

Security Council open debate on  
WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY:  
IMPLEMENTING THE COMMON AGENDA

Concept Note

**Background**

In 2000, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women and peace and security – the first resolution focused on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution. Since then the Security Council has adopted seven additional resolutions on women and peace and security, including resolution 2122 (2013) which reiterated the Council’s intention to convene a High-level Review to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). To set the stage for such a review, the Security Council invited the Secretary-General to commission a Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325, highlighting good practices, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action.

The October 2015 open debate of the Security Council to review the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) generated unprecedented interest attracting over 110 speakers. The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2242 (2015) which recognized the significance of the fifteenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), as well as the opportunity and need for far greater implementation of the women and peace and security agenda.

A number of Member States noted that despite progress made since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), implementation of its provisions was still

lagging. Women and children still suffered disproportionately in conflict and post-conflict countries, especially now that terrorist groups like Boko Haram or ISIL (Da'esh) specifically targeted women. The need for including women on a par with men in all stages of peace processes, peacekeeping and peacebuilding was also stressed. More than 160 political, institutional and financial commitments were made by Member States and regional organizations that participated in the open debate.

The 2016 report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security provides information on progress made to follow up on the High-level Review, including the recommendations by the Secretary-General on the Global Study and new commitments made as part of the Review, as well as appropriate monitoring and evaluation arrangements for the UN system.

The report also highlights noteworthy advances in the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). Today more women are involved in peace talks, more peace agreements include provisions that relate to the special needs of women and girls and support their human rights, and more security sector personnel is trained to prevent and respond to sexual and other violence against women. However, further concerted efforts are needed.

### **Scope of the open debate**

During its presidency in the Security Council in October 2016, the Russian Federation will convene the annual open debate on women and peace and security to consider progress made in implementing commitments by Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations in relation to the High-level Review on women and peace and security in October 2015, as well as future steps to advance the women and peace and security agenda.

Member States, United Nations entities, relevant regional organizations and civil society should promote equal and effective participation of women in efforts to maintain and strengthen peace and security. Women's needs and perspectives should be included in peace and security planning and monitoring. UN entities need to further enhance coordination for gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions. All parties to armed conflict must commit to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian, refugee and human rights law in order to protect civilians, in particular women and girls.

Priority areas for action were recommended by the Secretary-General in his 2015 report (S/2015/716). The open debate will provide a platform for Member States and regional organizations to share their experiences and information on efforts to implement commitments made in October 2015 and conclusions of the High-level Review. It will also allow for discussion on how Member States, regional organizations and the United Nations can continue to promote the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and to address obstacles and constraints that have emerged over the 16 years after its adoption

No outcome document is planned for adoption at this meeting.

**Date/Time:** 25 October 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Security Council Chamber

**Speakers**

- (a) UN Secretary-General;
- (b) Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN Women;
- (c) Civil society representative (TBC).

