



Operationalizing the Stockholm Declaration: Proposals for translating commitments on gender into IDPS mandate and work plan

The Global Meeting of the International Dialogue held in Stockholm on 5th April agreed on several areas for the IDPS to prioritize over the next few years. It recognized that “a particular focus is needed to ensure gender-sensitivity and women’s effective participation in peace processes and peacebuilding” and committed to “strengthening gender approaches and women’s active participation in peacebuilding by linking the implementation of the New Deal to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.” The meeting also agreed to “make concerted political and financial efforts to operationalize and implement the 2030 Agenda“, which includes SDG 5 on gender equality and a commitment to gender-sensitive implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals.

The Independent Review of the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States highlighted the lack of sufficient focus on gender mainstreaming and women’s participation that has earlier been emphasized by civil society¹. It noted that opportunities for progress include building synergies with existing gender-sensitive initiatives such as national action plans for women, peace and security. It also pointed to gender analysis in peacebuilding as a priority area for future investment in research and knowledge generation. Given these commitments and recommendations, operationalizing the Stockholm Declaration and responding to the Independent Review requires considerable focus on gender in the development of the new IDPS mandate and work plan. This is mainly to bring closer the implementation process of the New Deal and the United Nations resolution on women, peace and security (UNSCR 1325). The connection of these two processes has the advantage of strengthening the promotion of gender in peacebuilding and the fight against fragility in those states affected by conflict, through the capitalization of knowledge of each process. This also intends to draw on political support from states and donors to the New Deal, bolstering 1325 among civil society, particularly women's organizations.

During the CSPPS-organized lunch-time discussion chaired by Sweden and Sierra Leone as part of the IDPS Steering Group meeting in Paris on 5th November 2015, IDPS members already suggested a number of concrete steps that could be taken to integrate gender into the New Deal implementation process and the future of the IDPS. Building on these suggestions, this paper outlines overall principles and specific proposals for integrating gender into the IDPS mandate and work plan, so as to facilitate effective operationalization of Stockholm commitments and Independent Review findings.

I. Overall Principles

Operationalizing Stockholm commitments on gender effectively requires applying several key principles in the development of the IDPS mandate and work plan, including:

- Adopting a **gender-relational approach** that focuses on the links between gender roles

and identities of both men and women and drivers of peace and conflict.

- Using a **two-pronged approach** that combines 1) gender analysis and -sensitivity throughout all IDPS activities with 2) targeted initiatives designed to strengthen gender approaches and to specifically empower and support women and girls.
- Consistently ensuring **the meaningful participation** of women and actors/institutions involved in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, SDG 5, and other gender-related initiatives.
- Capitalise on CSPPS organizations' experience and expertise working around 1325 to strengthen women peace and security at the IDPS
- Ensuring **gender expertise** is available for the design/implementation of IDPS activities.
- Realizing **synergies** with existing processes for the implementation of UNSCR 1325, SDG 5 and other gender-related activities (including 1325 National Action Plans, monitoring exercises, task forces, open days etc.). In view of limited resources, much can be done by leveraging synergies with existing processes more effectively.
- Ensuring **monitoring** of all IDPS activities is gender-sensitive and focuses i.a. on tracking progress against the Stockholm commitment on gender.
- Enabling the development of an IDPS **Action Plan for Gender/1325** in addition to integrating gender into the main work plan.
- Mandating a small informal **group of interested members** to comment on draft mandate and work plans from a gender perspective and take the lead in developing an IDPS Action Plan on Gender/1325.
- Ensuring that gender analysis informs all IDPS activities at all levels.

II. Mandates for IDPS and Working Groups

In order to reflect and operationalize Stockholm commitments, the mandates for the IDPS and Working Groups should:

- Reference/reflect the **Stockholm commitment to “strengthening gender approaches and women’s active participation in peacebuilding by linking the implementation of the New Deal to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.”**
- Ensure that **IDPS structures at all levels** enable consistent and effective participation of women and actors/institutions working on the implementation of UNSCR 1325/SDG 5 and other gender-related activities (e.g. Ministries of Gender, national and international women’s civil society organizations, UN Women). In addition, gender expertise should be routinely available for the design/implementation of IDPS activities, and efforts should be made to support capacity building of key stakeholders in this regard.
- Make explicit that all future **monitoring exercises** will be gender-sensitive, particularly in the collection and use of gender-sensitive and sex-disaggregated data, and focus i.a. on tracking progress against the Stockholm commitment to strengthening gender approaches.
- Mandate the development of an **Action Plan on Gender/UNSCR 1325**. This is in line with the UNSCR 1325 Action Plans developed by other international bodies and at the national level by 31 IDPS members. A dedicated action plan would send a strong signal that the IDPS is living up to its commitments and international best practice and help ensure effective follow-up on the Stockholm Declaration. A small working group of interested members could be tasked with developing this plan.
- Develop a practical guideline to assist IDPS member states in ensuring synergy between members’ 1325 NAPs and an IDPS Action Plan on gender and/or New Deal strategies and 1325 Action Plans.
- Cost and allocate budget for the implementation of the Gender/1325 Action Plan.

- Integrate and share the New Deal experience during key international gender related processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)'s Session in March, UNSCR 1325 Anniversary in October, the commemoration of the Maputo Protocol in July, etc.)

III. Action and Work Plans

In order to achieve this mandate and fulfil Stockholm commitments, the action and work plans should:

- Overall, adopt a **two-pronged approach** and 1) ensure gender-sensitivity across all areas of activity and 2) include specific activities to strengthen gender approaches and specifically support and empower women and girls.
- Ensure the effective participation of Ministries of Gender, women's groups and other actors involved in the implementation of 1325/ SDG 5 in **future country-level work** and realize synergies with related processes at country level (e.g. 1325 national action plans, monitoring exercises, open days etc.). A specific work stream could explore these synergies in greater detail in a sub-set of interested countries, gathering lessons that can subsequently be applied in other contexts. This work can and should make use of a toolkit on gender-sensitive peacebuilding and statebuilding already being developed by Cordaid with an advisory group comprising all IDPS constituencies.
- Ensure synergy and support resource mobilization to finance the implementation of country based National Action Plan (NAP 1325) in line with the IDPS Gender/1325 Action Plan financing strategy.
- Ensure **future guidance on New Deal implementation** is gender-sensitive and includes specific guidance, practical examples and lessons learned on what works in integrating gender into New Deal implementation. This could build on country-level work to explore synergies with 1325-related processes.
- Share experiences and progress in gender-sensitive New Deal implementation at country level, new evidence and guidance material in dedicated **discussions at IDPS Steering Group level**.
- Strengthen IDPS stakeholders' capacities in integrating gender into peacebuilding and statebuilding processes, by for example by piloting the use of the Toolkit on Gender in Peacebuilding and Statebuilding currently being finalized by Cordaid in collaboration with CSPPS and other IDPS stakeholders.
- Draw on lessons and examples regarding gender-sensitive New Deal implementation to strengthen **global advocacy** among actors/institutions working on UNSCR 1325 and SDG 5.
- Ensure all future **monitoring exercises** are gender-sensitive and focus i.a. on progress against the Stockholm commitment to strengthening gender approaches.
- Include the development of an **Action Plan on Gender/UNSCR 1325** that brings together and helps ensure systematic follow-up on the gender dimensions of IDPS activities. To ensure effective integration of gender approaches this action plan should be developed in addition to mainstreaming activities in the main work plan.
- Support cross-country research to build and strengthen the evidence base on what works in supporting gender-sensitive peacebuilding and statebuilding, including what impact gender-related programming can have on peacebuilding and statebuilding outcomes (ideally through collaborative processes involving southern and northern-based researchers).

IV. Support Structure and Mechanisms at Country Level

To enable these activities, support structures and mechanisms should at a minimum:

- Ensure the consistent **participation** of women and actors/institutions working on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and SDG 5, such as local and international women's civil society, Ministries of Gender, and UN Women in all IDPS activities, not only those where gender equality is a key objective.
- Ensure **gender expertise** is routinely available for the design and implementation of IDPS activities at all levels as well as building capacity for gender analysis among all IDPS stakeholders.
- Establish a small, informal **working group** to draw up an Action Plan on Gender/ UNSCR 1325, to comment on the integration of gender in draft mandates and action plans and help monitor follow-up.

ⁱ See for relevant publications in this context:

- CordAID. Integrating Gender into the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Policy Paper, September 2012. (Identifies entry points for integrating a gender perspective into the New Deal and its implementation, with case studies from Afghanistan and South-Sudan.) <https://www.cordaid.org/en/publications/gender-new-deal/>
- Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding. Integrating Gender into Peacebuilding Compacts and Fragility Assessments: Insights from South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan. 2014. (Based on discussions during a CSW 58 side event that built on recommendations/priorities for New Deal implementation from women's groups in South Sudan, Somalia and Afghanistan). <http://www.cspps.org/documents/130616042/131257080/CSW+EN+Report.pdf/b9a2808f-24cc-4a8c-9e10-0cce42eeabdf>
- "Integrating gender into the future of the IDPS and New Deal implementation" (Room document for relevant discussion during November IDPS Steering Group meeting in Paris, which includes results of a survey of CSPPS focal points on gender & New Deal) https://www.pbsdialogue.org/media/filer_public/5e/54/5e542b5c-300d-4f22-af87-68a1567d2815/rd_9_gender_and_the_new_deal.pdf
- Global Study on 1325 Implementation. (Includes reflection on importance of women's participation and gender-sensitivity for New Deal implementation). <http://wps.unwomen.org/en/highlights/global-study-release>