



# Women, Men, Armed Conflicts and Peacebuilding

## Implementation of UN Resolution 1325 and ensuing resolutions in the Austrian Development Cooperation

After years of advocating the incorporation of a gender perspective in conflict resolution and peacebuilding, local, regional and international women's organisations brought about a policy change in the United Nations (UN) in 2000.

*“Our women must be empowered as a critical ingredient to the continental development.”*

Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union at the African Union summit in 2013

With the adoption of **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**, the international community affirmed for the first time that women were not only victims of armed conflicts, but that their potential must also be harnessed to play an active role in conflict resolution, state rebuilding and in all phases of peace processes, thus including a gender perspective in peace and security policy measures.

## Wars and armed conflicts

Worldwide, 1.5 billion people live in fragile and conflict-affected regions. By 2018, half of all poor people will live in such settings, and by 2030 nearly two thirds will. Today's conflicts are waged by various actors, such as government military troops, warlords, rebels, mercenaries, child soldiers as well as private military and/or security agencies. These are often internal or cross-border armed conflicts, civil wars or insurgencies which have different dynamics than the state-to-state conflicts more prevalent in the past. The reasons for armed hostilities are multi-faceted and differ by region. They can, for example, be caused by failed and failing states, corrupt political elites, secession movements and new political orders as well as poverty, economic and social inequalities, the exclusion of ethnic and religious minorities or limited access to natural resources.

The number of refugees and internally displaced persons is growing at a huge rate. Up-rooted sections of the population live for years in refugee camps, dependent on humanitarian aid and with limited access to vital resources. Due to discrimination in food distribution, attacks, extortion, physical and sexual violence and forced prostitution, women in camps often lead lives of uncertainty and fear.

## Gender roles in armed conflicts

Throughout history and across cultures, men's and women's roles in war and armed conflicts have been stereotyped. Due to a gender system that dichotomizes male qualities as aggressive and courage and female qualities as peaceful and passive, men play the roles of warriors, soldiers and guerrilla fighters, as well as of ministers and heads of state. On the other side are mostly women and children in the roles of victims and refugees. In many societies, these stereotypes associate masculinity with a propensity to violence, which in times of war forms a prominent part of 'hegemonic masculinity', even though many men do not identify themselves with this. "In war, the men and women often act as perpetrators, accomplices and victims at the same time - though with different roles and responsibilities."<sup>1</sup> Alternative gender identities outside of this dichotomy, such as transgender, transsexuality, etc. are frequently ostracised.

Men are obviously not all equally involved in violent conflicts. They reject the roles assigned to them, for example, when they refuse military service or flee from conscription. Nor are women simply victims: they actively support warfare as soldiers and act as accomplices when they smuggle weapons or take care of supplies. Power relations change during armed conflicts, and newly formed gender relations in turn influence the course they take. Without a doubt, however, warfare affects women and men in different ways. They have differing access to security zones and vital resources and take on new tasks and responsibilities. War, however, also affords women new scope: in the absence of men, they engage more in the labour market and take up positions in the community and politics. Meanwhile, the extent to which women can then perform these new roles after war depends heavily on cultural and socio-economic factors. Women often experience a backlash and are forced back into traditional roles. Particularly young women and men returning from long years of war, where they worked as child soldiers, sex slaves, cooks, load bearers, etc., are very often traumatised and without prospects for the future. They are frequently denied their place in the community due to stigma about their wartime past, and they have no chance of finding work due to lack of training.

## Gender-based violence

A major difference between women and men in armed conflicts, however, is the experience of gender-based violence. In all conflicts, violence against women and girls plays a major role as a weapon of war, which is wielded regularly and on a mass scale. The forms this can take range from sexual exploitation, torture, and forced prostitution to forced marriages and (mass) rape. There is greater risk that sexual violence against women and girls will be employed as a tactic of warfare in patriarchal societies in which women and girls have been oppressed and discriminated against and/or domestic violence has been tolerated prior to war. In addition to gender-based violence against women and girls by soldiers, rebels, guerrilla fighters, etc., domestic violence by husbands, partners or close relatives also remains one of the most massive violations of women's rights during and above all after war. Though not sufficiently investigated so far, a significant number of men and boys also fall

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Wasmuth, Ulrike: Why are wars still accepted by society? The female face of war, in: Geschlechterverhältnisse in Krieg und Frieden, Leske und Budrich, Politik und Geschlecht 6, 2002, p. 87 (German).

victim to sexual violence. Research has shown a close correlation between notions of masculinity based on violence and war, and a propensity to violence among ex-soldiers. This is exacerbated above all when ex-soldiers are discharged into an uncertain future with no jobs or job prospects. To put an end to the acceptance of violence and the widespread perpetration of gender-based and sexual violence, there is a need to differentiate gender perspectives. In this context, projects that contribute to changes in attitude among boys, male adolescents and men after wars would appear to be particularly worthwhile.<sup>2</sup>

## International agreements

### United Nations level

Not until the 1990's were all forms of gender-based and sexual violence against women in armed conflicts unequivocally condemned and made subject to criminal prosecution.<sup>3</sup>

Ensuing from the 4<sup>th</sup> UN World Conference on Women, certain strategic goals were drawn up in a separate chapter on women and armed conflicts in the Beijing Platform for Action (1995). For one thing, further progress needs to be made in general institutional changes. For example, military expenditure must be curtailed and human rights and non-violent conflict resolution strategies promoted. Furthermore, measures have to be taken that explicitly address women and their contribution to fostering a culture of peace. These include participation in conflict resolution at leadership levels, the protection of women in conflict situations and the provision of assistance and training opportunities for women refugees and (internally) displaced women in need of protection under international law.

In addition to these international agreements on the protection of women particularly in wars and armed conflicts, the 1979 **UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** laid the cornerstone for international gender equality policy. It calls among other things for affirmative action for the preferential promotion of women and active political and legal measures for gender equality. In 2013, the CEDAW Committee, which is in charge of monitoring the implementation of the Convention, adopted the **General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations**, which is seen as a spearheading development. For the first time, CEDAW includes UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the ensuing resolutions in its compliance mechanisms. This established an institutional mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the respective Security Council resolutions, which calls the states parties to closer account.

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<sup>2</sup> Schäfer, Rita: Men as Perpetrators and Victims of Armed Conflict. Innovative Projects Aimed at Overcoming Male Violence. VIDC – Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (Ed.), 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Laid down in the statutes of the International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia (1993) and Rwanda (1994) as well as in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)

## United Nations Security Council Resolutions

### UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Resolution 1325 redefines the quality of peace and security policies and practices with which all UN agencies, all member states and parties to armed conflict are obliged to comply. The legal standards for the Resolution are set out in the Women's Rights Convention and the Beijing Platform for Action and its contents are based on four pillars: **participation, prevention and protection** of women and the incorporation of a gender perspective in **aid and reconstruction measures**.

- Participation of women in decision-making and peace processes
- Incorporation of a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations and field missions as well as gender-sensitive training of peacekeeping personnel
- Participation of women at all decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes
- Protection of women and their rights during and after armed conflicts
- Incorporation of a gender perspective in reports, measures and processes in all UN activities
- Support for local peace initiatives by women
- Special protection and consideration of the needs of women and girls in camps for internally displaced persons and refugees

To advance its implementation in individual countries, 46 national plans of action have been adopted worldwide to date. Resolution 1325 has made a key contribution to raising public and political awareness of women, peace and security as an issue, and the United Nations has adopted additional resolutions as a result.

### UN Security Council Resolution 1820

Adopted in 2008, **Resolution 1820 to End Sexual Violence in Conflict** makes plain that every form of sexual violence against women and girls employed as a tactic of war or part of a systematic attack can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide. For the first time, sexual violence against civilians was also identified as an impediment to restoring world peace and international security.

The gender identities underlying the resolution are very stereotyped, that is, men are the perpetrators and women the victims of sexual violence. The fact that also men and boys are victims of sexual violence is not yet taken into account here and is not mentioned until 2013 in Resolution 2106.

- Complete cessation of all acts of sexual violence against civilians in armed conflict with immediate effect
- Exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in peace negotiations
- Member states must meet their obligations to pursue the criminal prosecution of perpetrators.
- Specific training of peacekeeping troops to recognise and respond to sexual violence and pursue a zero-tolerance policy in UN peacekeeping missions
- Deployment of female peacekeeping personnel and police officers
- Equal protection under the law and equal access to justice for all victims of sexual violence, in particular women and girls
- Improved information through annual reporting

## UN Security Council resolutions 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106 and 2122

Based on Resolutions 1325 and 1820, five additional resolutions have been adopted: 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106 and 2122, which deal with individual aspects of the previous documents in more detail.

**Resolution 1888** (2009) addresses some of the practical aspects of Resolution 1820 and includes the appointment of a Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. From 2010 to 2012, Margot Wallström from Sweden performed this function and was replaced by Zainab Hawa Bangura from Sierra Leone.

- Improved legal prosecution of sexual crimes and victim protection in member states
- Greater participation of women in policy decision-making and in the security sector, such as in the police force and military
- Consideration of sexual violence as an instrument of war when imposing sanctions
- Appointing women's protection advisers in peacekeeping missions
- Deployment of expert teams tasked to support national authorities in strengthening rule of law
- Submission of an annual report on the implementation of Resolution 1820

**In calling for the following provisions, amongst others, Resolution 1889** (2009) in turn has a closer bearing on Resolution 1325 and the participation of women in peace negotiations and processes:

- Development of a set of indicators to track the implementation of Resolution 1325 and as a basis for further reporting
- Provision of funds to meet women's early recovery needs and support their participation in economic and political decision-making in reconstruction phases
- Equal access to education for women and girls
- Reporting on the participation of women in peacebuilding

**Resolution 1960** (2010) emphasises the prosecution of criminals and acts of sexual violence.

- End impunity and bring perpetrators to justice
- The UN Secretary General is encouraged in his annual reports to the Security Council on sexual violence to append a list of parties that are credibly suspected of committing rape or other forms of sexual violence.
- New mechanism for monitoring and reporting sexual violence in conflicts
- Access to health care, psychosocial support, legal assistance and socio-economic reintegration services for victims of sexual violence, taking into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities

**Resolution 2106** (2013) is concerned with a more consistent investigation of sexual war crimes and the rigorous prosecution and sanctioning of perpetrators. It reinforces and reiterates the demands from the previous Resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1960 and mentions for the first time that men and boys are also victims of gender-based and sexual violence and are also in need of the requisite assistance.

- No amnesty for sexual violence crimes
- Mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all elements of peacekeeping missions
- Strengthening civil society, women's organisations and formal and informal community leaders to exert possible influence over conflict parties that commit acts of sexual violence

- Addressing sexual war crimes in peace negotiations and when drafting peace agreements and treaties

**Resolution 2122** (2013) underlines the importance of the active participation of women in all phases of conflict prevention, resolution and reconstruction.

- Greater participation of women in peace negotiations, regional organisations and the United Nations
- Greater involvement of women's organisations through invitations for them to participate in discussions with the Security Council and its Special Representatives
- Promoting the active political participation of women as actors at all decision-making levels
- Member states are encouraged to comply with their obligations to protect women's rights, above all those under the Women's Rights Convention with its General recommendations (especially No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations) and the Beijing Platform for Action and take appropriate measures to promote women.
- A global study is envisaged on the implementation of resolutions adopted so far.
- Emphasis on an 'integrated approach' in security and development policy and human rights

Also relevant here are developments related to sexual violence against girls and boys in armed conflicts. As early as 2005, a specific monitoring and reporting procedure was directly established at the UN Security Council (Resolution 1612 (2005)) on six particularly severe violations of children's rights, including sexual violence against children (for example rape, sexual exploitation). Since 1996, the UN Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict have regularly discussed sexual violence against children and the neglected gender aspect. Resolution 1882 (2009) declared sexual violence against children to be a monitoring priority. Government and non-governmental conflict parties that have been accused of serious crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence, are cited in a "list of shame" published annually by the UN Secretary General.

### **What effect have the resolutions had so far?**

Since 2000, seven UN Security Council resolutions have now been adopted that deal with the gender perspective in international peace and security policy, with four (1820, 1888, 1960 and 2106) primarily focussing on the issues of sexual violence in armed conflicts and three (1325, 1889 and 2122) on the participation of women. Since then, many UN bodies, governments and international NGOs have drafted action plans, strategies and policy papers. Many women's organisations, generally working at regional and local levels, invoke the internationally recognised UN instruments to gain more support and credibility for their work. Most peace support operations today include a gender adviser and the gender perspective is largely taken into account in disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration measures. Security sector reforms and a number of mechanisms for preventing sexual violence in conflicts have been prepared at UN level.

The real-life situation of women in conflict and post-conflict countries has, however, hardly changed: Women are still only formally involved in conflict resolution and peace processes to a marginal extent and are politically and socio-economically disadvantaged in phases of reconstruction. Massive violations of women's rights are committed on the same scale worldwide in the form of sexual violence in armed conflicts, which ultimately prevents women from political participation and deprives them of access to markets, schools, etc.

Despite the many instruments available, international NGOs<sup>4</sup> report the lack of an effective system of accountability and criminal law enforcement, as well as a lack of political will at national levels to promote the participation of women at all decision-making levels and to advance gender equality in all areas.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. This means to identify and take countervailing measures against prevailing inequalities, disadvantages and discrimination in different sectors and at various levels. The gender perspective incorporated in the UN Security Council resolutions, however, largely addresses women with little attention paid to men. In keeping with the all-inclusive gender mainstreaming approach, to which the United Nations has been committed since the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, it is essential to take equal account of the needs and interests of both women and men. There is also a need to forge alliances and coalitions between women and men so that they can make joint efforts to reduce gender-based discrimination and guarantee equal access to power and resources for all. The current resolutions still lack the transformational potential to reform the institutions, standards and values of governments and societies towards gender equality.

### **Austria and the implementation of the UN resolutions**

In 2007, Austria became one of the first countries in the world to adopt a National Action Plan, known as the Austrian Action Plan for Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (NAP 1325). Forty-six countries have now adopted such plans. The Action Plan was revised in 2011 with the involvement of civil society and its effectiveness will be reviewed in 2016. Implementation progress will be documented in annual reports for submission to the Council of Ministers.

Particularly during its membership in the UN Security Council in 2009/2010, Austria took numerous initiatives.

The indicators specified in NAP 1325 for attaining the objectives of UN Resolution 1325 and the ensuing resolutions call for the following activities

- Pursuit of a specific human resource policy aimed at raising the ratio of women in personnel seconded by Austria, regularly addressing and imparting the aims of Resolution 1325 in training and consistently adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual abuse and forced prostitution
- Political engagement by Austria at international and regional level
- Specific activities to support women and girls in conflict and post-conflict regions

In recent years, Austria has already taken numerous successful initiatives and affirmative action measures in the course of foreign policy and development policy efforts to empower women in the context of peacekeeping and state rebuilding and to develop gender expertise for the appointment of gender representatives/advisers for international peace operations.

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<sup>4</sup>Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGO WG), Women's International League For Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Since 2010, a gender expert seconded by the Federal Ministry of National Defence and Sport (FMDS) has been acting as an adviser to assist the commander of the KFOR peace-keeping mission in Kosovo. From 2012 to 2014, a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) nominated by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (FMEIA) was placed at UN WOMEN in New York. From 2010 to 2012, a female expert was assigned by FMEIA as gender adviser to the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo).

The issue of women, peace and security has now become a permanent component of many training modules in all federal ministries.

Many projects financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation attach priority to the gender aspect and women's empowerment, above all in post-conflict situations. There is no question that awareness of the importance of a gender perspective in peacebuilding measures and projects has greatly increased in recent years in Austria, but the ratio of women is still low throughout the police, judiciary and security sector in foreign missions, under 10%.

## European Union

With many policy papers, declarations, statements and resolutions since 2005, the European Union has started to implement the agendas of UN Resolution 1325 and to frame monitoring mechanisms. In 2008, the European Council adopted the **Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security**. The Informal Task Force on Women, Peace and Security was established to ensure better inter-institutional coordination and work towards a coherent approach in gender issues. The Comprehensive Approach takes a holistic view that takes account of the inter-relationship among peace, security, development and gender equality. The aim is not just to promote the protection of women in armed conflicts and ensure their participation in peacebuilding measures, but also to guarantee them access to economic security, health services and education. In the Comprehensive Approach, the EU also undertakes to pursue a three-pronged approach:

- Policy dialogue: integration of women, peace and security issues
- Gender mainstreaming: above all in crisis management and long-term development strategies
- Specific actions for protecting, supporting and empowering women

On the basis of the Beijing Platform for Action, **indicators** were also defined at EU level in 2010 to measure how far the Comprehensive approach is taken into account in EU member states and bodies as well as in Common Security and Defence Policy missions (CSDP).

Every EU delegation has now established a gender focal point and nine out of the fourteen CSDP missions already employ a gender adviser. Nevertheless, women are still heavily under-represented in peace negotiations supported by the EU and only 18% of EU delegation heads are women. Gender advisers assigned to mainstream a gender perspective in EU missions often lack the requisite financial and human resources and support from mission leaders. As part of EU activities in women, peace and security, the following priorities were defined between 2013 and 2015:

- Rule of law and transitional justice
- Political participation and economic independence
- Involvement of women in peace processes
- Prevention of sexual violence



Austria is involved in the UNSCR 1325 Task Force and the Task Force on Violence against Women as an active member and advocates measures for the protection and promotion of women particularly in armed conflicts and post-conflict regions.

## **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**

As early as 1999, even before the United Nations adopted the significant Resolution 1325, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development called for promoting women's participation in peace processes, their protection against sexual violence and involving them in all phases of reconstruction in its Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Guidelines for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Co-operation. Furthermore, in 2007 the OECD DAC framed the Principles for Good International Engagement in Fragile States and Situations, stipulating the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women in state building and peacebuilding strategies. The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States adopted at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan in 2011 specifies five binding international objectives for peacebuilding and state building in fragile states. These still place little emphasis on the gender perspective, however.<sup>5</sup>

OECD DAC is seeking to mainstream a gender perspective as a quality measure in international projects for state-building in fragile states and conflict regions for the following reasons:

- In state-building, gender equality can be promoted, for example, by involving women more in peace negotiations and constitutional procedures
- A gender-sensitive approach can expedite the implementation of the goals of the New Deal adopted by the international community
- A profound understanding of the reciprocal effects of gender relations and state-building is essential for the timely prevention of adverse effects from international projects
- Gender equality plays a particularly important role in the complex interaction between state building and development to promote sustainable and societal reforms towards social and gender equality.

According to an OECD study (2010), to date only 20% of total development expenditure on peace and security includes a significant gender aspect.<sup>6</sup> A report<sup>7</sup> published by OECD in 2013 also reveals that in state (re)building in conflict and fragile situations, gender relations still have not been considered accordingly in reality. To incorporate the gender perspective, there is therefore a need to understand the local context in the field and carry out gender studies so as to identify gender inequalities at different levels. Alliances should also be forged with the various actors to lessen possible opposition.

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<sup>5</sup> New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, <http://www.newdeal4peace.org/>

<sup>6</sup> Aid in support of gender equality in fragile and conflict-affected states, OECD-DAC, 2010, <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/46954513.pdf> (25 Sept. 2013)

<sup>7</sup> Gender and Statebuilding in Fragile and Conflict-affected States, OECD, 2013, p. 9-11. <http://www.oecdilibrary.org/docserver/download/4313171e.pdf?expires=1400751331&id=id&accname=ocid72023547&checksum=50F50821BF9125D330FA34B859F851CC> (20 May 2014)

## Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC)

The ADC Gender Policy is based on a broad framework of standards for gender equality, for example, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals, the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security and the EU Gender Action Plan. One of the main areas to promote gender equality as set out in the policy documents **Peace-building and conflict prevention** and **Gender equality and empowerment of women**, aims at the protection and empowerment of women against violence in conflicts and increasing their participation in conflict resolution and peacekeeping. A thematic field of activity in the **Strategic Guideline on Security and Development** from 2011 also addresses women in peace processes and the protection of the civilian population, reaffirming Austria's commitment to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and development. Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of cooperation between Austria and NGOs and other civil-society actors, including local and regional women's organisations in fragile states and conflict regions. The **Vienna 3C Appeal** (2010), which also attributes a central role to women in peace processes and conflict prevention, stipulates principles for this joint action.

### Selected examples of projects funded by ADC

#### Claiming rights – Promoting gender equality

With the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and CARE Austria Framework Programme (2013-2015), *Women's Empowerment and Male Engagement for Gender Transformation* in Uganda, Nepal and Ethiopia, CARE Austria is building on previous projects in Uganda and Nepal (Phase I 2007-2009 and Phase II 2010-2012) to empower women and implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in a holistic approach. It is stepping up activities in gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment and men's engagement for gender equality, expanding the psycho-social component and incorporating consideration of the impacts of climate change on women.

(Framework Programme of CARE Austria, 1980-02/213)

#### Securing peace and empowering women

Gender equality and empowering women in peace processes is the focus of the new cooperation project between the African Union (AU) and Austrian Development Cooperation. This is the first time Austria has entered into a direct and formal partnership with the AU; the partnership supports implementation of both the AU Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan. Both documents accord special status to UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Cooperation with the AU Department of Peace and Security is aimed at improving the planning and coordination of activities conducted by the AU, the United Nations, regional African organisations, civil society and multinational and bilateral AU partners in Africa. Support for the AU Gender Directorate will help implement the Gender Equality Action Plan. Both the Directorate and the Department cooperate here with the 54 AU member states and regional organisations. The Austrian contribution will therefore benefit the whole of the African continent and its population.

Contribution to the Shared Values Programme (Pillar III) of the African Union Directorate of Women, Gender and Development, 2684-00/2012

Support for the Implementation of the Gender, Peace and Security Programme of the Commission of the African Union, 2723-00/2013

### **More protection against gender-based violence and women's participation**

To help women express their concerns, ADC supports a project conducted by OXFAM, Solidarity for African Women's Rights Coalition (SOAWR). It plans to cooperate more closely with AU institutions and draft strategies based on empirical data showing the enormous costs incurred by armed conflicts, particularly the attendant gender-based violence. A major component deals with support for women victims of violence, their access to justice and redress mechanisms and also to instruments developed by the AU for the prevention and criminal prosecution of gender-based and sexual violence. The programme calls for significantly increasing the participation of women at all decision-making levels, both regional and continental and is implemented in South Sudan, Egypt and Nigeria.

(Ensuring Accountability for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Increased Participation of Women in Africa, 2724-00/2013)

## **Outlook**

Since the adoption of the resolutions on women's rights in the context of women, peace and development, there has been a discernibly large deficit in monitoring mechanisms. The states that have formally undertaken to comply with the resolutions often neglect their obligation to implement women's rights standards, particularly for the protection and empowerment of women in conflicts and post-conflict situations. The **General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations** adopted by the CEDAW Committee in 2013 sends a clear signal to states to actually meet their obligation to comply with the UN resolutions.

Besides fragility, gender inequality and gender-based discrimination at political, social and economic level in many states are among the most common reasons why the Millennium Development Goals will not be achieved by 2015. At its 2014 session, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which meets once a year in New York, discussed and evaluated the Millennium Development Goals, including successes and shortcomings in their implementation. In the final document, it stipulated that gender equality, the empowerment of women and women's rights must be defined as a separate goal in the post-2015 development framework and as a multisectoral theme in all other areas. A number of recommendations have already been made in the course of discussions on drawing up the new Post-2015 Development Agenda and mainstreaming the issues of women, peace and security. Of crucial importance will be whether CSW can develop approaches that address the causes of gender-based violence and discrimination and advance the political and economic empowerment of women. Furthermore, specific action must be included to facilitate the attainment of these sustainable and global development goals for women and girls in fragile and conflict-affected countries. In addition, there is a need to strengthen civil society and institutions to enable women and men in conflict and post-conflict societies to claim their rights and voice their needs and interests. Gender equality also calls for new alliances and coalitions among women and men, government institutions and NGOs, politicians, scientists, activists, etc and new scope for negotiations and policymaking.

## Literature and Links

### Basic documents

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## NGOs

**NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security (NGOWG WPS)** is an association of different international NGOs aimed at advancing the implementation of the UN resolutions. It sees itself as a link among the United Nations, the member states and civil society.  
<http://womenpeacesecurity.org>

**Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)** is made up of women's and civil-society organisations from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe that are committed to the active implementation of the UN resolutions at all levels.

<http://www.gnwp.org/>

**PeaceWomen** is a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), one of the oldest women's organisations (since 1915) in the world. PeaceWomen promotes the participation of women in conflict prevention and peacekeeping. It provides detailed information on these issues, such as all the national action plans for implementing UN Resolution 1325.

<http://peacewomen.org>

**European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)** is a platform of European NGOs engaged in peacekeeping and conflict prevention.

<http://www.eplo.org/>

**Gunda Werner Institute** is focused on peace and security and deals with the integration of a gender aspect in peace and security policy.

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