

Extraordinary achievements have been made at the normative level in recognizing the linkages between gender equality, women's empowerment and the maintenance of peace and security. In 2013, the Security Council adopted two new resolutions - 2106 and 2122 - to further operationalize the women, peace and security agenda¹ two high-level political commitments were made to combat sexual violence in conflict;² a declaration on women's economic empowerment in peacebuilding was adopted by the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC/7/OC/3), and notably - as reported in last year's report - a criterion on gender-based violence was included in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Article 7 (4) which require States to consider risks of gender-based violence in their arms transfer decisions. The adoption of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations was another landmark achievement giving authoritative guidance to countries that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on concrete measures to ensure women's human rights are protected before, during and after conflict. It recommends that State Parties address the gendered impact of international transfers of arms, especially small and illicit arms, including through the ratification and implementation of the ATT.

The challenge ahead - and measuring stick - lies in ensuring that progress at the normative level is translated into concrete actions on the ground and that positive trends are not reversed. Sustainable peace necessitates disarmament because resurgence in violence, including gender-based violence and homicide, can often be attributed to the ready availability of weapons. More efforts are still needed to build capacity for gender and conflict analysis and collection of sex-disaggregated data on matters related to disarmament and small arms. The correlation between sexual violence and inadequate security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts is another concern emphasized in recent reports.³ In the lead up to the High-level Review of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2015, UN Women will continue to work with all stakeholders- Member States, regional organizations, United Nations entities and civil society partners - to accelerate the implementation of women, peace and security commitment and to support women's full and meaningful participation and access in all policymaking, planning, and implementation processes [related to arms control and disarmament](#).

¹As at June 2014, the Security Council has adopted seven thematic resolutions: S/RES/1325 (2000), S/RES/1820 (2008), S/RES/1888 (2009), S/RES/1889 (2009), S/RES/1960 (2010), S/RES/2106 (2013) and S/RES/2122 (2013)

² In April 2013, the G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence was signed. In September 2013, Member States signed a Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.

³ See S/2014/181.