

REPORT TO THE INTER-AGENCY NETWORK ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

INTER-AGENCY TASKFORCE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

OVERVIEW/HISTORY OF THE TASKFORCE

The Inter-Agency Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security was initiated in February 2001 to follow up on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 adopted on 31 October 2000. It is chaired by the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and OSAGI acts as its Secretariat. At present, the Task Force consists of 22 members from United Nations entities. The Commonwealth Secretariat, IOM and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security participate as observers (see attached list of members). In 2005, the Taskforce met five times. In addition to New York-based meetings, the Taskforce routinely exchanged information via e-mail. This report provides a summary of achievements of the Taskforce in 2005.

INTER-AGENCY TASKFORCE ACTION PLAN – MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The status of the implementation of the Taskforce's workplan is attached as Annex 1. The main achievements of the Taskforce were:

1. **Preparation of the system-wide action plan for implementation of S/RES/1325 (2000):** The Taskforce collaborated on the preparation of the UN system-wide action plan called for in Security Council Presidential Statement 2004/40. The action plan, which is divided into 12 different areas of action, was submitted to the Security Council on 27 October 2005 for its annual open debate on the topic. It is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security (S/2005/636), which also provided some guidance on ways to strengthen commitment and accountability at the highest levels as well as to allow for improved accountability, monitoring and reporting on progress on implementation within the UN system. The Security Council, in a statement issued by the President of the Council (S/PRST/2005/52), endorsed the system-wide action plan and requested the Secretary-General to update, monitor and review its implementation and integration on an annual basis, starting in October 2006.
2. **Fifth anniversary of S/RES/1325 (2000):** A variety of events were organized to mark the fifth anniversary of resolution 1325. These were compiled into a 'calendar of events', which was made available through a new online feature on women, peace and security on WomenWatch (<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/wps/>). A 'marketplace' to display tools, guidelines and other resources was also organized during the week of the Security Council open debate on women, peace and security held 27 October 2005. The NGO Working Group issued an alternative report on the implementation of resolution 1325 and organized an advocacy programme, which allowed women from Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Colombia to be present

in New York in connection with the fifth anniversary and meet with UN officials, government representatives and media. An outreach programme was developed in collaboration with DPI, including a media strategy. The leaflet 'Facts and Figures on Women, Peace and Security' and poster on the implementation of resolution 1325 were produced and widely distributed. The leaflet is now also available in French.

3. **Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (CSW, March 2005):** Taskforce members prepared, participated in and contributed to panel discussions and events. A calendar of events specific to the critical area of women and armed conflict was developed.
4. **Follow up to the expert group meeting on elections :** The handbook on "Women and elections" prepared by the Electoral Assistance Division, DPA, in collaboration with OSAGI was formally launched at a panel discussion organized in connection with the fifth anniversary of resolution 1325. It was prepared with the support and input from different UN entities and intergovernmental organizations supporting electoral processes. It has distributed to the field and been made available online. DPA is currently exploring the opportunities for translating the handbook in to additional languages.
5. **Follow up to the expert group meeting peace agreements:** More work is still needed to operationalize the outcome of the expert group meeting on peace agreements as a means for promoting gender equality and ensuring participation of women – a framework of model provisions. To support these efforts, UNIFEM prepared the report "Securing the Peace – Guiding the International Community towards Women's Effective Participation throughout Peace Processes."
6. **Roster of gender experts in peace and security:** Due to limited financial and human resources the work on the database/roster had to be postponed. It was also agreed that further discussions on the format and functioning of the roster was needed within the Taskforce.
7. **Mapping of gender contacts:** The internal document has been circulated to IANWGE members to be updated. It contains a list of women's groups and networks in countries on the Security Council agenda and contact information on the government ministry responsible for women/gender issues and country-level UN gender advisers/focal points. It will be vetted by UN gender contacts at the country level.
8. **Gender perspectives integrated in the work of the Executive Committees:** The Special Adviser continued to bring issues of women, peace and security to the attention of the Executive Committees. She gave a special briefing to the ECPS on the development of the system-wide action plan.

9. **Strengthening partnerships:** Taskforce members continued to participate in a variety of allied taskforces/working groups and provided technical support and guidance on mainstreaming of gender perspectives. The Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict was invited to provide a briefing to the Task Force on their work with the Security Council.

Apart from joint initiatives, Task Force members undertook a number of individual activities within their respective mandates in support of the full and effective implementation of resolution 1325.

PLANS FOR 2006

The main activity of the Taskforce in 2006 will be to provide support and guidance in the follow-up to the system-wide action plan on the implementation of resolution 1325. As per S/PRST/2005/52 the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to “update, monitor and review its implementation and integration on an annual basis, and report to the Security Council, starting in October 2006.” Other activities will be determined at a future meeting.