Taso’s self-help groups, other communities and local self-government representatives attended a series of trainings on local governance laws and civic participation in relation to the gender-responsive approach in local planning and budgeting. SHGs members presented

57 priority issues to municipal officials, a good measure of citizens' direct participation in local government. A total of 187 participants took part in eight meetings.

*Marina Tabukashvili,
Director, Taso Foundation, Georgia*

Moving to another sub-region, Afghanistan does not yet have a NAP on SCR 1325, although a presidential ordinance has been issued on implementing SCR 1325. A Steering Committee for drafting a NAP on implementing SCR 1325 has been created, and a Technical Working Committee with 14 government institutions formed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the lead agency. During the cross-regional training of trainers on the complementarities of CEDAW and SCR 1325 conducted in September 2012, the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who attended, was interested in Georgia's experience in developing a NAP and shared it with his colleagues. As part of capacity-building measures for government officials a series of awareness/training workshops on CEDAW and SCR 1325 were organized. This included a three-day workshop for 70 Ministry of Justice officers; a one-day workshop for 25 Ministry of Defense staff; a one-day workshop for 28 National Department of Security staff; and a two-day workshop for 27 Ministry of Women Affairs' staff.

*Habibullah Rishtiani,
Gender trainer and expert, Afghanistan*

A NAP on implementing SCR 1325 cannot come soon enough for the girls and women of Afghanistan. Women's rights activists there have identified SCR 1325 as of great importance since the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001, and while Afghanistan has seen a rising level of women's political participation in the past 12 years there remain numerous challenges and growing concern for the future.

Today the situation for women in Afghanistan is by most measures dire. Up to 80 percent of marriages are forced marriages, and 57 percent of girls are forced to marry without their consent.¹ Women's and girls' access to education is extremely low and women continue to be victims of gender-based violence, including domestic abuse and public attack. According to Amnesty International, 87 per cent of women suffer some sort of violence. Women are also victims of the war as they go about their daily business.

It remains to be seen how Pakistan and Afghanistan will come to an agreement on the terms for peace. To reach this agreement, women and proponents of women's rights in Afghanistan are concerned that the milestones and gains achieved by women and guaranteed by the new government may be bartered away at the negotiation table, taking away hard won rights.

¹ UNIFEM Fact Sheet 2008 and an Afghani Ministry of Higher Education TV report from 2008.

Reflections by the Participants

The debate, moderated by Anthony Foreman, Project Director, Care International Southern Caucasus, focused on discussing SCR 1325 and CEDAW, which are both important in their own right: they are two critical tools for moving the gender equality agenda forward in conflict and post-conflict situations. There is also a synergy between the two sets of standards that can be used to enhance their implementation and impact.

The debate was framed by a set of questions, – part rhetorical, part of a brief training exercise, – posed by the rapporteur, independent gender trainer Verena Lahousen, to the conference participants. Reference was made to the training manual: *Using CEDAW and Resolution 1325 on WPS for Advancing Gender Equality* as a useful tool. The issue of why it was important to bring CEDAW into the SCR 1325 equation was raised: if Pakistan officially did not consider itself in a state of conflict, civil society organizations could not lobby for women, peace and security rights, another international legal instrument needed to be used, namely CEDAW, to which Pakistan is a signatory. In contrast, in Afghanistan it was more advisable to work with SCR 1325 because the international and donor community's presence supported SCR 1325. (The discussant and rapporteur, Verena Lahousen, independent gender expert)

Another issue raised by the trainer was that of stereotypes, namely which international standards applied if one has to fight stereotypes. CEDAW referred to stereotypes and harmful cultural traditions, and the onus was on the government to take measures. (Fauzia Viqar)

Two other issues were raised: firstly, what were the main areas based on cascading where CEDAW could help implement SCR 1325; secondly, what were the main entry points civil society organizations or governments could use to link CEDAW with SCR 1325.

To the first issue, the main point about CEDAW was to have women in decision-making positions and to strengthen this point in UNSC resolutions through CEDAW. (Irina Zhvania)

CEDAW focused on gender equality, SCR 1325 was about women's role in leadership and management. SCR 1325 helps with full implementation of CEDAW because it demands that all actors engaged in conflict, peace negotiations and post conflict protect and respect women's rights. (Habibullah Rishtiani)

The CEDAW Committee is now working on general recommendations. Thanks to UN Women several NGOs in the region contributed to these recommendations on women in conflict and post-conflict situations. It was important to have both documents when NGOs worked with non-recognized entities where CEDAW did not apply – since non-recognized entities cannot become signatories to international conventions. In such a situation SCR 1325 can be applied. In fact, the resolution has been used by NGO actors and the other party to build

bridges for peace negotiating and peace-building (Julia Kharashvili) There was agreement that SCR 1325 was extremely important in that it allowed the inclusion of women in non-recognized territories of conflict areas where CEDAW could not be applied. (Natalya Martirosyan)

Regarding the interrelationship between UNSCs and CEDAW, the problem with resolutions was that they were binding on all Member States, but had no enforcement mechanisms if no breach of the peace had occurred. Although an embargo could be imposed on a violator state, the five UNSC Permanent Member had veto powers. However, accountability mechanisms were important. CEDAW was a good mechanism because if you were a Member State signatory, the government had to report periodically. NGOs could use this for shadow reporting and in this way influence states' obligations. A mechanism in the UN, which can bridge both SCR 1325 and CEDAW, is the Universal Period Review mechanism at the Human Rights Council: Member States have to report once every four years on both human rights obligations and on those arising from humanitarian law which applies during armed conflict. This is an entry point to discussing SCR 1325 because the provisions of international humanitarian law apply during armed conflict and are not limited to treaty bodies. Another entry point: Since the EU is always keen to promote human rights an NGO coalition could appeal to the European Commission president to target women's issues of the state it was concerned about, or representing. (Tamar Tomashvili, NGO Grass)

In the case of Kyrgyzstan, the country had worked with CEDAW and SCR 1325. SCR 1325 was an instrument allowing the integration of gender into law enforcement or defence institutions. It was a very practical tool to mainstream gender with these institutions, and dealt with security through the prism of conflict-prevention of violence against women, for example. This was the line expressed by Daniel de Torres, DCAF in session 3. SCR 1325 allowed an institution, for example, to go beyond the concept, Prevention, Protection, Participation, and resolve questions on security reform. Both instruments needed to be used: earlier CEDAW was used to involve the police (*militarii*) and, to a lesser extent, the courts, but SCR 1325 allowed Kyrgyzstan to include the State Security Committee, Ministry of Emergency Situations and other defence and law enforcement agencies not involved earlier. (Gulsara Alieva)

Women had to be more strategic today if they wanted to attain real gender equality. The current trend was a more dynamic one, witnessed by the greater number of female presidents and women in parliament around the world, although no broad-based equality existed regarding the representation of women at senior decision-making levels. If gender equality was to have true meaning the political appointments of women to high-level posts, such as to Deputy Minister, had to be replaced by women attaining such senior ranks on their own merit, by making their way up the career ladder. Therefore legal instruments were not the determinative factor on gender equality. (Gulshan Pashayeva)

In Georgia these trainings contribute to women's empowerment and to their understanding that their rights are safeguarded by international laws. More training and awareness-raising should be conducted to ensure that other aspects of SCR 1325 — for example, increasing the percentage of women in decision-making positions and including women in post-conflict negotiations are implemented. "With the assistance of Kvinna we plan to use this manual, developed within the Cross-regional Programme, and conduct more training in rural areas where many IDPs live, often in isolated areas where they find themselves outside the mainstream of society. We want them to be better aware of their rights," said Kristina Kilanova. (Kristina Kilanova)

The CEDAW Convention was a guide to protecting the rights of women, SCR 1325 an instrument to implement its provisions during conflict and post-conflict. During the civil war women and last year's violent event in Tajikistan women served as shields between the feuding parties: clad in white scarves women stood in the midst of the fighting – in actions organized by civil society, – and convinced the two parties to come to the negotiating table. The mentality of Tajik culture did not sanction shooting at females. Given their peace-negotiating "skills," women needed to be trained, and they in turn would transfer their mediation skills. As a next step training on conflict-prevention was needed. (Sanavbar Kasymova, Gender expert and trainer, Tajikistan)

What next after the training? This was the final question posed, one difficult to answer. Different views were proffered. Unfortunately, one could not point to a methodology on "how to measure change done through our trainings. This first phase of the programme was very short and it is important to conduct more trainings and awareness-raising as changes do not happen overnight. Only with a follow up evaluation after a certain period, can we see what has changed and what to do next." (Irina Zhvania).

Training must prioritize needs, selection criteria were important, the curriculum should be field tested. Monitoring and evaluation tools should be used after the training, including face to face interviews. (Habibullah Rishtiani)

The question raised was key in Tajikistan where there was a need to achieve "a critical mass when quantity will transform into quality," said Sanavbar Kasymova. To do this women needed skills and knowledge therefore the goal was the creation of a very powerful civil society where both men and women were active in society, a goal achieved through awareness-raising. (Sanavbar Kasymova)

The first step after a training workshop was to gauge the degree of legal literacy attained by a pre and post-assessment of the participant's legal knowledge and capacities. The second step would be to measure this again post-training and link the results to concrete projects, either because training is already part of capacity-building as in Tajikistan, or because during training key priorities were identified. (Verena Lahousen)

Key Achievements, Challenges, Opportunities and Entry Points

ACHIEVEMENTS

Georgia

1. **SCR 1325's positive impact:** During the training of participants in the regions, even those with a low awareness on gender issues, instinctively recognized that SCR 1325 had positive relevance to their own conditions.
2. **IDP Self-Help Groups:** the priority demands of these communities were taken into consideration at the local and national levels.
3. **Cooperation between local officials and SHGs,** as representatives of respective communities, has been established resulting in a more participatory form of local government.

Tajikistan

1. **The Government of Tajikistan is committed to gender issues,** viz. the national law passed on domestic violence law and the incorporation of the chapter on 1325 into its own national plan on Gender Equality.
2. **The government has done a lot to raise awareness on SCR 1325 in the country.** The Cross-regional Programme was mentioned as having played an important role.
3. **The youth responded positively to the training workshops** and asked to be part of this exercise.
4. **The training was deemed to be very timely and in demand,** a positive trend given that Tajikistan is in a conflict zone.

CHALLENGES

General

1. **There was a need to be more strategic in the future** on how to get women into positions of importance.

Georgia

1. **A low level of awareness on gender equality issues still prevailed all round,** but it was especially low among men.
2. **Budgetary constraints** were a reality.
3. **One needed to reach out to villages in remote regions of Georgia** to counter the low level of awareness on SCR 1325.

Tajikistan

1. **Lack of funding for enforcing gender laws/SCR 1325.**
2. **There was a need to strengthen monitoring.**
3. **Tajik language trainings:** Knowledge of Russian was waning, it was therefore important to have trainings in the Tajik language.
4. **Continue the awareness-raising.** Try to ensure that in addition to the distribution of CEDAW and SCR 1325, tools and guides on their practical use are critical.
5. **A planned and systematic awareness-raising strategy should be enacted** targeting society on the women, peace and security resolutions through conducting trainings, round-tables and meetings as the level of awareness still remained very low.
6. **In this regard trainings were also needed to inform/educate the security and law enforcement agencies.**
7. **Legal literacy among women was not very high;** it was important that all women in Tajikistan knew about their rights.
8. **Despite all the efforts, both by the government and the international community, gender inequality has not substantially decreased.**

Afghanistan

1. **Afghanistan faces many constraints:** Afghanistan was plagued by a lack of security, lack of capacity among government employees, budgetary limitations and SCR 1325 does not have reporting mechanisms that can ensure its application by the government.

OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTRY POINTS

Georgia

1. **The existence of a NAP** constitutes an excellent framework for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in Georgia in a consistent manner and at all levels.
 2. **Interest in having more training workshops from participants in the regions** is an opportunity to work outside Tbilisi where the needs for information and awareness-raising are considerable. An updated ready to use manual is available in both English and Russian, along with a working version in Georgian.
 3. **TASO's SHGs are a good entry point for training and capacity-building among IDPs.**
-

Tajikistan

1. **The enthusiasm of youth for training** and their understanding makes them a good group to involve in SCR 1325 initiatives.
 2. **The importance of political will:** The government's commitment to gender equality, notwithstanding the constraints identified, means that the international community should continue to work on having the government show greater political will in implementing its laws on SCR 1325 and others, for example, on domestic violence.
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General

1. **The accountability mechanisms outlined to making countries accountable via the universal periodic review** and other mechanisms could be applied by NGOs to countries violating SCR 1325 or CEDAW.

Looking Ahead to New Perspectives:

Recommendations and Priorities from Participating Countries for Phase 2

Graziella Piga, Programme Manager and Chief Technical Adviser, Cross-regional Programme, introduced the concluding session, which focused on country recommendations and priorities for Phase 2:

A concept proposal has already developed for Phase 2. It includes all inputs received by the programme focal points in each country. This concept will be further finalized with the inputs received during this final conference by all key stakeholders to reflect real needs.

An enormous amount of work was undertaken, which requires immediate follow-up to take advantage of the momentum created. The Programme also needs to be complemented with new elements that were not given priority during phase I.

More work with the media and awareness-raising at the national level was identified as one of the lessons learned in Phase 1. Moreover, many conference participants had commented on the importance of the media as an essential tool in connecting with the public at all levels. However, the Cross-regional Programme had not worked in isolation: it complimented national programming in Afghanistan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and other countries which included awareness-raising activities at the grass roots.

The aim of the Cross-regional Programme was to identify and document best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda with Georgia playing a leading role, and to bring countries and women's rights organizations together.

This work produced excellent results, although the close timeframe of some programme elements at times made cooperation difficult, notwithstanding the synergy that existed. The monitors in the Fergana Valley in particular had undertaken first-rate work in a very short time. Their tasks were complicated by the fact that they needed to collect evidence on early

marriage in the Fergana Valley for decision-makers, who always required concrete evidence "because we were talking about evidence-based dialogues, about women's human rights violations," commented Ms. Piga. The aim of the exercise was to gather information in a systematic manner and start an evidence-based dialogue for addressing women human rights violations and for tolerance-building.

With regard to the CEDAW/SCR 1325 complementarity, UNIFEM had undertaken a lot of training in its first regional programme, "Women for Conflict-Prevention and Peace Building in the South Caucasus" in 2001-2006. The Cross-regional Programme had updated the training manual and started new training workshops.

A point that came up in Phase 1 was the difficulty in assessing the impact of training on a person. In this regard, one could cite the "re-entry problem" that sometimes occurred when trainees returned to their respective ministries: whether or not their newfound knowledge could be applied and was supported by their supervisors. To minimize this problem, the programme also targeted senior decision-makers with an ad hoc two-day training on SCR 1325 and security sector reform that prepared the ground for further work to be conducted at all levels. The training in Georgia was very timely, in the context of implementing the NAP on 1325, as it helped raise awareness on SCR 1325 and other resolutions among civil servants, who had no knowledge of these instruments, and civil society representatives, who did not know how to apply them.

Other countries in the Cross-regional Programme did not have a NAP 1325: so the present time was an opportune moment to start raising awareness on these instruments: entry points should be identified.

The participants were urged to reflect on the issues raised during the panel sessions, and to provide inputs on how they could be applied to their own countries, for example, early marriage monitoring in

the Fergana Valley could be replicated in the Southern Caucasus.

Country recommendations and priorities

Armenia

1. A UN Women consultant or liaison officer in Armenia should be appointed, according to an MFA representative.
2. Negotiations with the relevant government authorities and civil society organizations should be facilitated to raise awareness on SCR 1325, with emphasis on the importance of NAP development. He/she could also assist in the establishment of a working group for the elaboration of a NAP.
3. Armenia could then proceed to establish a working group as was done in Georgia.
4. It would be important to use the existing resources of NGOs in Armenia because many previously worked on confidence-building in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and post-conflict situation.
5. During Phase 2 the regional dimension of the programme should be maintained.

Azerbaijan

Since the Azerbaijan State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Affairs, which is responsible for mainstreaming gender into important sectors, had no representative at the Final Conference, Gulshan Pashayeva, Deputy Director, Centre for Strategic Studies, Baku, put forward some recommendations and priorities:

1. As a first step, Ms. Pashayeva will give the Cross-regional Programme materials to the state committee.
2. Since NGOs in Azerbaijan have undertaken a lot of training, they can share their knowledge and skills with others trainers. They can use the elements of the newly updated training manual and impart the relevant skills to government officials and civil society members.
3. Education work should be undertaken and new ideas introduced to effect change. The first regional framework project by UNIFEM, "Women for Conflict-Prevention and Peace Building in the South Caucasus." (2001-2006) had supported a Gender and Peace Education Manual targeting youth aged 14-18, for example. One idea today would be to introduce gender mainstreaming elements into peace education to help prevent notions about violence from being inculcated in children in kindergarten, the idea that through violence a person can get what they want.

Georgia

1. The regional focus of the Programme should be kept because it provides an apposite framework for resolving peace and security issues.
2. The regional approach also allows hiring of experts whose ideas can be applied in neighbouring countries/regions. Early marriage is a case in point: expertise from Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan can be applied to the same problem in Georgia among minority groups. Georgia can provide expertise in other spheres, such as legal clinics, women activism at the community level, etc.
3. Women from the grassroots and from NGOs working in public diplomacy should be provided with the status of UN monitors, – a term used which allowed UN staff to collect information from the regions and remote places and monitor the situation in post-conflict zones. This would empower them and give them additional status and protection. A possible title: "UN Mediator" or "UN Negotiator".
4. For implementing SCR 1325 in its full spirit, women from post-conflict/separated areas should be also included in its implementation, especially given the constraints faced by UN agencies in working in conflict areas.
5. The work with Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Defense should be continued and expanded to bring security measures to the grassroots level, and to ensure the physical security of all women and their families.
6. The physical security of women who are crossing administrative border lines with separate entities is a particular concern. More emphasis should be made to ensure the security and law enforcement institutions understand this. More efforts should focus on supporting the inter-ministerial group of different law enforcement and security institutions working on human security.
7. Capacity-building of women's groups, informal activists and formal representatives of local authorities is a key issue in building a broad public understanding of NAP and its implementation. To that end the Action Plan should be "translated" into very simple and understandable terms, illustrated by concrete examples. This will be an opportunity for grassroots activists and local authorities to cooperate, and for local civic groups and NGOs to undertake further monitoring.
8. A gender-responsive audit of all the law enforcement and security institutions should be made on a regular basis, including the National Security Council, and a regular reporting system established.
9. A media component should be included in each women, peace and security project to highlight the problems and achievements for the public at large and so that NAP's priorities are shared by society.

10. The reedited training module should be used for training workshops in all regions, and the capacity of the trainers further improved.
11. Closer linkages between structures of the Ministry of Interior, National Security Council and gender bodies therein should be built so they can work in unison to provide for the safety of communities.

Central Asia

Kyrgyzstan

1. A priority was the elaboration of indicators, both qualitative and quantitative, for monitoring of the NAP: internal monitoring by members of the working group who developed the NAP and external monitoring by NGOs and experts. The benefits of oversight and external monitoring activities by CSOs were hard to overestimate.
2. The cost of implementing the NAP should be evaluated and the budget should include a line (source of financing) for the NAP.
3. The status of the Coordinating Body needed to be reviewed with a view to raising it to a higher level, that of Vice-Premier, to enable it to control the activities of the Ministry of Defence and State Committee for Security.
4. Work on the future NAP 2014-2017 should include SCRs 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960.
5. Kyrgyzstan was impressed with Kazakhstan's establishment of a special division in the police department for combating violence against women. Kyrgyzstan had a similar plan for its police which it wanted to realize through the Association of Police Women, Bishkek. One point that needed to be underscored. Recently the Ministry of Internal Affairs began reforms and gender mainstreaming policies were adopted as a result: the overarching theme was to make all activities gender-sensitive. This should lead to a situation where the concept of women, peace and security was understood to have the interests of gender and women at heart. In other words, that the new concept of security was about the safety of women and men, girls and boys.

Tajikistan

1. The training module on peace-building and women's participation in the process (CEDAW/SCR 1325) should be included both into the Police Academy course and training for security sector institutions.
2. Early marriages should be monitored at the national level, with further consultations on measures for the prevention of early marriage.
3. The CEDAW/SCR 1325 module should be introduced into the curriculum of the Civil Servants Training Institute.

4. Work with political parties should be undertaken on nominating women to decision-making positions.
5. Using the experience of the Association of Police Women in Kyrgyzstan (Security Services), the creation of similar institutions in Tajikistan should be promoted by involving the Women's Council in law enforcement.
6. The media should be more involved in informing the public.

Uzbekistan

1. Given the government's willingness to involve NGOs as consultants in the NAP's development, implementation and monitoring, NGO skills in preventive diplomacy and peace-making were an important issue. Especially as, because of their association with the target groups, they had information on the impact of regulations and other initiatives at the local level.
2. Georgia's experience underscored the need for an integrated approach to Women, Peace and Security. Specifically training and awareness among security personnel, and the creation of an enabling environment for gender mainstreaming in the security sector. Georgia's experience in this regard is relevant for the Ministry of the Interior, Uzbekistan.
3. Government accountability should be increased by developing effective monitoring tools to gauge the situation of women in peace and security.
4. An action plan for the implementation of SCR 1325 should be formulated in Uzbekistan to acquaint the law enforcement agencies with this international instrument.
5. In Phase 2 a training of NGOs working in the border areas should be scheduled, and the skills for humanitarian and social assistance to victims of armed conflict should be developed.
6. Feature films and documentaries should be used as a training method on SCRs.
7. An assessment of the situation of women in the border regions should be undertaken, as well as a review of their human rights in terms of growth of labour migration, limited natural water resources and high birth rates taking place in Central Asia.
8. During Phase 2 priority should be accorded to raising awareness among government workers on SCR 1325. The more society paid attention to gender rights, the more the government would give heed and be motivated to pass new laws.

South Asia

Afghanistan

1. Further capacity-building for the 14 ministries working on the NAP drafting process (led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), especially the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs.
2. Once the drafting process will be completed for the implementation stage it would be crucial to enhance the capacity of employees which is currently not at an adequate level. The Ministry of Justice already undertook capacity-building and will continue this work.
3. During the monitoring stage when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will have a leading role, it will be important to ensure that all government employees are fully able to do their work. In fact, although there is a National Gender Strategy for 2012-2016 much still needs to be accomplished.

Pakistan

Shirkat Gah plans include the following activities:

1. Trainings of community-based organizations on SCR 1325, its sister resolutions and CEDAW.
2. Capacity-building of police and media to ensure the safety of human rights defenders and awareness-raising on the impact of conflict on women and girls.
3. National consultations on identifying the role and ways of promoting safeguards for women in conflict and post-conflict situations using the SCR 1325 and CEDAW frameworks.
4. A national report on the role and safeguards for women in conflict and post-conflict situations is envisaged using the SCR 1325 and CEDAW frameworks. Shirkat Gah plans to write this report, in collaboration with other women's organizations, to identify the priority needs in participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery: the voices heard will be those of women at the grass roots and women in conflict about what they think needs to be done to increase women's participation in these key areas.
5. Advocacy with security sector representatives in Pakistan for women's needs and to ensure women a role in conflict and post-conflict situations. National and international legal instruments will be used to achieve these aims.
6. International advocacy on SCR 1325-related protections will take place using CEDAW, UPR and other international mechanisms.
7. Holding the UN and EU and international organizations accountable for their responsibilities under SCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960 and CEDAW, especially UN Women in Pakistan.

8. Another priority was the need to build the capacity of community organizations, police, media and grass roots to identify violations, and later to deal with them.

Needs for Phase II:

1. Capacity-building of CSOs on security sector reforms.
2. Capacity-building of government on the SCR 1325 and CEDAW frameworks.
3. Network development for Women in Peace work in Pakistan and in South Asia.

Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, UN Women, presented her concluding remarks. Gender issues remained a priority for the region. The programmes should continue and the Cross-regional Programme should build on its success because it brought about the institutionalization of certain mechanisms. Currently UN Women had an agreement with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, a Centre comprising the five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan. It will establish a special negotiating body made up of gender activists which will bring together representatives from all these countries. This Centre must build very good relationships and networks in the gender field for Central Asia and the South Caucasus.

Moreover, to date two women activists from Georgia and Tajikistan have joined the Asia-Pacific Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security (RG-WPS), with the support of UN Women. "It is good to get our voice heard. This will help us build ties with global networks," commented Ms. Azizova. UN Women has started implementing this programme directly. For phase II a network of local NGOs had been identified: they would implement certain components of the country programmes, and, in the process, skills would be transferred to local partners.

The programme was very complex and the time-frame limited, but during Phase I all the Programme objectives were achieved.

However, a lot of work still lies ahead.

UN Women Cross-regional Programme “Women Connect Across Conflicts: Building Accountability for Implementation of UN SCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889”

Final Conference

Women and Governments at the Crossroad Heading Jointly towards Greater Accountability to Implement the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions

Holiday Inn, Tbilisi, Georgia

14-15 March, 2013 AGENDA

DAY 1

9:00-9:30 Registration of participants

9:30 -10:00 Welcoming remarks

Ms. Nargis Azizova, Programme Specialist, WPS, EECA Sub-regional office, UN Women

H.E. Mr. Ambassador Philip Dimitrov, Head of Delegation, European Union to Georgia

Ms. Guguli Magradze, Member of Parliament, Member of the Gender Equality Council

Ms. Simone Wolken, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, a.i.

10.00- 10:30 **Introductory session: setting the framework**

Ms. Graziella Piga, Programme Manager/Chief Technical Adviser, Cross-regional Programme “Women Connect Across Conflicts: Building Accountability for Implementation of UN SCR 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889”

Overview of Key Objectives, Achievements, Lessons Learned and Challenges.

10:30 – 10:45 Coffee break

10.45- 13:00 – **Session One: National Implementation of the UNSCR on Women, Peace and Security**

10:45- 12:30 **Panel discussion:** UN SCRs 1325 contains a specific text regarding national implementation, particularly in regard to women’s participation in decision-making and peace processes, the protection of women and girls and gender training. Noting the slow implementation progress at the national level, in 2004 the Security Council called on Member States to implement resolution 1325 (2000), including through the development of **National Action Plans (NAPs)** or other national level strategies. **In the past two years from 2010 to 2012 included the number of NAP on WPS has increased from 13 to 35.** This has meant higher accountability and reporting mechanisms towards the implementation of the UNSCRs on WPS. This session will look at best practices and lessons learned in developing such an important tool, but will also look at challenges in both developing such a policy document and holding stakeholders accountable towards its implementation: NAP costing, reporting mechanisms, accountability, role of civil society.

Moderator: **Ms. Nargis Azizova**, Programme Specialist, WPS, EECA Sub-regional office, UN Women

Keynote speakers:

Ms. Ana Lukatela, UN Women Peace and Security Cluster, New York, “*Implementing SCR on Women, Peace and Security: Government and Civil Society Accountability*”.

- **Ms. Ana Pashalishvili**, Chief Specialist, National Security Council, Georgia “*UN SC resolutions on Women, Peace and Security*” – *Georgia’s steps forward*”.
- **Ms. Gulsara Alieva**, Head of Information Policy and Development Department, Ministry of Interior, Kyrgyzstan and **Mr. Azamat Abdurahmanov**, Deputy Chief Department of Public Security, Ministry of Interior, Kyrgyzstan, Members of the task force on elaboration of NAP 1325

“*The development of a NAP on Women, Peace and Security in Kyrgyzstan – approaches and priorities*”

- **Ms. Tamar Sabedashvili**, Gender Adviser to Georgia, UN Women “*Development of a National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. The experience of Georgia: best practices and lessons learned*”.

12:30- 13:30 Q&A and Discussion

Discussant and Rapporteur: **Ms. Andreea Vesa**, Human Rights Adviser/Gender and Security OSCE/ODIHR

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14.30- 17:00 – **Session Two: National Referral Mechanisms for victims of sexual gender-based violence**

Panel discussion: The UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security call for a gender-responsive law enforcement that ensures protection and respect for the human rights of women and girls. Justice and security are interlinked: the important link between justice institutions and other parts of the security sector in post-conflict context call for more attention to this part of security sector reform. UNSCRs on women, peace and security call for measures to protect the HRs of women and girls, devise strategies to improve gender-responsive access to justice, prosecution of those responsible for violence, measures to address the needs of victims of SGBV in conflict and post conflict situations. Strengthening of referral mechanisms to provide redress for sexual and other forms of violence against women in situations of conflict is a key part of this work. This session will look at the experience of Georgia and its efforts to improve the existing referral, procedures and mechanisms for victims of GBV and SGBV. It will also bring some reflections on human rights defenders’ work in Pakistan.

Moderator: **Ms. Ana Lukatela**, UN Women, Peace and Security Cluster, New York

Key note speakers:

- **Ms. Khatuna Kunchulia**, Programme Officer, UN Women Cross-regional Programme “*A review of the work of the Inter-agency Working Group on NRM for victims of SGBV –key recommendations*”.
- **Ms. Irma Aladashvili**, State Fund for Protection and Assistance of (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, “*Services of the State Fund for Victims of Sexual Violence*”.
- **Ms. Maka Peradze**, Head of Project Management Division Ministry of Interior of Georgia – “*Steps and measures undertaken by the Ministry of Interior to implement the UNSCRs on WPS . Best practices, challenges and ways ahead*”.
- **Ms. Fauzia Viqar**, Director, Advocacy and Communications, Shirkat Gah- Women’s Resource Centre, Pakistan “*Women, Peace and Security and Pakistan: Reflections from the field*”.

16:15- 16:30 Coffee Break.

16:30- 17:00 Q&A and Discussion

Discussant and Rapporteur: **Ms. Anna Costanza Baldry**, Professor, Second University of Naples, Department of Psychology, Italy

17.00- 17:10 Wrap-up of the day

DAY 2

9.30- 11:00 – Session Three: Gender Mainstreaming into Security Sector

Panel discussion: Incorporating gender equality principles into the internal operations of the security sector to promote zero tolerance to using sexual violence as a weapon of war is one of the main objectives of the Cross-regional Programme and reflects the main principles of the UNSCRs on women, peace and security. The UNSCRs on WPS call for higher representation of women at decision making levels, gender responsive DDR programmes and vetting of armed forces to take into account sexual violence and other violations of the IHL and HRs laws. The present session will look at the relevant programme's interventions and analyses best practices, lessons learned and challenges. It will also illustrate cooperation with other international organizations to ensure strengthened actions.

Moderator: **Ms. Kristina Baleisyte**, Deputy Head NATO Liaison Office

Keynote speakers:

- **Mr. Daniel de Torres**, Deputy Head, Operations III, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

"The importance of holding national consultations and role of civil society in SSR: the experience of Georgia".

- **Mr. George Amanatidze**, Head of the International Law and Procurement Contracts Expertise Division, Ministry of Defense of Georgia

"Fulfilling the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: actions undertaken, plans and ways forward".

Ms. Andreea Vesa, Human Rights Adviser/Gender and Security OSCE/ODIHR

"Cooperation with UN Women, opportunities and challenges in mainstreaming gender into the security sector in Georgia and in Kyrgyzstan".

10:30-11:00 Q&A and Discussion

Discussant and Rapporteur: **Ms. Graziella Piga**, Programme Manager/Chief Technical Adviser, UN Women

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11.15 - 13:00 – Session Four: Evidence-based Dialogues and Advocacy for Reconciliation

Panel discussion: Mobilizing national partners at the local level to engage in evidence-based dialogues and advocacy for reconciliation, tolerance building and compliance with women's human rights obligations is fundamental to hold stakeholders accountable at the national level for the implementation of the UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security.

This session will focus on the work conducted to build the capacity of Human Rights Defenders and follow-up monitoring of key HRs violations in the Fergana Valley. It will also briefly illustrate the National Consultations on Women, Peace and Security conducted in each country and its results.

Moderator: **Ms. Viloyat Mirzoeva**, Portfolio Manager, UN Women Tajikistan

Keynote speakers:

- **Ms. Zumrat Salmorbekova**, Independent Expert, *"Women human rights monitoring in the Fergana Valley: key findings and recommendations"*.

- **Ms. Dilorom Atabaeva**, HRs Observer Team, Tajikistan *“Monitoring early marriages in the Province of Isfara, in the Fergana Valley and cooperation with local governments”*.
- **Mr. Akbii Musaev**, HRs Observer Team, Kyrgyzstan *“Monitoring women’s political participation in the local elections in Kyrgyzstan- findings and challenges”*.

12:15- 13.00 Q&A and Discussion

Discussant and Rapporteur: **Mr. Gerald Gunther**, Gender and Mediation Specialist, UN Women Kyrgyzstan

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14.00 - 15:30 **Session Five: Bringing UN SCRs on women, peace and security at the local level through CEDAW**

Panel discussion: How to overcome challenges in the implementation of the UNSCRs on women peace and security? How to use CEDAW, and what role do civil society actors have? This panel will look at the work conducted by civil society actors in the countries of the Cross-regional Programme to raise awareness among stakeholders on the complementarities of CEDAW and UNSCRs on WPS. It will illustrate how the two instruments support each other and how they can be used for advocacy at both national and local levels.

Moderator: **Mr. Anthony Foreman**, Project Director, Care International Southern Caucasus

- **Ms. Irina Zhvania**, Gender expert and trainer, Georgia *“Promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the national level through CEDAW: the experience of Georgia”*
- **Ms. Sanavbar Kasymova**, Gender expert and trainer, Tajikistan, *“Promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at national level through CEDAW: the experience of Tajikistan and further opportunities”*
- **Mr. Habibullah Rishtiani**, Gender expert and trainer, Afghanistan, *“Promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at national level through CEDAW: lessons learned and opportunities”*
- **Ms. Marina Tabukashvili**, Director, Taso Foundation-UN Women partner, *“Synergies with ongoing projects at the grassroots level in Georgia: women self-help groups and training for local governments”*.

15.00- 15.30 Q&A and Discussion

Discussant and Rapporteur: **Ms. Verena Lahousen**, Independent gender expert

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break

15:45 - 17:30 – **Concluding Session: Follow-up actions/next steps**

15:45 – 16:30 *Country teams’ group’s work – Agreeing on further actions to apply the knowledge and best practices and lessons learned*

Presentations by region

17:30 – 17:45 Closing Remarks

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