

Denmark's Action Plan on implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security

As a response to the commitments in Security Council Resolution 1325, on Women and Peace and Security, Denmark has developed an inter-ministerial Plan of Action outlining concrete areas of intervention.

(English summary)



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the Ministry of Defence

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Women and Peace and Security - United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

Women's role in conflicts

In today's conflicts the civilian population is increasingly being targeted. Women and girls are especially vulnerable to gender based violence including sexual abuse - as most recently exemplified in the conflicts in Darfur and Sierra Leone. Due to weak or non-existing judicial systems the perpetrators are rarely punished. Also, women's potential as peace agents is seldom used in post conflict situations. This is due to the fact, that women are often marginalized in peace negotiations, reconstruction and democratisation processes.

Security Council Resolutions 1325

On 31 October 2000 the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women and Peace and Security. The objectives of the resolution are to protect women's rights during armed conflicts, prevent impunity for gender based crimes, mainstream gender aspects in peacekeeping operations and increase women's participation in the various phases before, during and after armed conflicts.

UNSCR 1325 puts forward concrete recommendations to the UN member states, entities of the UN System, civil society and other actors involved in international peacekeeping and development cooperation. The resolution is considered to be a milestone in the Security Council's work with women, peace and security. However, the impact of the resolution depends entirely on the political will of the various actors to bring into operation, implement and monitor the recommendations and objectives set out in the resolution.



The Secretary-General's report of October 2004 on Women and Peace and Security concludes that despite significant efforts there are still many gaps and challenges with respect to the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Consequently he calls on the Security Council, Member States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations to reaffirm their commitment and strengthen efforts to fully implement UNSCR 1325.

Danish UNSCR 1325 implementation

The Danish Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

In June 2005, Denmark adopted a series of political and operational actions engaging its foreign, defence and development cooperation policies in the implementation of all elements of UNSCR 1325. The scope of this governmental action is to further strengthen and systematize the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the operational and policy levels

At the operational level Denmark contributes with units from the national defence to especially NATO and UN peacekeeping operations. In the framework of the Danish participation in international peacekeeping operations three prioritised focus areas have been defined:

- I. *Increased gender balance in the recruitment of staff members* to the Danish defence forces and as well as focus on their role in international operations.
- II. *Protection of women's and girls' rights* in the local areas where Danish troops are deployed.
- III. *Increased participation and representation of women in peace building and reconstruction processes* in the local areas where Danish troops are deployed.



Denmark works for strengthening the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the multi-lateral organisations such as UN, OSCE, NATO and EU working with crisis management, development and humanitarian assistance.

A substantive part of the Danish development cooperation is provided to post conflict societies such as Afghanistan, Uganda and Sudan. Danish Development assistance is perceived as a useful instrument to implement the UNSCR 1325 recommendations.

Lines of actions in the Danish UNSCR 1325 implementation

Danish Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 implementation contains the following lines of actions:

National Defence

- At national level an assessment on how the Danish Defence can strengthen its implementation of UNSCR 1325 will be conducted. The assessment will be based on the three prioritised focus areas (I. Increased gender balance in the recruitment of staff members, II. Protection of women's and girls' rights, III. increased participation and representation of women in peace building and reconstruction processes) and will aim at the incorporation of gender perspectives in the mandates for the international operations, training of the troops in mainstreaming gender perspectives and identifications and development of other instruments, which can contribute to the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the military operations as well as "best practices" of other countries.
- Furthermore, the National Defence will evaluate the experiences of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the above-mentioned prioritised focus areas. Based on this evaluation, new concrete initiatives will be defined.

UN including the Security Council (2005-2006)

- Denmark will continue to encouraging the UN funds and programmes to assure women's and girls' rights and equal participation in post conflict situations.
- Through the membership of UN Security Council Denmark aims at promoting the incorporation of the protection of women and girls in conflict areas. This includes documentation of assaults with the objective of future prosecution of the perpetrators.
- Denmark will strive to promote that the Security Council ensures women's rights in the political processes, which take place in post conflict contexts.
- Finally, Denmark will aim at ensuring that the mandates of the peacekeeping UN missions in all relevant cases include a commitment to safeguard the protection and rights of women. These aspects should be reflected in the competences, which the units dispose of or have access to.

The European Union's crisis management

- Denmark will promote the incorporation of gender-based perspectives, as outlined in UNSCR 1325, during planning and implementation of civilian EU crisis management operations. This includes the pre-assessment and assessment missions, the Council conclusions, Common Actions and the Concept of Operation.
- Whenever considered relevant, actions will be taken to work for the inclusion of gender perspectives into the guidelines of the EU Special Representatives.
- Finally, Denmark will aim at assuring that the gender mainstreaming efforts of the EU are aligned with those adopted by the United Nations.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

- Denmark will promote the systematic incorporation of gender perspectives in the work of the OSCE, in its institutions as well as its work on the ground.
- In the OSCE forum, Denmark will work for an increased political focus on the necessity of member states implementation of UNSCR 1325.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

- Denmark will work for the initiation of an evaluation of the NATO policies on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the NATO troops from June 2004, as well as the code of conduct for civilian staff on Trafficking in Human Beings from May 2005. On the basis of the conclusions of this evaluation a needs assessment on further information and training of the NATO staff members as well as other actions will take place.

African Union and the African sub-regional Organisations

- With regard to Africa Denmark has launched an "Africa Program for Peace", which aims at strengthening the African security architecture, through support to the African Union and the sub-regional organisations. UNSCR 1325 will be mainstreamed in this programme.

Danish development cooperation

- A considerable part of Danish development cooperation is provided to post conflict countries and countries presently affected by conflicts. In accordance to the principles of the Strategy for Gender Equality in Danish Development Cooperation, the recommendations of UNSCR 1325 will be implemented through the bilateral development cooperation. Furthermore, Denmark will actively support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 through the multilateral and the humanitarian assistance.

Further information:

<http://www.um.dk>

<http://forsvaret.dk/fmn/>

<http://www.un.org/Docs/s/>



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