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**"Women in the peace process"  
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 - Ten years on  
Draft Summary Minutes  
14-15 April 2010**

S&D Members present: Howitt, Kirilov, Lambrinidis, Thomsen

**Richard Howitt, *S&D DROI Co-ordinator***, introduced the conference and the speakers. This year we would celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Resolution 1325, adopted on 31 October 2000 and still in effect. The resolution stresses the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building. It expresses concern about civilians, particularly women and children, but also recognises the need to mainstream a gender perspective into the peacekeeping operations. Violation of women rights is a human rights issue, said Howitt, as recently stressed in the De Keyser Report on armed conflicts. He took as an example the very difficult circumstances in the Congo where forty women were estimated to have been raped every day during the recent conflict. Respect for women's rights means that infringements on health, security and women's bodies can not be tolerated.

**EU EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND UNSCR 1325**

**Kristalina GEORGIEVA, *Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response***, pointed out the very dark history of the conflict in Rwanda 1994 where around five hundred thousand women were raped. This conflict did however serve as a wake-up call regarding the role of women in society; after the genocide women in Rwanda managed to attain 56% of the seats in Parliament and one third of Ministerial positions. Empowerment and inclusion are the main issues in achieving the implementation right. The EU promoted Human Rights Issues in its 2008 Strategy based on the strategies of the Member States. Sensitivity to women in refugee camps is very important and therefore it is absolutely crucial to train female peacekeepers to work in the peace process. **Georgieva** finally stressed that the four crucial actions for the integration of human rights into the peace process would be: strong collaboration with the UN, the promotion of benchmarking, delivering a report in October 2010 on the achievements so far and leading by example.

**Kyung-Wha KANG, *UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights***, expressed the view that human rights issues are right at the heart of Resolution 1325, which is one of the best known resolutions outside the UN, mostly because it recognises women as actors and thereby gives women a different role. Many countries have now developed action plans where the key strategies are prevention, perseverance, protection, participation, relief and recovery and prosecution. The UN has now also advanced this with the appointment of Margot Wallström as

responsible for sexual violence in armed conflicts (UNSC resolution 1820). Since 2000 the European Parliament has played an active role in putting human rights into a wider perspective. Violence against women can never be accepted as a weapon of war.

**S&D Leader Martin SCHULZ** in his intervention stressed the importance of Human Rights issues within a European and International context. The Lisbon Treaty gives human rights issues more weight. Women's rights are essential, as women's rights equal human rights.

**Veronique ARNAULT, Director of the DG Multilateral Relations and Human Rights in the Commission** reiterated the key issues for the development of human rights when it comes to women: prevention, protection, participation and prosecution. She said that she was hoping for a more stringent UN when Margot Wallström would take up her post, but also when the current discussions in the UN finally manifest in a gender entity. The indicators developed to scrutinise implementation are a very good set of tools.

In the ensuing discussion **Charlotte ISAKSSON, Swedish Armed forces and former Gender Adviser to EUFOR RD Congo**, questioned the indicators being the only tool. She said that there had to be much more focus on training and local consultation. Veronique ARNAULT, however, felt that the indicators could be very useful for civil missions.

**Dr Denis MUKWEGE, Director of the Panzi hospital in Bokavu, a Congolese surgeon and world renowned specialist in the treatment of victims of sexual violence**, spoke of his experiences of warfare in Congo. He gave a powerful testimony of the atrocities taking place in Congo after the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 which brought many refugees into Congo. Rape has been used as a weapon of mass destruction in a systematic way, he said. In mass rape a whole village could be targeted. Women were publically raped before husbands and neighbours. As a consequence of this violence young women sometimes had their genital organs completely destroyed. HIV and other sexual diseases have been transmitted. Worst of all, for the society, is maybe that the whole economy has been destroyed as women carry all the economy on their shoulders. Having been violated, women lose their self esteem, undesired pregnancies result and young girls are then totally rejected by society. No transitional justice has been established. The EU could help with peacekeepers, but using the soldiers who have committed these crimes is difficult as they have no credibility protecting women.

**Chekeba HACHEMI, Chair of the Afghanistan Libre NGO, who is dealing with micro credits for women's education**, shared her experiences from Afghanistan. Whereas the Congo used rape of women as a weapon of mass destruction, the Afghans had a drop by drop strategy to destroy women. Before 2001 no one blew themselves up as a war strategy, but now everything which had been achieved was undone by the Taliban and suicide bombers are common. Resolution 1325 is difficult to apply in Afghanistan. Before applying this resolution, attitudes have to change. The childbirth mortality rate is still high and 60% of girls are illiterate due to "security" problems. There used to be four female Ministers but now there is only one. The wife of the President has never even been seen. In spite of the fact that 30% of the Members of Parliament are women, a Shia law was adopted which limits the lives of women. There are only three female judges. Towns are quite heterogenic. Near to a fashionable shopping mall you also find people living in tents. Women are tied into forced marriages. They are even being sold in the marketplace. They are taken into prison because they have been raped and then the prison guards continue to rape them. However the first feminist magazine has been issued in Herat and Kabul and women can now work as journalists. Women are also trained as soldiers. Europe can play a huge political role to help implement Resolution 1325 in Afghanistan.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN THE NATIONAL ACTION PLANS, LESSONS FROM THE GROUND AND FUTURE CHALLENGES**

The second panel was introduced by **Britta THOMSEN**, *S&D Coordinator for the FEMM Committee and the Chair for this panel.*

The first intervention came from **Kees KLOMPENHOUWER**, *EU Civilian Operations Commander and Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capacity (CPCC) in the EU Council.* The Civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CDSP) began seven years ago in Bosnian Herzegovina and since then 15 Civilian missions have been undertaken. 2500 people have been employed in these missions, seconded by the host countries and the Member States. Missions have been undertaken in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Georgia, among others. In 2007 a clear command structure was introduced. ASHTON has insisted on a gender balance in the missions, but so far no Head of Mission has been a woman. Women make up 12-28% of the staff sent on missions and 16 - 39% including local staff and they participate less in police operations than in justice missions. Women are constantly encouraged to apply for the missions and take the leadership, as experience has shown that when women participate tensions can be alleviated. Gender Advisors should be appointed to the missions to develop new visions, draft legislation and promote good practice. In the Congo the task has been to draw up legislation and in Afghanistan the civil mission has been sent to set up a telephone help-line. Integrating the local people is not always easy as training is in the hands of the Member States and they do not always include gender issues in their training.

**Catharina WALE GRUNDITZ**, *Crisis Management Planning Directorate, EU Council Secretariat*, spoke about the need for effectiveness and the need to reach out to all parts of the population. A first operational paper on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of the European Defence and Security Policy was drafted in 2005. In 2006 the Council published its conclusions on gender awareness leading to effectiveness. Thereafter a handbook on gender issues including human rights awareness in general was published and a growing recognition of the need to include women in missions has been developed. Training is a prerogative of the Member States. During the Swedish Presidency training was included in the recommendations and the first gender advisors were introduced in November 2009. The Spanish Presidency continued this focus on 1325/1880/1888, calling it Women in Uniform.

In the debate **Marie-Claire RUHAMYA**, from the *Interregional Women's Network Congo FIREFEC*, pointed out the need to speak about the equality of rights and that human rights are the basis of everything. In the Eastern part of Congo a special police force has been created for children and women.

**Laurie MUIR, Chair of the NATO staff civil military task force on the implementation of UNSCR 1325**, underlined the need for education and training in order for NATO to implement gender equality and gender awareness. Initially Gender Advisers have been used in Holland and Norway. But the process is still in the early stages and much more remains to be done. Gender issues have to be integrated at a very early stage pre-deployment. In order for 1325 to be successfully integrated, the operation has to be multidimensional. The political and the military leadership have to stand behind the principles and use a top-down approach. Gender experts have to support the process. In practical terms this means that Gender Advisers, when they operate in Afghanistan, mainly try to increase the operational effectiveness by assisting in the operations. They also participate in regional networks, talk to NGOs and local women and continue to work on the ground. There is a Directive which states that the female population should be involved and best practices should be used. The goal is to have 10% of women and 16 female active officers in the national Afghan army by next year. There has also been support for women in developing their business capacity. The strategy is to change the mindset by small steps.

**Charlotte ISAKSSON, Swedish Armed forces, former Gender Adviser to EUFOR RD Congo**, talked about her work as support to the Election Mission in the Congo. The implementation of 1325/1820 started in 2007, she said, and after 4 years much had been achieved. In 2008 a French report supported by UNIFEM and the French Presidency evaluated the different operations among which EUFOR was selected as a very positive experience. Ownership is the key word when it comes to Gender Advisers' work. The challenges are the lack of will and commitment. There has to be a Commander behind every Gender Adviser to support the work and there has to be cooperation between local and international work.

The conference was concluded by the Chair, **Britta THOMSEN**, who promised that SEDE would draft a report following up the commitments to make action plans for the implementation of 1325.

Valborg LINDEN JONSTEN