Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Division for the Advancement of Women (DESA/DAW)

What is the name of your organization

DESA

Does your organization have any field presence?

No

Please give the names of the units of your entity that contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan. (Max 300 words)

Division for the Advancement of Women Division for Public Administration and Development Management Statistics Division Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests (no contribution)

Please provide name, e-mail and phone number of a designated contact person for follow-up questions. [Name:]

Sylvia Hordosch

Please provide name, e-mail and phone number of a designated contact person for follow-up questions. [Email:]

hordosch@un.org

Please provide name, e-mail and phone number of a designated contact person for follow-up questions. [Phone Number:]

212-963 5450

Area of Action A. Conflict prevention and early warning

Progress and results At Headquarters

The DESA Task Force on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Development highlights issues relating to women, peace and security as part of DESA's overall policy and operational contribution to mechanisms such as the Framework Team for Coordination on Conflict Prevention and CASA (Coordination Action on Small Arms). Specific outputs include substantive contributions to country and region specific activities of the Framework Team.

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action B. Peacemaking and peacebuilding

Progress and results At Headquarters

DESA/DPADM has developed the Peacebuilding Portal, an on-line, searchable, interactive website containing 2,000+ profiles of conflict prevention and peacebuilding organizations in sub-Saharan Africa (www.peacebuildingportal.org). Its purpose is to support and strengthen the work of civil society to prevent violent conflict and promote sustainable peace by creating a platform for information sharing and networking amongst NGOs and with other national and international partners. The Peacebuilding Portal has highlighted gender issues as one of its thematic areas and as such, placed special attention on gathering information on NGOs working on women and gender issues in peacebuilding. The site has 200 profiles of organizations working primarily on the role of women in peacebuilding and prevention. Further, a special categorization was designed to highlight gender activities and information of all profiled organizations.

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

This interactive website addresses one of the critical needs identified in 1325 of enhancing the capacities of women's organizations working in peacebuilding to communicate and network effectively in order to strengthen their organizations and enhance the impact of their work.

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

The main constraint of expanding the Portal's outreach has been the lack of funding. DPADM currently has a partnership with the African Union on the Africa portion of the Portal and is attempting to expand its coverage to include Latin America in partnership with the OAS. Partnerships with these regional inter-governmental organizations, as well as with regional NGO networks have been of great assistance in expanding the Portal in light of these financial constraints.

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action C. Peacekeeping operations

Progress and results At Headquarters

DESA/DPADM has been organizing a training programme on peacebuilding and good governance for African civilian personnel in peace operations with the goal to increase the readiness and professionalism of African civilian peace support personnel and to increase their capacity to respond to complex emergencies and post-conflict situations. This is a joint project of the Legon Centre for International Affairs, University of Ghana; the International Training Programme for Conflict Management of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Pisa, Italy; and DESA with financial support from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The programme includes foundation courses, training-of-trainers workshops and advanced, subject-specific courses on election observation; law enforcement; demobilization, disarmament and re-integration of ex-combatants; journalist reporting; and negotiation techniques.

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

The programme continues to receive requests for training from hundreds of interested individuals, but requires steady financial input to be sustainable. In fact, the current (third) phase of the programme had to be postponed somewhat due to delayed receipt of funding.

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action D. Humanitarian response

Progress and results At Headquarters

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action E. Post-conflict Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

Progress and results At Headquarters

DESA/DAW contributed to post-conflict reconstruction by providing technical assistance to the Governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in June 2006. In Liberia, the team met with the President of Liberia, ministers, members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and members of parliament to sensitize them on the provisions of the Convention and the obligations of the Government. Meetings were also held with the UN country team and NGOs. The consultations increased the visibility of the Convention, assessed the status of its implementation and led to recommendations for priority action.   In Sierra Leone, a training workshop was held for government officials across line ministries on the preparation and presentation of the report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The team looked at gaps in the report and made recommendations related to the importance of the report as a planning tool for the implementation of the Convention.   This project includes consultations with the government of Afghanistan scheduled for August 2006.

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

To increase the visibility of the Convention, political will at the highest level is critical. If the strategic direction comes from the top of the government, efforts for implementation will have more success.   It is also critical to ensure that all sectors are involved. There is often a perception that the ministry of women's affairs (or of gender affairs) bears the sole responsibility for women's empowerment and for gender mainstreaming. However, successful gender mainstreaming requires the participation of all sectors in consultative and planning processes. Good links to civil society and to the UN country team facilitate such consultation processes. The country team or, where present, the peacekeeping mission play a key role both for logistical support and for substantive follow-up to such consultations.

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

Gaps and challenges In the Field
This project is funded by extra-budgetary sources.
Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action F. Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

Progress and results At Headquarters

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action G. Preventing and Responding to Gender-based Violence in Armed Conflict

Progress and results At Headquarters
DESA/DAW is in charge of conducting the Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women requested by GA resolution 58/185. The study will be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session (fall 2006) and will provide an overview on all forms of violence against women, including violence before, during and after conflict; address the causes of violence against women and the medium and long-term consequences of violence against women, including the health, social and economic costs of violence against women; and provide good practice examples for combating and eliminating violence against women. The study

will also propose action-oriented recommendations, including on effective remedies and prevention and rehabilitation measures.

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Area of Action H. Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff, Related Personnel and Partners

Progress and results At Headquarters

DESA has appointed a focal point to the ECPS/ECHA Taskforce on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Progress and results In the Field

Lessons learned and good practices At Headquarters

Lessons learned and good practices In the Field

Gaps and challenges At Headquarters

Gaps and challenges In the Field

Please describe any activities not included in the Action Plan

Coherence and Coordination

Policy Guidance: Do you have any internal policy documents providing guidance on implementation of SCR 1325?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

If not, please explain:

Programme Coordination: Is implementation of SCR 1325 reflected in substantive policy/project/funding design and management?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

Within technical cooperation projects of DAW and DPADM.

If not, please explain:

Common-System Partners: Does your entity at Headquarters collaborate and coordinate with different UN entities?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

DAW is a member of the IANWGE Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security. Within its technical cooperation programmes, DAW collaborates with UN country teams and peacekeeping missions. DPADM cooperates with DPKO within its training programmes.

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

It is often difficult to assess the level of commitment of taskforce members to the collective goal of such inter-agency efforts, compared to entity-specific goals. Similarly, it is not always clear to what extent the work of the taskforce has an impact on entity policies and programmes. There is insufficient linkage between different taskforces, e.g. the Taskforce on women, peace and security and the IASC Taskforce on gender in humanitarian action.

Common-System Partners: Does your entity in the field collaborate and coordinate with different UN entities?

Not applicable

If yes, please describe:

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

Collaboration and coordination with national and regional partners: Does your entity collaborate and coordinate with national and regional partners, including government actors and civil society?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

System-wide Coherence and Coordination: Do you feel your work is part of a coordinated and coherent strategy for the UN system to implement SCR 1325?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

If not, please explain:

Accountability of managers and staff

Does your entity have mechanisms in place to ensure accountability for implementation of SCR 1325 among staff, in particular for senior managers?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

Results-Based Management (RBM)

RBM Framework: Have provisions of SCR 1325 been integrated within Results-based Management Frameworks?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

If not, please explain:

Indicators: Have indicators to measure progress in implementing commitments under the action plan been established?

Don't know

If yes, please describe what indicators:

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Monitoring: Has any monitoring mechanism for implementation of SCR 1325 been established within your entity at Headquarters?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

If not, please explain:

Monitoring: Has any monitoring mechanism for implementation of SCR 1325 been established within your entity in the field?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

If not, please explain:

Sex and age disaggregated data: Is sex and age disaggregated data collected on a routine basis?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

The DESA/Statistics Division collects data from countries based on questionnaires that are sent to countries for completion. Statistics on most demographic and economic characteristics of the population of countries are sex- and age-disaggregated.   These statistics may include data from countries in conflict or in transition, but the Division does not collect data specific to those countries or to conflict-specific issues.

If not, please explain:

Reporting: Is information on gender issues and implementation of SCR1325 routinely included in official reporting?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

In relevant reports to inter-governmental bodies.

If not, please explain:

Capacity-Building

Training: Have any specific training programmes/modules/courses on SCR 1325 been developed as a special course/regular staff training/management/leadership or technical training?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

If not, please explain:

What categories of staff are being trained? [Senior Management]

No

What categories of staff are being trained? [Professional Staff]

No

What categories of staff are being trained? [Technical Staff]

No

What categories of staff are being trained? [Uniformed personnel]

No

What categories of staff are being trained? [Support staff]

No

What categories of staff are being trained? [Other]

Tools and guidelines for implementation of SCR1325 Have specific tools, such as guidelines, checklists and/or instructions been developed to assist staff in implementing SCR 1325?

Don't know

What categories of staff? [Senior Management]

No

What categories of staff? [Professional Staff]

No

What categories of staff? [Technical Staff]

No

What categories of staff? [Uniformed personnel]

No

What categories of staff? [Support staff]

No

What categories of staff? [Other]

How are these tools used by staff at Headquarters? Describe briefly:

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

How are these tools used by staff in the field? Describe briefly:

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

Knowledge-management: Is there a system in place within your entity to collect and disseminate data and information on the implementation of SC1325, including good practice examples and lessons learned?

Don't know

If yes, please describe how information technology is used in that process.

If yes, please describe how such data and information are used to improve the work of your entity on the implementation of SCR 1325.

Resource Allocation

Financial Resources: Have adequate financial resources been allocated towards your entity's implementation of commitments under the action plan?

Don't know

If yes, please describe [differentiate between RB and XB]:

If not, please explain:

Human resources: Has a gender unit/focal point/or focal points for follow-up been designated for Headquarters?

Don't know

Human resources: Has a gender unit/focal point/or focal points for follow-up been designated for the field?

Not applicable

If yes, please describe and specify level/s of staff:

DAW has a focal point on issues related to women, peace and security at the P-4 level (part-time). Within DESA, each division has designated a staff member as a focal point to the DESA Taskforce on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development.

If not, please explain:

How many other staff members are directly involved in implementation? Please indicate professional level.

Gender Balance: Have any specific initiatives been taken at Headquarters to achieve gender balance at all levels and all categories of staff?

Don't know

If yes, please describe:

The Head of Department is accountable for the implementation of the Human Resource Action Plan (2005-2006). One of the management areas under review in this Plan is the representation and selection of female staff. The goal is to achieve 50 per cent representation of women among professional staff.

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

While DESA is close to meeting its target of women's representation (46% as of March 2006), it seems more difficult to address gender balance in the selection of experts for the numerous panels organized by the Department (many of which focus on areas not directly related to 1325).

Gender Balance: Have any specific initiatives been taken in the field to achieve gender balance at all levels and all categories of staff?

Not applicable

If yes, please describe:

Have any specific challenges been encountered?

What suggestions do you have for improving implementation of the system-wide action plan during 2006-2007?   You may choose to provide information in the following categories, or other information according to your priorities. Please be brief.

Coherence and Coordination, including interagency coordination

Accountability

High-level commitment from the head of the Department and senior staff is critical.

Results-based Management

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Capacity-Building

Human and Financial Resource Allocation

Gender Balance

Other:

If your entity could do only two things to improve its own implementation of the Action Plan, what do you think would be most useful?

Intensify efforts to distribute normative outcomes of intergovernmental processes more effectively.

Are any there any other comments you would like to make?

Do you have any suggestions for improving this questionnaire for use in subsequent years?

It is difficult to respond to the overall questions in the capacity review for an entire department when only some divisions address issues related to SCR 1325 within their work programmes.