



MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



*Iceland's National Action Plan for the Implementation
of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on
Women, Peace and Security 2013–2016*

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INTRODUCTION

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on 30 October 2000 marked a milestone in the history of the United Nations. Thereby, the Security Council, for the first time, acknowledged the unique role women play in armed conflict and their important contribution towards peace.

The central idea of resolution 1325 is that women can influence situations of armed conflict as well as being significantly affected by them. The resolution also stresses the important role women play in conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and in peace-building, as well as emphasising women's equal participation in all actions that maintain and promote peace and security. UNSCR 1325 reaffirms the importance of respecting international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts. In addition, it recognises the need to mainstream a gender perspective into all actions that promote international peace and security.

Main objectives of UNSCR 1325 are:

- Increased participation of women in decision making and peace processes;
- Protection of women and girls in conflict-affected environments;
- Mainstreaming of gender perspectives and women's rights in peacekeeping.

UNSCR 1325 calls upon the United Nations member states to take necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the resolution. In his report to the Security Council on women, peace and security in 2004, the Secretary-General of the United Nations at that time, requested member states to develop special National Action Plans (NAP) for the implementation of the resolution. Iceland was among the first member states to put forward a NAP in 2008. A number of countries have since put forward a NAP and many international organisations and NGOs use UNSCR on women, peace and security as a guiding light for formulating policy and implementing projects.

Iceland's Plan of Action for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, developed in 2008, lays down that the Plan should be reviewed three years after entry into force and updated, taking into consideration the progress of implementation. In 2011, an independent expert reviewed the implementation of the NAP and the conclusions were published on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs'

website. The findings were taken into consideration when drafting the new National Action Plan. The new NAP states clearly Icelandic Government's objectives, and the ways to reach them, as well as it identifies measures for accountability and monitoring.



The Security Council has adopted four supplementary resolutions that focus on women, peace and security and fully support the objectives and implementation of UNSCR 1325. **Resolution 1820/2008** places special emphasis on preventing sexual violence against women and girls in conflict. It also calls upon member states to comply with their obligations for prosecuting and punishing persons responsible for such acts. **Resolution 1888/2009** underscores even further than prior resolutions on women, peace and security the need to end impunity in conflict-related sexual violence cases against women and children. It further stresses the responsibility of parties to armed conflict and of peacekeeping forces to provide protection and prevent sexual violence. **Resolution 1889/2009** urges member states to ensure gender mainstreaming in all post-conflict and peace-building processes and to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and. **Resolution 1960/2010** reiterates the need to strengthen even further actions against sexual violence. Attention is paid to the need to prosecute the perpetrators of war crimes, to make their names public and to make it clear that impunity will no longer be tolerated.

All references to UNSCR 1325 in Iceland's National Action Plan 2013–2016 also apply to resolutions 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960 on women, peace and security.

ICELAND'S NATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2013–2016 – IMPLEMENTING UNSCR 1325

During the preparation and drafting of Iceland's second National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, special consideration was given to Iceland's experience with the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and of those countries that have emphasised the implementation of the resolution in their international work. Furthermore, Icelandic NGOs that work on issues related to women, peace and security were consulted. This National Action Plan, which is valid for the next four years, is based on the Government of Iceland policy regarding peace and security issues and is in full compliance with Iceland's international obligations.

The National Action Plan also takes account of the Strategy for Iceland's International Development Co-operation that was adopted by the Parliament in March 2013 and outlines Iceland's priorities in development co-operation for the years 2013–2016¹. The Strategy entails in particular three key objectives that relate to UNSCR 1325: 1) Gender equality and women's empowerment are cross cutting issues that need to be considered in all Iceland's development co-operation. 2) The implementation of UNSCR on women, peace and security shall be promoted. 3) Increased emphasis shall be put on gender issues in all policy formulations and projects of international organisations of which Iceland is a member.

In his report to the Security Council in 2010, the Secretary-General of the United Nations proposed that all UN entities, international and regional organizations, and member states should standardise reporting across four pillars when assessing progress made in the implementation of UNSCR 1325: participation, prevention, protection, relief and recovery. The new National

Action Plan of the Icelandic Government takes these recommendations fully into account, albeit with minor changes in the setup of the chapters. Prevention, protection, relief and recovery is combined in one chapter, while training and advocacy and partnership and collaboration are discussed in separate chapters.

Objectives and Activities

The Icelandic NAP on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 for the period 2013–2016 puts forward four main objectives. For each of the main objectives, expected outcomes, activities, and indicators that measure the achievements are laid down.

In some instances there is a lack of baseline and therefore there are no indicators. Upon the revision of the NAP, more detailed indicators, based on its implementation during the first three years, will be put forward. The total cost for implementation of the NAP is estimated at 95 million Icelandic krona, or approximately 16 million Icelandic krona annually.

Iceland's actions in 2008–2011 based on the first National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325

- Iceland has participated actively in informal working groups of like-minded member states within the UN in New York, namely, Friends of UN Women and Friends of Women, Peace and Security.
- Iceland has promoted the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in connection with its membership of NATO and OSCE.
- The Code of Conduct for employees of the MFA and ICEIDA from 2009 and the Code of Conduct for the ICRU from 2007 take UNSCR 1325 into account and states that employees may under no circumstances purchase or accept the services of prostitutes or other sexual services.
- In June 2008, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in co-operation with the University of Iceland, hosted an international conference on UNSCR 1325, where the focus was particularly on how to empower women to participate in peace processes.
- A part of the curriculum at the Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) is concentrated on UNSCR 1325 and how to promote its implementation in the fellows' respective home countries, including Afghanistan, Palestine, Mozambique and Uganda.
- For the past few years the Icelandic Government has provided funding to the operations of UN Women in Palestine, Afghanistan and the Balkans.
- Grants have been provided to NGOs whose work has focused on women's rights in conflict-affected societies, such as in Palestine.

1. Parliamentary resolution on the plan of international development co-operation of Iceland 2013–2016. (Put forward at the 141th session of Parliament in 2012–2013) Parliament Document nr. 1311 — Case No. 582.

1 TRAINING AND ADVOCACY

Employees who work on UNSCR 1325, both nationally and internationally need to have good knowledge of the resolution and understand its importance for sustainable peace in the world and for peace-building in conflict-affected areas.

The first objective of the NAP is therefore to increase knowledge of UNSCR 1325 and to promote its implementation nationally and internationally. Special attention will be paid to experts from the ICRU seconded to international organisations in conflict-affected societies and in places where peace-building is underway. At the same time, systematic capacity building and training of employees at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Icelandic International

Development Agency (ICEIDA) will be of key importance. Special emphasis will be put on educating employees about UNSCR 1325 and the implementation of the Icelandic NAP in order for them to be able to apply their knowledge in their work. Employees will be expected to promote UNSCR 1325 and its progress globally, and advocate for the women, peace and security agenda whenever possible.

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>1.1 Employees of the Icelandic Foreign Service, experts seconded to international operations for the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit (ICRU) and employees of the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA), whose work relates to women, peace and security domestically and internationally, have knowledge of and competence in implementing UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and apply their knowledge in their work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Before deployment all ICRU experts, seconded to international operations receive specialised training on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How they can support women to enter into leadership positions and promote women's participation in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction where their work takes place. in conflict-affected environments - How they can promote the protection of women and girls in conflict-affected societies and how they can prevent violence against women and girls - How they can provide assistance to victims of violence in conflict-affected societies ■ Annual training on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security for employees of the Icelandic Foreign Service and ICEIDA ■ Employees of ICEIDA in the field receive specialised education on how to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in partner countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The percentage of seconded experts for the ICRU who received specialised training before deployment should be 100% ■ When evaluating projects, training of employees is shown to have been useful ■ Annual meeting on UNSCR 1325 for each directorate within the MFA ■ Presentation on UNSCR 1325 at the yearly meeting of ambassadors ■ Presentation on UNSCR 1325 at ICEIDA's country offices twice during the NAP's period of validity
<p>1.2 Job descriptions and/or project documents for experts seconded to international organisations of which Iceland is a member take UNSCR 1325 into consideration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Ensure that job descriptions and/or project documents designated for ICRU experts seconded to international organisations promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 when appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The percentage of job descriptions and/or project documents promoting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 should be 75% each year
<p>1.3 Plans of Action and/or Country Strategy Papers are aligned with UNSCR 1325</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Plan of Action for Afghanistan will address specifically how it will promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 ■ Plan of Action for Palestine will address specifically how it will promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 ■ When drafting Country Strategy Papers for Uganda and Mozambique it will be examined if/how the implementation of UNSCR 1325 can be promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Plans of Action for Afghanistan and Palestine will promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 ■ Country Strategy Papers for Uganda and Mozambique will promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325, if applicable

1 TRAINING AND ADVOCACY

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
1.4 The Government of Iceland will, whenever possible, promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Advocacy within the United Nations ■ Advocacy within NATO ■ Advocacy within OSCE ■ Iceland will participate actively in the work of Friends of UN Women at the UN in NY ■ Iceland will participate actively in the work of Friends of Women, Peace and Security at the UN in NY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The number of policy formulation proposals that Iceland puts forward within international organisations each year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thereof: how many proposals are approved ■ The number of events relating to UNSCR 1325 organised by Iceland with one or more participants ■ The number of statements relating UNSCR 1325 presented or supported by Iceland

2 PARTICIPATION²

Women's increased participation of in peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction is vital for creating sustainable peace. The Icelandic Government has advocated that women participate equally with men in peace processes and that women participate in all formal and informal peace negotiations, peace agreements and peace-building.

The second objective of the NAP is therefore to sure that women on an equal basis with men, take full part in decision making and implementation relating to peace processes, peace-building in post-conflict reconstruction. Emphasis is placed on maintaining gender balance among seconded experts of the Icelandic Crisis Response Unit (ICRU), an objective that was reached in 2011. Furthermore, emphasis is placed on increasing the number of women in senior positions, both within international organisations as well as within the Icelandic Foreign Service. The ICRU will likewise second gender experts to international

operations in the field. When Iceland initiates meetings relating to peace and security, or when Icelandic government officials attend or participate in such meetings, emphasis will be placed on women's active participation. The participation of women engaged in peace related issues and/or gender equality issues at such meetings will be encouraged, as well as requesting special meetings with women in leadership positions and/or where representatives of peace and/or gender equality organisations can be invited. At the same time, Iceland will aim for gender balance among the Icelandic participants at such meetings.

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
2.1 The ICRU will recruit gender equality experts for international operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Actively fill positions for gender equality experts within international organisations that work in the field of peace, security and reconstruction. ■ Individuals with experience and/or knowledge of gender equality will be recruited as experts in positions which Iceland fills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of job positions filled in the field of gender equality
2.2 Recruit just as many women as men to work as experts for the ICRU in the field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The ICRU will maintain gender balance among seconded experts in the field, both numerically as well as in months served annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of men and women working in the field to be as equal as possible, 50%/50% numerically as well as in months served annually
2.3 Appoint and recruit more women in senior positions both in Iceland and internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ As the number of women in senior positions has not been mapped, the following measures need to be taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify senior positions in the field of peace and security - Identify senior positions within the Icelandic Foreign Service ■ Iceland will seek to promote the recruitment of women in senior positions within international organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A list of senior positions in the field of peace and security – Completion: December 2013 ■ A list of senior positions within the Icelandic Foreign Service – Completion: December 2013 ■ Percentage of women compared with men who are promoted to senior positions within international organisations

2. The UN definition of Participation: „Promotion and support of women's active and meaningful participation in all peace processes as well as their representation in formal and informal decision making at all levels: Improve partnership and networking with local and international women's rights groups and organisations; recruit and appoint women in senior position in the UN including Special Reps of the SG, and in peacekeeping forces, including military, police and civilian personnel.”

2 PARTICIPATION

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>2.4 Women from conflict-affected areas participate in meetings on peace-building and security affairs that are organised or attended by Icelandic officials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When Icelandic officials and employees of the MFA organise or attend meetings relating to peace and security issues they will request special meetings with women in senior positions and/or representatives from peace and/or gender equality organisations. Furthermore, a gender balance amongst the Icelandic participants will be strived for ■ When Icelandic officials and employees of the MFA organise or attend meetings relating to peace and security issues they will encourage the participation of women working on peace and/or gender equality issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Number of meetings with women in senior positions and/or representatives of peace and/or gender equality organisations ■ Number of women who participate in meetings relating to peace and security issues
<p>2.5 Increased participation of women from conflict affected societies in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ When allocating grants to Icelandic NGOs for development co-operation, humanitarian- and emergency assistance, projects whose main objective is the increased participation of women in peace processes and peace-building will be supported ■ Support international organisations and/or NGOs that work on increasing the participation of women in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Percentage of grants/funding to projects allocated to Icelandic NGOs that promote participation of women in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction ■ Annual funding to local NGO or international organisations' projects that focus on the increased participation of women in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. Minimum annual funding of 5 million Icelandic krona

3 PREVENTION, PROTECTION, RELIEF AND RECOVERY³

Armed conflict affects women and men differently. Women are more likely to be victims in conflict outside active combat. Women are killed in their homes and while working outside the household, they are taken hostage, raped and sold into sexual slavery or are trafficked. It is therefore particularly important to pay attention to the protection of women and girls in conflict, as UNSCR 1325 lays down.

At the same time, women play a special role in the reconstruction of societies, both as agents of change as well as active participants. As victims (in particular victims of sexual violence), women and girls also need protection, relief and recovery. It is therefore paramount that gender perspectives are mainstreamed into all preventive, protective, relief and recovery work.

The third objective of the NAP concerns promoting the protection of women and girls in conflict-affected societies, preventing sexual and gender-based violence, provide support to victims of violence and ensure that the needs of women and girls are met in all humanitarian relief

and recovery work. The NAP calls for all projects relating to peace-building and recovery that Iceland supports through international organisations or NGOs must that women and girls are safely protected and receive assistance if needed. Systematic efforts will be made to provide education on UNSCR 1325 and its provisions to NGOs, that receive funding from the Government. In addition, on-going conversations with NGOs should continue on how to assist victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, contributions will be made to international organisations or NGOs that are engaged in promoting, protecting and assisting victims of sexual violence in the field.

Refugees – women at risk

As of 2005, the Icelandic Government has invited almost 100 refugee women and their children to resettle in Iceland. The women are registered with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as Women at risk and the agency has not been able to guarantee their safety in refugee camps. The women risk being sexually harassed, abused, or are exposed to other forms of violence. During this period, women from Columbia, women of Palestinian decent living in Iraq as well as women from Afghanistan have resettled in Iceland.

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>3.1 Women and girls in conflict-affected situations are protected against violence and will receive relief and recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide training to and hold strategic dialogue with NGOs and relevant institutions on issues relating to UNSCR 1325 as to how women and girls are protected in conflict situations ■ When allocating grants to Icelandic NGOs for development co-operation, humanitarian- and/or emergency assistance, projects whose main objective relates to the protection against sexual violence in conflict situations will be supported ■ Support international organisations and/or local NGOs that work on protecting and supporting victims of violence in the field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A course for Icelandic NGOs held twice during the period of validity of the NAP. Estimated cost: 500 thousand Icelandic krona per course. ■ Percentage of grants/funding provided to Icelandic NGOs' projects that promote and strengthen protection against sexual violence in conflict situations and/or relate to the rehabilitation of victims ■ Contributions to projects implemented by local NGOs and/or international organisations that focus on the protection of women and support to victims of violence. Contributions will amount to a minimum of 10 million Icelandic krona per year, including contribution under item 3.2

3. The UN definition of Prevention: "Mainstream gender perspective into all conflict prevention activities, develop effective gender-sensitive early warning mechanisms and institutions, and strengthen efforts to prevent violence against women, including gender based violence."

The UN definition of Protection: "Strengthen and amplify efforts to secure the safety physical or mental wellbeing economic security and or dignity of women and girls, promote and safeguard human rights of women and mainstream a gender perspective into legal and institutional reform."

The UN definition of Relief and Recovery: "Promote women's equal access to aid distribution mechanisms and services, including those dealing with specific needs of women and girls in all relief efforts."

3 PREVENTION, PROTECTION, RELIEF AND RECOVERY

OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
<p>3.2 Access to professional assistance and rehabilitation for victims of sexual violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide training to and hold strategic dialogue with NGOs and relevant institutions relating to UNSCR 1325 as to how they can provide professional assistance to victims of sexual violence ■ When allocating grants to Icelandic NGOs for development co-operation, humanitarian- and/or emergency assistance, projects whose main objective relates to the protection against sexual violence in conflict situations will be supported ■ Support international organisations and/or local NGOs that work locally to protect and provide assistance to victims of sexual violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A course for Icelandic NGOs, held twice during the period of validity of the NAP. See item 3.1 ■ Percentage of grants/contributions allocated to projects implemented by Icelandic NGOs and support victims of sexual violence ■ Contributions to projects implemented by local NGOs or international organisations that focus on protecting women and assisting survivors of sexual violence. Contributions will amount to a minimum of 10 million Icelandic krona per year, including contribution under item 3.1
<p>3.3 Assist victims of human trafficking in Iceland</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Implement Iceland's Action Plan against Human Trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ See Iceland's Action Plan against Human Trafficking



4 PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Icelandic Government emphasises partnership and coordination with those who work on promoting and implementing UNSCR 1325, including Icelandic and international NGOs, international organisations and other like-minded countries. Such partnerships has a multiplier effect and creates synergies for the benefit of the outcome of measures called for in UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

The fourth objective of the NAP is therefore to strengthen cooperation regarding UNSCR 1325 and strengthen coordination with Icelandic and international stakeholders. It is foreseen that this coordination will include actors and individuals who have experience and knowledge of international operations in conflict situations, and with women who have worked in peace-building and/or lived in conflict situations. UNSCR 1325 will also be presented to pertinent government ministries, organisations and NGOs. During the period, the MFA will host two conferences on women, peace and security, in addition to developing further Nordic coordination and partnership on matters relating to UNSCR 1325.



OUTCOMES	ACTIVITIES	INDICATORS
4.1 Cooperation with individuals who have experience and knowledge of working in conflict situations and the experience of women who have worked in peace-building and lived in conflict-affected societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise a working group in Iceland that coordinates issues related to UNSCR 1325 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terms of reference for the working group Annual meeting of the working group
4.2 Line ministries, agencies and non-governmental organisations involved in women, peace and security have knowledge of UNSCR 1325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present UNSCR 1325 and Iceland's NAP to the line ministries, agencies and non-governmental organisations that are involved in work relating to women, peace and security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of presentations Course for Icelandic NGOs twice during the period of validity of the NAP. See item 3.1
4.3 Increased public awareness and knowledge of UNSCR 1325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference on UNSCR 1325 with the participation of international experts on women, peace and security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conference – twice during the period of validity of the NAP. Estimated cost: 2 million Icelandic krona per conference
4.4 Partnership and cooperation with the Nordic countries to create synergies in the implementation of UNSCR 1325	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-operation with the Nordic Countries on issues relating to UNSCR 1325 Measures taken to cooperate on issues relating to joint training, such as with Nordic training centres; regarding monitoring, evaluations and assessments (mutual and joint); research; joint projects in field operations and coordinated measures globally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active participation in Nordic co-operation on issues relating to UNSCR 1325 Mapping of a possible Nordic co-operation – Completion: December 2013 Partnerships will have begun with at least one Nordic partners

ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND REPORTING

The National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is a policy document of the Icelandic Government relating to women, peace and security. Those whose work relates to peace and security issues on behalf of Iceland must enforce the Plan.

A special expert team on gender equality operates within the MFA. The team, which is composed of representatives from the MFA and ICEIDA, is responsible for ensuring coherence in Iceland's policy on gender equality in development co-operation and to strengthen the synergies of Iceland's development projects. The team monitors the implementation of the NAP and reports on its progress in its annual report. The Minister for Foreign Affairs furthermore reports annually to the parliament on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the MFA gender focal point summarises its progress in a separate annual report.

Experts seconded to international operations on behalf of the ICRU are required to report annually on their work to the MFA. They will provide information on how (and if) they have worked on implementing UNSCR 1325 during their work in the field and how the training they received benefitted their work. This information will subsequently be assessed in order to make the training more effective.

As of 2011, all bilateral contributions, including contributions towards peace-building, have been analysed, using the OECD/DAC Gender Equality Policy Marker. The analysis is used to determine whether projects are intended to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, or not. Projects are divided into three categories:

2. projects which have gender equality and empowerment of women as their **Principal objective**.
1. projects in which gender equality and empowerment of women is a **Significant objective**.
0. projects which are **Not targeted to the policy objective** of gender equality and empowerment of women.



The purpose of this analysis is to determine whether Icelandic contributions towards peace-building efforts are intended to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

The NAP is valid for four years, from 2013 to 2016. An assessment will be carried out in the middle of the period (in 2014/2015) to determine if the objectives, activities and indicators are still pertinent or if any changes are needed.



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