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Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Women, men, girls and boys experience and take action differently in the context of armed conflict, peacekeeping, peace building and reconstruction. Contemporary conflicts affect civilian populations in particular, and in this context women have often become strategic targets, sometimes on a massive scale, as when rape is used as a tactic of warfare and ethnic cleansing. Many women and girls also become combatants' domestic and sexual slaves. Women are however not only victims of war and violence. They also play active roles as combatants, peace builders, politicians and activists. The equal participation of men and women in these roles is both an essential goal and means to help prevent and resolve conflicts and promote a culture of inclusive and sustainable peace. There is a close link between the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the opportunities made available to women to participate politically, to achieve a sustainable livelihood and to feel secure in their communities during and after conflict.

2. Adopted on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2000, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 is the first Security Council resolution to address the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women. UNSCR 1325 reinforces prior international and regional legal commitments and conventions relevant to women, peace and security<sup>1</sup> and establishes a series of new principles. It stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction. It calls on member states to ensure women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. It urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts, including Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR).
3. On 19 June 2008, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict, which explicitly links sexual violence as a tactic of war with the maintenance of international peace and security. UNSCR 1820 reinforces Resolution 1325 in recognising that sexual violence is often widespread and systematic and can impede the restoration of international peace and security. The Security Council has now a clear mandate to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence, including through sanctions and training to empower field staff to prevent and respond to these issues. The resolution highlights that sexual violence perpetrated by arms bearers against civilians constitutes a war crime and demands parties to armed conflict to immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians from sexual violence, including training troops and enforcing disciplinary measures,

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<sup>1</sup> The 1949 Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols (1977) recognise the illegality of attacking civilians, rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict; the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergencies and Armed Conflict (1974) and the Vienna Declaration of 1993, recognize the special protection needs of women and children as a fundamental component of international human rights commitments; the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), refers to planning and execution of development activities in conflict and post-conflict environments. Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court identifies rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy and forced sterilization or any form of sexual violence as crimes against humanity and war crimes that equate them with a form of torture as a serious war crime. The Beijing Platform of Action of 1995 includes women and armed conflict as a key strategic objective, including promoting the status of women in war affected countries as well as combating violence against women.

## **A. RATIONALE AND OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE PRESENT DOCUMENT**

4. A gender perspective, encompassing both women and men, should inform EU external actions in order to achieve a comprehensive response to the threats faced by the civilian population in times of conflict and in its aftermath. This is the premise for effective stabilisation, peace building, post-conflict reconstruction and institution building. Moreover, a strengthened commitment to gender issues in the EU activities, with regard to conflict prevention, crisis management, peace building and post-conflict reconstruction and institution building, can enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Furthermore women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution efforts are a valuable resource for the development of sustainable and inclusive approaches to peace and security.
5. The European Union has policy commitments to promote the role of women in peace building and to enhance the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 in its external actions. Building on these commitments, this document sets out a common EU approach to the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820. It provides comprehensive guidance to ensure that the Union's external actions are shaped to protect women from violence, that they contribute to increased equality between women and men during and after armed conflict and in situations of fragility.
6. The document draws on previous experiences and lessons identified within the international community in general and the EU in particular. In order to ensure full coherence between and within EC and CFSP/ESDP instruments and proper continuity in its crisis management initiatives and further reconstruction and development work, the document outlines common definitions and principles, and includes a series of specific measures to move forward.

## B. DEFINITIONS

### 7. *Gender*

*Gender* refers to the socially constructed differences, as opposed to the biological ones, between women and men; this means differences that have been learned, are changeable over time, have wide variations both within and between cultures<sup>1</sup>. Gender roles and relations are often altered during and after armed conflict. It is important to note that gender is not only about women, but about gender roles of both sexes, and that a gender perspective thereby also concerns the role of men.

### 8. *Gender mainstreaming*

In this context, the Council of Europe (CoE) definition will be used. According to the CoE, “gender mainstreaming is the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making. Gender mainstreaming cannot replace specific policies which aim to redress situations resulting from gender inequality. Specific gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming are dual and complementary strategies and must go hand in hand to reach the goal of gender equality.”<sup>2</sup>

Similar to this is the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) defines gender mainstreaming as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

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<sup>1</sup> One Hundred Words for Equality : A glossary of terms on equality between women and men (DG Employment and social Affairs, 1998).

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human\\_Rights/Equality/02.\\_Gender\\_mainstreaming/](http://www.coe.int/T/E/Human_Rights/Equality/02._Gender_mainstreaming/)

## 9. *Gender-based violence*

Gender-based Violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will, and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. Acts of GBV violate a number of universal human rights protected by international instruments and conventions. Many — but not all — forms of GBV are illegal and criminal acts in national laws and policies. Around the world, GBV has a greater impact on women and girls than on men and boys. It is important to note, however, that men and boys may also be victims of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence.<sup>1</sup>

### **C. CHALLENGES AND KEY REQUIREMENTS**

10. Although there has been some progress in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, important challenges remain. With regard to the protection of women, the weakest pillar of the implementation of Resolution 1325 is prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence. The extent of this crime is enormous: women around the world continue to suffer systematic sexual violence and rape before, during and after armed conflict<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2005) Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies ([http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf\\_gender-gbv](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/pageloader.aspx?page=content-subsidi-tf_gender-gbv))

<sup>2</sup> Rape and other forms of sexual violence in Darfur are being used as a weapon of war in order to humiliate, punish, control, inflict fear and displace women and their communities (source: Amnesty International). According to statistics provided by local health centres, on the average 40 women are raped every day in the province of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Of these, 13% are under 14 years of age, 3% die as a result of rape and 10-12% contract HIV/AIDS ([http://reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2007.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/KHII-6XT58W-full\\_report.pdf/\\$File/full\\_report.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/rw/RWFiles2007.nsf/FilesByRWDocUnidFilename/KHII-6XT58W-full_report.pdf/$File/full_report.pdf)).

11. As to women's participation, rather than acknowledging the key role that women play in processes of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace building, women continue often to be excluded from positions of decision-making in the sphere of peace and security.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, the 2008 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women highlighted the lack of systematic interaction between peace negotiators/mediators and women's organisations and networks and deplored that women were only rarely selected as members of international teams leading peace negotiations. In addition, the interaction between experts on security and gender equality issues remains insufficient. Furthermore, the opportunity to include a gender perspective in Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR) activities is often neglected rendering these programmes inaccessible to women.<sup>2</sup> The same has been true for Security Sector Reform, although some progress has been made recently.
12. With regard to conflict prevention and early warning, research has shown that in a number of cases women either predicted the outbreak of violence or had access to vital information that may have stopped the outbreak of violence, but were unable to communicate to the relevant authorities.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A review of a sample (13 out of 34) major peace negotiation processes since the year in which SCR 1325 was adopted nearly eight years ago shows that women's participation in peace negotiations remains ad hoc, not systematic, and also that women represent a strikingly low number of participants: • Only 2.7% of signatories to this sample of peace agreements were women; • There were no female peace mediators in 12 cases for which information was available; • Women's participation in negotiating delegations averaged 7% of the 5 cases for which such information was available; • Within peace agreements, where there are gender-specific provisions, the priority issues are women's physical security and human rights guarantees. (source: UNIFEM, October 2008).

<sup>2</sup> For example the DDR process involving the paramilitary United Self Defences of Colombia did not incorporate initiatives targeting women, despite the fact that seven percent of the paramilitary ranks were women (source: Hunt Alternatives Fund, Initiative for Inclusive Security – Toolkit Updated Edition, December, Hunt Alternatives Fund [Boston]: 2007). Thirty percent of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front were estimated to be female but only 17% of demobilised soldiers were women and 91% of the loans distributed to combatants were given to men (source: United Nations Department of Public Information – DPI/2409 – November 2005).

<sup>3</sup> Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi. 2007. Women Building Peace: What they do, Why it matters, Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

13. One of the major lessons identified by the UN in its implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been that, without concerted efforts with the government and civil society at the country level, the implementation of the Resolution remains elusive. The active support and involvement of a broad and diverse civil society is essential both for the implementation and monitoring of the Resolution.<sup>1</sup> It's also crucial to ensure that local authorities and armed groups are aware of their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law.
14. Further insights and recommendations have been made by different fora, including the ECPDM study<sup>2</sup>. The conference co-organised on 10 October 2008 by the French EU Presidency and UNIFEM in cooperation with the EC also pointed to a series of key requirements to improve future work such as the need to increase understanding of the subject matter, to strengthen partnerships and to integrate women, peace and security considerations more systematically in operational work. Further points include the need to specify gender issues in mandates of missions and special representatives, to earmark resources for gender work, and establish accountability and monitoring mechanisms. The conference also endorsed the idea of elaborating a comprehensive EU approach on women, peace and security.

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the SG on women and peace and security S/2007/567

<sup>2</sup> 'Enhancing the EU Response to Women and Armed Conflict with particular reference to development policy: Study for the Slovenian EU Presidency', European Centre for Development Policy Management, Discussion Paper 84, by Andrew Sheriff with Karen Barnes, April 2008 ( <http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/1325/euresponseWAC.pdf> )



**D. A COMPREHENSIVE EU APPROACH ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY:  
THE BASIC PRINCIPLES**

15. *Holistic approach*

The EU recognises the close links between the issues of peace, security, development and gender equality. Therefore, there is not only the need to promote the participation and the protection of women in conflict situations and peace building but also the need to ensure that these actions are supported by wider development considerations, such as the promotion of women's economic security and opportunities and their access to health services and education. This is particularly important in the light of the long-term negative impact that violent conflict has on the development of a country or a region and the need to plan for a multidimensional human security as the basic condition for attaining long term peace and development.

16. *Promotion of the respect for Human Rights and equality between women and men*

Equality between women and men is a fundamental right, a common value of the EU enshrined in the EC Treaty and a necessary condition for the achievement of the objectives of elimination of poverty, growth, employment, social cohesion and the promotion of peace and security. In line with the international commitments such as the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Millennium development Goals, the European Consensus for development, the Common Foreign and Security Policy objectives, the EU will continue to monitor the follow-up of the BPfA and in particular the critical area of concern “women and armed conflict”. It will continue to promote the ratification and implementation of the key UN Human Rights Instruments and their Optional Protocols, in this context particularly the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol. In doing so, the EU will make full use of the EU Human Rights Guidelines<sup>1</sup>, in particular the 2008 Guidelines on violence against women and girls and the elimination of discrimination against them. The EU will continue to support the work undertaken by the International Criminal Court (ICC), International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), International Criminal tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY), Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) and other similar structures.

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<sup>1</sup> Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2008), Death Penalty (2008), Children and Armed Conflict (2008), Promotion and protection of the rights of the child (2007), International Humanitarian Law (IHL), (2005) Human Rights Defenders (2004), Human rights dialogues (2001).

17. *Promoting respect for international humanitarian law*

The EU will continue its policy of promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in line with the “EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with international humanitarian law”<sup>1</sup>. In order to implement Resolution 1820, the EU will pay particular attention in this respect to ensuring respect for the prohibition of rape and other forms of sexual violence. Whenever the EU itself is involved in peacekeeping or peace building missions/operations it will enforce a zero-tolerance policy with respect to rape and other forms of sexual violence allegedly committed by its troops or staff and commanders will ensure that clear instructions have been provided to this effect and that proper structures are in place to enforce such a policy, including through a reporting mechanism to competent national authorities.

18. *Three-pronged approach*

The EU will use a three-pronged approach to protect, support and empower women in conflict related situations and in long-term development cooperation, with the aim of achieving gender equality. Firstly, the EU will integrate women, peace and security issues in its political and policy dialogue with partner governments, particularly of countries affected by armed conflict, in post conflict situations or situations of fragility. Secondly, the EU will mainstream a gender equality approach in its policies and activities, especially in the context of crisis management and in its long-term development cooperation. Thirdly, the EU will support specific strategic actions (for example through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights or the Instrument for Stability, see Annex) targeted at protecting, supporting and empowering women. The EU also recognises that in order to improve the status of women and promote gender equality, more attention should be paid to how men are involved in the process and the positive impact of gender equality for men and for the well-being of society as a whole<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 2005/C 327/04

<sup>2</sup> Council Conclusions on men and gender equality <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/06/st14/st14845.en06.pdf>

19. *Strengthening local, national and regional ownership and implementation of Resolution 1325 and ensuring consultation and cooperation with local stakeholders*

When planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating EU activities, enhanced co-ordination and co-operation, involving all stakeholders, including national governments, local authorities, civil society, non state actors, international and regional organisations<sup>1</sup>, are essential. The EU will step up its consultations and cooperation with local and international non state actors active in the promotion of women's rights. It will seek to consult and cooperate with issue-specific groups when such an approach is deemed useful, for example with women's health groups or women cooperatives, and search for other strategic venues for connecting to women, such as religious institutions. The EU will also support and build the capacity of local non state actors to enable their full participation in the promotion of women's rights and gender equality in conflict-affected regions. The EU will seek to support third countries in their efforts to develop and to implement national action plans or other national level strategies on Resolution 1325.

20. *Solid contextual understanding*

Considering the vast scope and complexity of the issues related to women, peace and security, and the fact that each situation is different, EU interventions will be prepared on the basis of a solid contextual understanding of the situation in the country and/or region concerned. To achieve this, the EU will promote a gender-sensitive approach in the preparatory phases of its activities, thus seeking to obtain a thorough understanding of issues such as women's participation in political, cultural and economic life and sexual and gender based violence.

21. *Specific attention paid to children's rights*

In line with its commitments with regard to the protection and the promotion of children's rights, the EU will pay specific attention to children, particularly girls and boys victims of sexual violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Such as the African Union and the African regional and sub-regional organisations.

22. *Strengthening co-operation with other actors, especially the UN*

EU actors will work together with relevant intergovernmental organisations, particularly the UN but also actors such as the OSCE and AU and other regional organisations willing to advance gender equality and peace and build on existing initiatives and experience. The goal is to create synergies in situations where the EU and UN or other intergovernmental organisations play significant roles.

**E. SPECIFIC MEASURES**

**Political support for SCR 1325 and 1820**

23. The EU will promote the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 through its political and human rights dialogues with partner countries, particularly those affected by armed conflict, in post conflict phase or situations of fragility, ensuring that local and national civil society organisations are engaged in the process<sup>1</sup>.

24. The EU will seek to raise awareness and mobilise decision makers on the issues at stake, particularly with regard to the preparation of Beijing +15 and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Resolution 1325 in 2010. In this context, the EU will present at the end of 2009 a report and Council conclusions on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which will contribute to the 54<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. It will furthermore promote the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 through its political statements made within the international fora and through the different women networks such as the ‘European Network of women in political and economic decision-making’<sup>2</sup> and the Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner’s network of women political leaders.

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<sup>1</sup> Fragility refers to weak or failing structures and to situations where the social contract is broken due to the State’s incapacity or unwillingness to deal with its basic functions, meet its obligations and responsibilities regarding service delivery, management of resources, rule of law, equitable access to power, security and safety of the populace and protection and promotion of citizens' rights and freedoms: cf. COM (2007) 643 final, para

<sup>2</sup> Among the key actions envisaged in the EC Roadmap for Gender Equality was the creation of a European Network of women in political and economic decision-making. The objective of the network is to contribute to a better representation of women in the decision-making positions at political and economic levels.

25. The EU considers peace processes as opportunities to promote women's empowerment, gender equality, gender mainstreaming and respect for women's rights within resulting peace agreements and in its interventions will seek to ensure that these issues are integrated and prioritised in the subsequent peace building and post conflict reconstruction phase. The EU will seek to support women's participation in peace processes both through diplomacy and financial support. The EU will strive towards greater number of women as mediators and chief negotiators. Recognising that women's peace efforts at the local and national levels are also a valuable resource for conflict resolution and peace building, the EU will support these organisations to engage in peace processes in addition to involving women at all formal decision-making levels.

### **Training**

26. Gender issues and UNSCR 1325 awareness in the context of ESDP missions/operations are training requirements in the field of ESDP. The EU will therefore continue to improve its understanding of issues related to women, peace and security through intensified and consolidated training at all levels. Member States will offer relevant training courses to the annual EU training programme to train their nationals and open these courses also for the participation of other nationals. The European Security and Defence College will continue to reflect the gender perspective in all relevant ESDC training activities. It will also consider the production of training material in the context of the developing Internet-Based Advanced Distance Learning (IDL) system making use of existing training material of Member States, the UN, OSCE and other potential contributors.
27. The Commission will organise on a regular basis a headquarters-based training on women, peace and security in addition to gender training courses ongoing in its Delegations<sup>1</sup>. It will furthermore integrate a component on women, peace and security in its online training course. A gender component will systematically be included in the training courses related to all relevant sectors such as DDR, SSR and electoral observation.

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<sup>1</sup> These courses are regularly organised in the EC Delegations and in addition to EC Delegation staff are open to EU Member States' representatives in the countries concerned as well as national authorities and women's machineries.

## **Exchange of information and best practices**

28. The exchange of information between the different actors involved should be encouraged without prejudice to the chain of command. To this end, a ‘Women, Peace and Security Task Force’ will be convened in Brussels to increase inter-institutional coordination and to promote a coherent approach to gender-related issues. The Task Force will be composed of staff working on both gender equality and security issues across the relevant Council Secretariat and Commission services, and be open to EU Member State participation. It should meet regularly with the EU SG/HR Personal Representative on Human Rights, the CPCC Civilian Operations Commander and other relevant senior officials. The Task Force should regularly consult with civil society organisations.
29. An open exchange among EU Member States on national implementation of Resolution 1325 will be organised once a year in view of sharing best practices and identifying joint interests, taking in particular into account difficulties encountered and the lessons identified for the future. This exchange could also provide a platform for civil society representatives from conflict-affected regions to deliver statements on their priorities and progress made at the local and national levels related to the implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.
30. Information sharing and consultation on women, peace and security issues is encouraged between ESDP mission/operation representatives and EC delegations without prejudice to the chain of command.
31. A dedicated Website for women, peace and conflict issues will be set up to facilitate access to information. Without prejudice to the chain of command ESDP gender focal points will have access to the EC network of gender focal points and invited to the meetings and trainings taking place in Brussels.

## Action at country and regional levels

32. EU financial instruments with a conflict prevention, crisis management or post-conflict component will incorporate a gender dimension in their programming and implementation. The EU will seek to support third countries in their efforts to establish and implement national action plans on UNSCR 1325, including supporting local and national consultation processes that engage women's organisations and other civil society representatives. For longer term country level operations, the Country Strategy Papers (CSP) – prepared in close liaison with partner governments – are the privileged framework to promote the participation of women in conflict prevention, peace building and reconstruction and to ensure that their protection and security needs are adequately taken in consideration. In order to provide an overview of the EU response for countries affected by armed conflict, in post conflict phase or situations of fragility, CSPs shall also refer to relevant interventions under both CFSP and the Instrument for Stability.
33. The EU will seek to make full use of its regional cooperation as an area that has clear potential for positive impact on women, peace and security. In this context the EU will pay specific attention to women, peace and security considerations at its regional level dialogues and seek to mobilise support to regional organisations' own gender plans. It will furthermore make efforts to support non-governmental regional initiatives from civil society and parliamentarians. The EU will continue to promote the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in the framework of its partnership with the African Union and regional and sub-regional African organisations, particularly with regard to the management of peace and security operations and capacity-building activities financed through the African Peace Facility (APF).
34. In the EU Special Representatives' mandates consideration will be given to women, peace and security, including actions such as monitoring women's situation, reporting as well as maintaining contacts with relevant authorities and intergovernmental organisations, the human rights observers active in the region and the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.



## **Integration of women, peace and security considerations in sector activity**

35. Security: Specific attention will be paid to women and girl combatants and women and girls associated with fighting forces in the context of EU-supported Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes. DDR programmes will also take into account the specific needs of men and boys. Furthermore the EU will seek to ensure that DDR processes are utilised as an opportunity to sensitise participants on sexual and gender-based violence, ex-combatants must be screened to prevent premature social integration of perpetrators of such violence.

In its support to Security Sector Reform (SSR), the EU will ensure that the reform processes account for the specific security needs of both women and men, boys and girls, and promote women's inclusion in the staff of the institutions concerned (such as the police). Specific attention will be paid to investments in the required infrastructure (e.g. forensic laboratories) and human resources needed for reception of victims of Sexual and Gender-based Violence and investigation of these crimes. In its support to the strengthening and reform of the justice sector the EU will seek to enhance the involvement of women and their access to justice, including transitional justice mechanisms. The EU will pay specific attention to building capacity for the prosecution of crimes against women and the protection of witnesses. The provision of reparations and other forms of redress for survivors will be considered wherever possible. Ending impunity for war crimes affecting women is the objective of these efforts, as is providing justice and redress to victims.

36. Governance and civil society: Transition periods offer windows of opportunity to review and redraft constitutions and laws and to create new systems of governance, including reform of both customary and formal judicial systems. The EU will pay specific attention to the following:
- advancing the protection of women's rights in conformity with International Law: elimination of discrimination in the letter and application of all relevant laws;
  - supporting women as actors in conducting healing and reconciliation processes, i.a. by involving women in decision-making to create truth and reconciliation commissions or corresponding structures;

- Promoting women in political decision making and government bodies: encourage an increased participation of women as voters and candidates in elections at all levels;
- Support to community-based women’s groups and organisations and other non state actors involved in the protection of women’s rights. These groups provide women with a space to be informed and trained and to exercise their civil and political rights. They also have a role in the monitoring of public policies, including national and local budgets.

37. Economic security: The EU activities aimed at protecting women and enabling them to act as active agents in conflict related situations should also take into consideration the importance of economic security for women. The development of enabling legal systems should be supported so that land and asset ownership will be guaranteed for women, particularly in contexts where female-headed households risk losing land and other productive assets because of gender-biased inheritance systems. Credit and other enterprise support systems designed to catalyse economic recovery particularly in agrarian economies must be tailored to serve women producers.
38. Health: In its support to the health sector, the EU will take into account the responsibility that women bear not only for their own health needs but also for those of their families. The EU will see to that emergency and basic health services are designed in such a way that they are accessible and affordable and can in the longer run be transformed to sustainable health institutions. Particular attention will be paid to funding of maternal health services, duly equipped to treat the consequences of sexual violence (including complex fistulae and STDs).
39. Education: Basic education enables women to protect themselves and their family and to be active at community, local and national levels. The EU’s efforts should ensure, when possible, the continuity of basic education services during conflict and post conflict periods. They should also support the building of strong, equitable and sustainable education systems that would, in the long term, enable girls and boys, men and women to fully take part in the development processes of their country. Protection of girls from sexual violence at school perpetrated by teachers and male students is essential to build the willingness of families to send daughters to school during and after conflict.

40. Humanitarian aid: The EU will endeavour to help victims avoid exposure to risks. On the one hand, it is of crucial importance that humanitarian actors take great care so that their own activities and their secondary effects do not put victims at risk. On the other hand, if particular risk factors have been identified, assistance should be provided that helps to avoid them (women's exposure to risk is often linked to them having to leave a relatively secure perimeter, a village or an IDP camp, in search for water, food or firewood). Best practices of humanitarian actors, such as the ICRC, will be taken into account.

### **Cooperation with the UN and other international actors**

41. The EU will further consolidate its work with regard to women, peace and security related issues through strategic cooperation with international actors (e.g. the UN secretariat and relevant UN agencies, notably UNIFEM, and the ICRC). The EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management will periodically review progress on implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820.
42. In its contribution to the work of the UN Peace building Commission, the EU will actively promote the full inclusion of women, peace and security considerations in the Commission's work both in the context of the development and implementation of peace building strategies for the countries on its agenda and in its thematic work.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

43. On the basis of the four indicators elaborated under the French Presidency for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action area of concern "Women and armed conflicts", the 'Women, Peace and Security Task Force' will develop further indicators for progress regarding the protection and empowerment of women in conflict settings and in post conflict situations.

44. The EU will systematically include women, peace and security considerations in the Presidency Reports on the Progress on the Prevention of Violent Conflict and the EU Presidency Reports on ESDP, as well as in some specific reports for the follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action. Gender issues will be considered in all relevant evaluations undertaken, such as the 2009 thematic evaluation of the EC support to conflict prevention and peace building.
45. The implementation of the current document will be reviewed in due time, with suggested modifications to the approach as deemed necessary.

## CURRENT EU POLICIES AND PRACTICE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The European Union has a longstanding engagement to promote gender equality and women's rights in its external policy. More specifically, commitments to promote the role of women in peace building and/or enhance the implementation of Resolution 1325 exist in several key policy documents, such as the 2005 European Consensus on Development<sup>1</sup>, the 2006 Commission Communication Roadmap to Gender Equality<sup>2</sup>, the 2006 EU Concept for support to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)<sup>3</sup>, the Commission Communication on women's empowerment and gender equality in development cooperation of March 2007<sup>4</sup> and the corresponding Council Conclusions of May 2007<sup>5</sup>. In addition, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>6</sup> recognises the importance of supporting women's participation in humanitarian aid responses and calls for the incorporation of protection strategies against sexual and gender based violence in all aspects of humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, important commitments to the promotion of Resolution 1325 are included in the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership and the first Action Plan (2008-2010) for its implementation.

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<sup>1</sup> Council of the European Union, Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: "The European Consensus" 14820/05, 22 November 2005

<sup>2</sup> COM(2006) 92 final

<sup>3</sup> Commission and Council, EU Concept for support to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), approved by the European Commission on 14 December 2006 and by the Council of the European Union on 11 December 2006.

<sup>4</sup> SEC(2007) 332

<sup>5</sup> 9561/07

<sup>6</sup> Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member states meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission - The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

In the field of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), the Council adopted an operational paper on ‘the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the context of ESDP’ in September 2005. The paper contains recommendations on integrating a gender perspective at all stages of ESDP missions/operations, from the planning to the reporting and lessons identified. Building on this paper, the Council developed a ‘check list’ which was adopted in July 2006; additionally the Council adopted conclusions on ‘mainstreaming gender in ESDP’ in November 2006. Furthermore, in June 2008 the Council made public a ‘Compilation of Relevant documents’ on the mainstreaming of human rights and gender in ESDP with the objective to gather the documents that comprise the guiding principles for planners of EU missions/operations and to give examples of how these have been used in the actual planning documents of ESDP missions/operations.

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on 30 November 2000 on the participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution<sup>1</sup>. In addition, in 2006 the Parliament issued a report on the situation of women in armed conflict situations and their role in the reconstruction and democratic process of post conflict countries<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 2000/2025(INI)

<sup>2</sup> A6-0159/2006

As noted in the study conducted under the Slovenian presidency by ECPDM<sup>1</sup>, there are numerous examples of the ways in which the EU has successfully incorporated a gender perspective in its work. As regards financial instruments, these include the Instrument for Stability (IfS) action in support of peace efforts in the eastern Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) focusing on building operational strategies for conflict transformation and confidence-building and including a strong gender component; the provision of an expert team to support the Security Sector Reform in Central African Republic with particular attention to gender issues; the provision of specific technical expertise on gender in the support to the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Solomon Islands; the inclusion of a specific gender expert in the long-term EU Electoral Observation Mission in Yemen. The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, and its successor European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, has channelled significant support to women's peace building efforts around the world. The European Development Fund-financed programme on capacity building with the African Union includes an important component on strengthening women's participation in peace processes.

As regards the gender perspective in ESDP missions/operations, currently all civilian and military missions/operations, except for one (Guinea Bissau), have one or several gender advisors (this can be compared with UN experience: of 18 peacekeeping missions in 2007, 11 had full-time gender advisors and 7 gender focal points. In February 2007, an all-female police contingent from India was deployed in Liberia<sup>2</sup>). While the experience so far about the impact and value added of gender advisors has been very positive, it must be acknowledged that, with regard to the staffing of the missions, the percentage of women still remains low.

As regards national plans, several states, including seven EU Member states, have adopted or are preparing national action plans on UNSCR 1325 or have integrated specific provisions of UNSCR 1325 into their domestic policy and legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> 'Enhancing the EU Response to Women and Armed Conflict – with particular reference to development policy, Study for the Slovenian EU Presidency' ( <http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/1325/euresponseWAC.pdf> )

<sup>2</sup> Report of the SG on women and peace and security S/2007/567

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## EC relevant instruments and recent indicative examples of support to actions in the area of women, peace and security

### 1. Development Cooperation Instrument (including thematic programmes and notably Investing in People)

#### SCOPE OF ACTION

In accordance with the European Consensus on Development, the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) adopts gender equality as an objective on its own and as a key operating principle to be mainstreamed throughout all its components:

The DCI provides for funding both on a thematic and geographical basis. Gender equality as an objective and as a cross-cutting issue is therefore of relevance to all the DCI components, namely:

- Geographic assistance to Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, East of Jordan, South Africa;
- support to sugar production restructuring in ACP Countries;
- the five complementary Thematic Programmes on human and social development, environment, non-state actors in development, food security, migration and asylum.

Among the five thematic programmes financed by the DCI, **Investing in People** is meant to implement the EC human and social development policy, by supporting five core themes:

- Good health for all (including reproductive health and rights);
- Education, knowledge and skills;
- Gender equality;
- Children and youth;
- Culture, employment and social cohesion.

The Strategy Paper for the Investing in People Programme defines the priority objectives and actions for each of the core themes during the period 2007 – 2010.

In addition, the **Food Security** thematic programme identifies women head-of-household among priority target groups. **Environment** notes that women are particularly affected by environmental degradation.. The thematic programme **Migration** that women and children are more often likely to find themselves in situations of mistreatment or exploitation. The programme **Non-state Actors** calls for a holistic approach to advance gender equality.

## **GOOD PRACTICES**

**EC-UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development, Peace and Security.** This programme (€ 4,7 million) has started in April 2007 with United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) as main implementing partner (in cooperation with ITC/ILO seeking to ensure that the commitments on gender equality are reflected in national development strategies and EC support programmes in partner countries. **A special emphasis is given to gender budgeting and to the implementation of UNSCR 1325.** The project has 12 focus countries: Cameroun, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nicaragua, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Ukraine and Suriname.

The Commission supports the **International Colloquium on Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, which will be** co-convened by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland, which is taking place in Monrovia, Liberia, on March 7-8, 2009. The Colloquium seeks to further the realisation of the aims of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security to ensure that women are protected from the worst abuses in times of conflict and to empower them to play their rightful and vital role in helping their countries prevent, end and recover from conflict. It will bring together an international group of women leaders to identify the successes and failures of measures adopted for 1325; to serve as a resource base and catalyst for activity worldwide; and to develop and support meaningful strategies and activities for increasing global security.

Under the recent call for proposals related to the programme Non-State Actors for Sierra Leone, there is specific reference to support and improvement of the maternal health conditions of pregnant women and the support to women's physical integrity by addressing health conditions related to female genital mutilation.

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## 2. European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

### SCOPE OF ACTION

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights has been established to contribute to the development of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law worldwide. In line with the EU Consensus on development and the recognition of gender equality as a fundamental human right, the instrument recognizes the linkage between its main objectives and the promotion, protection enforcement of women's rights and gender equality. Article 2 (Scope of the Regulation) states that Community assistance shall relate to:

- § “promoting the equal participation of men and women in social, economic and political life, and supporting equality of opportunity, and the participation and political representation of women;
- § The promotion and protection of gender equality, the rights of the child, rights of indigenous peoples, rights of persons with disabilities, and principles such as empowerment, participation, non-discrimination of vulnerable groups and accountability shall be taken into account whenever relevant by all assistance measures referred to in this Regulation.
- § the rights of women as proclaimed in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocols, including measures to combat female genital mutilation, forced marriages, crimes of honour, trafficking, and any other form of violence against women.”

The EIDHR Thematic Strategy gives the operational guidelines for the years 2007-2013. All projects funded under the Instrument will need to show how gender equality issues are taken into account in the design, implementation and monitoring of their activities.

The promotion and protection of women's human rights are explicitly listed as important areas for action under Objective 2, "strengthening the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reform, in supporting the peaceful conciliation of group interests and in consolidating political participation and representation" as well as potentially under Objective 3, "Supporting actions on human rights and democracy issues in areas covered by EU Guidelines, including on human rights dialogues, on human rights defenders, on the death penalty, on torture, and on children and armed conflict".

## **GOOD PRACTICES**

Country-based support schemes - (previously called micro projects). Many of the local call for proposals launched by the Delegations mention activities on women's rights and more specifically on violence against women.

For instance, a recent **local call for proposal in Burundi (2008) includes the support to the fight against violence against women as a component of the** contribution to the strengthening of the peace process and growth in Burundi, in the context of the fight against poverty, sustainable development and gender equality.

The Commission published a call for proposal for regional and multi-country projects under the Objective 2, including among its objectives the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

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### 3. Instrument for Stability

#### SCOPE OF ACTION

The Instrument for Stability (IfS) complements (article 2) Community external assistance with stabilising measures in crisis situations and capacity building measures to enable third countries to meet global and trans-border threats and respond effectively to crisis. Article 3.2 on assistance in response to situations of crisis or emerging crisis highlights the importance to undertake actions to promote gender equality and women's participation in democratic decision-making, to meet women's specific needs in crisis situations, and take concrete steps to prevent and combat gender-based violence. Measures include:

- § “support for the development of democratic, pluralistic state institutions, including measures to enhance the role of women in such institutions,”
- § “support for civilian measures related to the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants into civil society, and where appropriate their repatriation, as well as measures to address the situation of child soldiers and female combatants,”
- § “support for measures to ensure that the specific needs of women and children in crisis and conflict situations, including their exposure to gender-based violence, are adequately met;”
- § “support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims of armed conflict, including measures to address the specific needs of women and children;”
- § “support for measures to support the development and organisation of civil society and its participation in the political process, including measures to enhance the role of women in such processes and measures to promote independent, pluralist and professional media.”

#### GOOD PRACTICES

(i) Within the context of the broader EC ‘Initiative for Peacebuilding’ programme, the Commission’s appointed implementing partner is undertaking research, advocacy and training on a thematic basis, with gender being one of the focus areas.

(ii) Democratic Republic of Congo under the EC's Instrument for Stability (IfS), a newly launched action in support of ongoing peace efforts in the strife torn eastern Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) incorporates the organisation of workshops and seminars for different groups of stakeholders in the peace processes. A main focus for the workshops will be on building operational strategies for conflict transformation and confidence-building. The workshops will inter alia examine social exclusion, gender analysis & policy frameworks as these relate to gender - all as part of an inclusive process to establish a better and shared 'understanding of the conflict' in eastern DRC. Workshops and seminars will also include a focus on issues surrounding gender and peacebuilding in the context of developing strategies for conflict transformation.

(iii) Security Sector Reform in the Central African Republic (CAR): The project will provide a team of 8 experts to support the Government of CAR at a strategic level in the process of reforms of the security system. ToR includes gender aspect.

(iv) Programme for promotion of dialogue and democracy in Zimbabwe in the context of the 2008 elections. One project aims to stimulate the general public to engage with women's rights and women's participation in politics and decision making. Other components of the programme have women and women's organisations as specific target groups, such as the strengthening of local authorities' capacity for service delivery.

(vi) Support to the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the Solomon Islands. The overall objective of this project is to help the Solomon Islands with the implementation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as a way of achieving justice for past human rights violations and contributing to national unity and sustainable peace in the country. Specific technical expertise on gender is foreseen during the implementation of the project.

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#### 4. European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

##### SCOPE OF ACTION

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) covers Community assistance to the following countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Russia, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Article 2 on the scope of the Regulation states that the instrument shall promote measures:

§ *“supporting policies to promote social development, social inclusion, gender equality, non-discrimination, employment and social protection including protection of migrant workers, social dialogues, and respect for trade union rights and core labour standards, including on child labour;”*

*“supporting policies to promote health, education and training, including not only measures to combat the major communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases and disorders, but also access to services and education for good health, including reproductive and infant health for girls*

§ *and women;”*

§ *“promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including women’s rights and children’s rights;”*

In the context of the European Neighbourhood policy, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (the “Barcelona Process”) provides a regional framework for cooperation with Mediterranean countries. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership poses a particular attention to the need to protect and promote gender equality and the rights of women. The Barcelona Declaration of November 1995 translates global policy commitments on gender equality to the Mediterranean region, by recognising ‘the key role of women in development’ and the need to promote their active participation in economic and social life, and in the creation of employment’.

## **GOOD PRACTICES**

Within the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the “Istanbul Conclusions” on strengthening the role of women on society adopted at ministerial level offer a shared framework for action in the region and are an example of how the European Union can mobilise its partnerships and financial instruments to advance gender equality.

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## 5. Pre-accession financial assistance

### SCOPE OF ACTION

Pre-accession financial assistance is provided to countries which are candidates to join the European Union, currently Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Assistance is also given to potential candidate countries, currently Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo (under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99), Montenegro and Serbia.

For example, Article 2 of the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) states that support should be given to:

*“the promotion and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and enhanced respect for minority rights, the promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination.”*

### GOOD PRACTICES

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

NGO co-financing 2005: ***“Economic empowerment of particularly vulnerable groups such as female war victims and others”*** (EC contribution: € 750,000), implemented by Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. from 21 December 2006 to 21 December 2008. The project purpose is the empowerment of extremely vulnerable, marginalised groups through poverty reduction support measures in the area of social, human and economic development.

Albania

EIDHR 2004: *“New approach to gender-specific trauma work with female torture survivors”* (grant amount: € 241.211,25), implemented by Shoqata Medica Tirana in Tirana from 16 January 2006 to 16 January 2009. This action aims to increase the well-being of female survivors of torture under the Hoxha regime through the organisation of educational groups. Groups are also used as a method of rehabilitation and prevention especially for the women of the slums Kinostudio and Bathore, suburban areas of Tirana.

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## 6. **European Development Fund - Cotonou Agreement with Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP)**

### **SCOPE OF ACTION**

The Cotonou Agreement (2000),<sup>1</sup> which governs the cooperation between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, includes a strong commitment to gender equality. It recognises equality between men and women as a central human rights issue and calls for positive actions in favour of women. The Agreement also calls for the strengthening of policies, strategies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the equal participation of men and women in all spheres of political, economic and social life, ‘at every level of development cooperation, including macroeconomic policies, strategies, and operations’.

The single most important provision of the Agreement with respect to gender is Article 31, entitled ‘Gender Issues’ (Part 3, Chapter 2, Section 4). The provision reads as follows:

‘Cooperation shall help strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the equal participation of men and women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life. Cooperation shall help improve the access of women to all resources required for the full exercise of their fundamental rights. More specifically cooperation shall create the appropriate framework to:

- a. integrate a gender-sensitive approach and concerns at every level of development cooperation including macroeconomic policies, strategies and operations; and

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<sup>1</sup>ACP-EC, Cotonou partnership agreement, 20 June 2002.

- b. encourage the adoption of specific positive measures in favour of women such as:
- participation in national and local politics;
  - support for women's organisations;
  - access to basic social services, especially to education and training, health care and family planning;
  - access to productive resources, especially to land and credit and to labour market; and
  - taking specific account of women in emergency aid and rehabilitation programmes.'

## **GOOD PRACTICES**

The REJUSCO (Restoration of Justice In Eastern Congo) initiative aims at contributing to the protection and justice for the hundreds of thousands women victims of human rights violations in the DRC. In particular, the REJUSCO initiative aims to contribute to the strengthening of the judicial capacities in the provinces of the East of the DRC with a view to supporting the catering of the rule of law; combat ordinary criminality and war criminality by setting up the tools guaranteeing an efficient legal system in the provinces of the East of the Congo. For example, it envisages the trainings of those involved in the legal world on the protection of women's rights (at the national and international level), on the questions of discrimination according to the sex and on the specific characters and the difficulties specific to women and to the victim girls of sexual violences and raising awareness activities.

The CONGO Brazzaville-Project of consolidation of reconciliation (PCR) envisages activities such as the training and awareness-raising of the health personnel, psychosocial care to the victims of violences (stigmatisation and social marginalisation), socio-economic support for the victims of violence through income-generating activities, as well as activities of awareness-raising.

In 2006, UNIFEM convened in Zimbabwe a donor roundtable to outline challenges and opportunities for donor engagement in support of gender equality and women's needs. As a result of the meeting, the EC in partnership with other donors agreed to fund a Gender Scoping Fund to profile women's priority needs, identifying key actors and institutions to address them, and provide a road map for strategic and comprehensive support. A basket fund was set up to provide a common financing mechanism to address essential needs and sustain gender equality. UNIFEM was designated the Fund manager. The Fund has received funds (1M€) and support from the EC. Following country-wide consultations, a programme strategy has been developed. Priorities are now being selected from a range of sectors, including reproductive and sexual health and rights, HIV/AIDS, violence against women and girls.

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## 7. Africa Peace Facility

### SCOPE OF ACTION

The general objective of the APF is to contribute to peace, stability and security in Africa through targeted support to African efforts at the continental and regional level in the area of conflict prevention, management and resolution, and peace building.

Mainstreaming of the relevant guidelines on Human Rights and the role of women and children in armed conflict, as well as the application of UN-SC Res. 1325 (2000) and implementation of UN-SC Res. 1612 (2005) will be undertaken through the APF, for example through:

- support to the training of peacekeepers on human rights, main principles and opportunities in prevention and reintegration of child combatants and addressing needs of children and women affected by armed conflicts,
- promoting participation of women among observers and civilian personnel in peace missions, as well as in the various structures of the APSA,
- promoting gender component in peace operations (e.g. gender advisers)

**These provisions are included in the 2008- 2010 Action Programme for the APF under the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF**

### GOOD PRACTICES

**Peace and security operations** are informed by clauses of protection and all envisage a degree of protection for women. As an example AMIS operation in Sudan Darfur had HR officers that monitored the daily situation reports issued by the Force for violations involving women, and as far as resources allow, accompany MILOBs on investigations into incidents involving allegations of gender based violence. HR officers also follow up cases by providing medevac facilities, advising women on courses of action, and referring them to the assisting Agencies providing legal and humanitarian support.



AMIS conducts 'Firewood patrols' by which the AMIS Protection Force escort women when collecting firewood by patrolling ahead and deterring attackers. AMIS CIVPOL has improved the situation with increased firewood and confidence building patrols and many areas in which AMIS has good access have seen reduced the incidences of rape. Humanitarian agencies have also contributed positively by identifying to AU hotspots where women have been sexually abused when collecting firewood.

**Capacity Building:** *N.B. financing comes from EDF-funded programme to support the African Union 55MEUR – managed by the EU Delegation to the AU – and not from APF*

In 2007 "Building international capacity to mainstream gender"; "Building Partnership and Advocacy"; "Strengthening women's voice in peace process"

**Mainstreaming:** inclusion of specific commitments to protect women's rights in future engagements for the tri-annual AP for the APF 2008-2010

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## 8. Humanitarian assistance

### SCOPE OF ACTION

Article 1 of the The Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid foresees that the Community's humanitarian aid shall comprise assistance, relief and protection operations on a non-discriminatory basis to help people in third countries, particularly the most vulnerable among them.

The recent EU Consensus on humanitarian Aid designs a specific *Gender dimension in Humanitarian Aid*, highlighting the importance of integrating gender considerations into humanitarian aid and recognising that the active participation of women in humanitarian aid is essential, and commits to promoting that involvement.

Moreover, the Consensus foresees that protection strategies against sexual and gender based violence must be incorporated in all aspects of humanitarian assistance.

The Consensus Action Plan foresees a review of gender issues and an overview of protection strategies against gender- based violence - including sexual violence- in humanitarian aid. This gender review will be launched in November 2008 and will inform decision-making.

### GOOD PRACTICES

DG ECHO sponsored several advocacy tools and training:

- 2005: IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings. Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies.
- 2005: Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) CD-ROM "Our bodies. Their battleground". Gender based violence during conflict.
- 2007: Training-course for 30 UN and NGO personnel on the coordination of multi-sectoral response to gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.

As sample projects :

Since 2001 vertically integrated reproductive health components are part of all DG ECHO supported health projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo, comprising:

- Free Ante Natal Care (ANC) 3 sessions per pregnancy
- Reproductive health awareness sessions in ANC (contraception, STDs and HIV prevention, condoms distribution)

Also in DRC, with reference to areas where there is a high incidence of sexual violence, support of partners with specific capacities and skills for the following activities:

- Screening, identification and treatment of victims. Treatments include ARVs (PEP kit) and “morning-after” pills for patients arriving within 72 hours after assault
- Referral system (transport included) for corrective surgery of grave cases
- Community-based counselling services
- Half-way houses for patients in recovery

DG ECHO also supported Community-based Mental Health Support to violence-affected people, especially women, in Jammu and Kashmir.

In Uganda DG ECHO is conducting a project on gender-based violence. Activities include: Health centres' staff have been trained on Clinical Management of Rape Survivors (CMRS). Community Support Volunteers (CSVs) have been trained to provide basic psychosocial support and case management services to GBV survivors as well as on “referral pathway”.

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