



Women, Peace and Security

NATO's implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

NATO and its partners believe in the core role that women can play in building, consolidating and maintaining peace and security. They are committed to make this principle an integral part of their everyday business, including their political, civilian and military structures, their operations and missions.

As such, NATO and partners are taking concerted action to support the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its related Resolutions¹, which was adopted in October 2000. The resolution recognises the disproportionate impact that war and conflicts have on women and children, and highlights the fact that women have been historically left out of peace processes and stabilization efforts.

Around 90 % of casualties in conflicts are civilians and some 70% of these are women and children. Widespread sexual and gender-based violence in conflict situations, the lack of institutional arrangements to protect women and continued under-representation of women in peace-processes remain impediments to building sustainable peace.

UNSCR 1325 calls for full and equal participation of women at all levels in issues ranging from early conflict prevention to post-conflict reconstruction, peace and security. NATO has responded to UNSCR 1325 by adopting an Overarching Policy, developed with its partners in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in 2007. The Policy was revised in 2011. In addition, UNSCR 1325 is fully implemented in NATO-led operations and missions, and the Alliance has nominated Gender Advisers at Strategic Commands and in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

The Alliance's Chicago Summit in May 2012, reaffirmed NATO's commitment and aim to mainstream women, peace and security issues into its everyday business. The Alliance's 28 leaders tasked the North Atlantic Council to continue implementing the policy and review progress made.



A group of police women from the Afghan border police attends the last day of training for a Battle Staff Class at the Afghanistan border patrol headquarters. This class was the first one to integrate both males and females in the same classroom. (Photo: Petty Officer 2nd Class John O'Neill Herrera)

Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security

Following an offer by Norway made at the Chicago Summit, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen appointed Norwegian diplomat Mari Skåre as his Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security in August 2012.

Ms. Skåre's job is to reinforce and promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and of related resolutions. Her mandate includes raising awareness of NATO's policies and activities in this area, ensuring their coordination and cooperating with the United Nations and other relevant organisations.

Review of NATO's implementation of UNSCR 1325

At their Chicago Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government requested that a review of the practical implications of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and its related Resolutions for the conduct of NATO-led Operations and Missions be undertaken.

¹ Since 2000, six additional UNSC Resolutions have been adopted: UNSCR 1820, UNSCR 1888, UNSCR 1889, UNSCR 1960, UNSCR 2106 and UNSCR 2122. UNSCR 1820, adopted in June 2008, complements UNSCR 1325 by focusing on the prevention and response to sexual violence in situations of armed and post conflict. UNSCR 1888, adopted in 2009, reinforces UNSCR 1820, notably through the appointment of a UN Special Representative to advocate the ending of sexual violence in armed conflict. UNSCR 1889, also adopted in 2009, builds upon UNSCR 1325 by improving the monitoring and reporting component and highlighting the importance of resource allocation. UNSCR 1960, adopted in 2010, calls for parties to armed conflict to make specific time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence. In June 2013 the UNSC adopted Resolution 2106 on preventing sexual violence in conflict. UNSC Resolution 2122, aiming to strengthen women's role in all stages of conflict prevention, was adopted on 18 October 2013.

That review, which was independently undertaken by the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations in Sweden (and which does not reflect the official opinion of NATO), was presented to NATO Defence Ministers on 23 October 2013.

The review highlighted that since the adoption of implementation policies in 2007, NATO has made “significant progress” in integrating a gender perspective in NATO-led operations and missions. It welcomed the adoption of policies and working mechanisms necessary to support the further implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its related Resolutions.

Efforts will now focus on the following key priority areas:

1. the further development of gender training capacity and programmes, notably in the context of pre-deployment to operations;
2. the further development of gender adviser capacity within NATO military structures;
3. the further integration of the gender perspective in NATO’s existing operational planning and assessment tools; and
4. the further improvement of reporting mechanisms on gender-related issues.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Sarah Casper, Capt. Katherine Redding and 2nd Lt. Crow, soldiers of 504th Battlefield Support Brigade, stand with an Afghanistan Uniformed Policewoman Officer Noor Hayat at the district center in Spin Boldak City, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Sept. 18, 2011. The soldiers were at the district center to provide support for the local-run female health education. (Photo by: Spc. Kristina Truluck, 55th Signal Company)

Public diplomacy division (PDD) - press and media section

Tel.: +32(0)2 707 1010/1002

Email: moc@hq.nato.int

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