



The Dutch Do's on Women, Peace and Security

Diplomacy, Defence and Development in Partnership

Marking the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325



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The Dutch Do's on Women, Peace and Security – Diplomacy, Defence and Development in Partnership

Merely one decade ago, the role of women in conflict situations was officially recognized as a security issue, rather than exclusively a social or private matter. On 31 October 2000, the UN Security Council adopted unanimously a resolution on women, peace and security, calling upon states to protect the human rights of girls and women. Landmark resolution 1325 became a fact..

On 4 December 2007 the Netherlands adopted the Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) on SCR 1325, relying on a broad support base. The signatories, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and the Interior and Kingdom Relations, civil society organisations and knowledge institutions took upon themselves to jointly make a worldwide difference within the field of women, peace and security.

The NAP 1325 (2008 – 2011) has five focus areas on women, peace and security:

- 1 the legal framework;
- 2 conflict prevention, mediation and reconstruction;
- 3 international cooperation;
- 4 peace missions;
- 5 harmonisation and coordination.

In 2009, the total expenditure by all the signatories to the National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security amounted to almost €23 million, about €15 million of which came from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Compared with other countries, the Netherlands is investing substantially in supporting organisations and individuals that seek to strengthen leadership by women, combat impunity for violence against women and promote an active role for women in reconstruction processes. In recent years, the Ministry of Defence has invested in recruiting more women military personnel and stepping up the gender mainstreaming focus in peace missions. In addition, a number of military and civilian experts on gender have been posted to areas of armed conflict.

So far, the Netherlands is the only country where central government and civil

society organisations bear joint responsibility for carrying out a national action plan. This approach, in which partnerships at home and abroad play a central role, has proven effective. This booklet describes some examples of the Netherlands' integrated approach in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Sudan.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Operational Paragraph 5:

‘Incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component’

Afghanistan

The Netherlands sends the first gender adviser to NATO to Kabul



Afghan women have a say

The conflict in Afghanistan has been raging for many decades and has left deep scars. Since the end of 2001, NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has been active in the country. ISAF is working with the Afghan authorities to build up a stable democracy. In 2009 it was decided to station a gender adviser at the two ISAF headquarters in Kabul. The Netherlands seized this opportunity and several months later, Lieutenant-Commander Ella van den Heuvel took up her duties. As an adviser within ISAF her job was to ensure that the mission focused more on women in Afghanistan – not only providing them with greater protection but also encouraging them to play an active role in the country's reconstruction.

Ella van den Heuvel impressed upon the ISAF troops the need to consider, when planning and carrying out operations, the very different impact an operation would have on men and on women. For instance during elections, it is essential for polling stations to be safe places that are easy for women to reach and thus cast their vote. 'As advisers, we explain to people that gender can make operations more effective. Once you make that clear to the troops, they listen to you. By way of explanation I often point out that when you want information from local people about the situation in the village or the region, talking to local men will only get you half the story. Women and men see and experience things from different perspectives. Women also tend to know a lot about their sons' and husbands' activities. The more complete your information, the more precise your strategy will be, which is what we want in a military operation.' Military staff at all levels need to develop gender sensitivity. This does not happen overnight, and in Ella's opinion, the support of headquarters is indispensable. 'Once they've been given this knowledge about gender, the troops take a very positive attitude to my work. They think it makes sense to spend more time on these issues.'

Ella van den Heuvel has spent much of her time in Afghanistan talking to women's organisations. 'People often think it must be difficult to make contact with Afghan women but in fact the opposite is true. There are extremely strong women in Afghanistan who want to engage with you, and who have a sound organisation backing them. People wrongly assume that it would run counter to Afghan culture to engage with women, and that we should not get involved. And yet there are many strong, courageous women working hard for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.' Likewise, Nicole Maes (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the former development cooperation adviser to the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in the Afghan province of Uruzgan, comments that women's issues are often perceived as too sensitive an area. However, in her experience, this notion usually comes from the international community, not from Afghan men and women. 'There is so much to be gained in this field, and

that's why we mustn't shy away from it,' she says. She adds that there are Afghan women who are prepared to give their lives for the reconstruction of their country, and she believes that they need the protection and support of the international community.

Although various women's organisations are active in Kabul, women in Uruzgan are not organising to any significant degree. So, in order to make contact with Afghan women in Uruzgan, the PRT organised a number of activities. The first was a shura exclusively for women, held at the end of 2009. The shura is the traditional decision-making mechanism in Afghanistan and is normally for men only. The women's shura was a great success, attended by about 50 women from all over Uruzgan, some of whom even talked on the radio about the problems of women living in the province. In response, the PRT set up a women's patrol in the district of Chora, comprising seven women soldiers, a woman diplomat and a woman interpreter. The patrol's purpose was to establish contact with local women. Through these dialogues, the Dutch team wanted to find out whether women would be interested in having a safe meeting-place in Chora, and whether it would be feasible to set one up. It showed the PRT the importance of listening to the women's views first-hand. It also led to further talks, notably with all the female staff of the provincial hospital in the capital, Tarin Kowt. The discussions revealed that there were far more highly educated women in Uruzgan than had been thought. The network gradually grew, and in due course, the PRT were able to make contact with more women.

With Dutch funding, nine young women have been trained as midwives. This has substantially reduced the shortage in the province, which previously had only two midwives. It also means that there are now midwives in other districts, too – not just in Tarin Kowt. The idea of training midwives came from the Afghans themselves, who saw this as a way to reduce infant and maternal mortality. It is vital for local men and women to be able to express their needs, because they are best placed to do so.

Afghan women get involved in politics

On 28 January 2010 an international conference took place in London about the future of Afghanistan. It was held under the auspices of the United Nations. Over 70 countries and organisations participated, including a delegation of Afghan women's organisations. Originally, not a single Afghan woman had been invited to the conference.

A few weeks earlier, a smaller conference had taken place, organised by The Hague-based NGO Gender Concerns International (GCI, a signatory of the Dutch National Action Plan) and its partner organisation, Afghan Women's Network (AWN). The purpose of this meeting was to generate support among the international community for a delegation of Afghan women to attend the London conference.

Thanks to the persuasive powers of GCI's director Sabra Bano, and liaison work by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the meeting was attended by Melanne Verweij, the US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues. This was just the start of the lobbying process. Major input from GCI, prominent Afghan women, UNIFEM and other organisations was sufficient to win over the governments of the Netherlands and the United States. Together, they worked to ensure that the theme of women's rights in the reconstruction of Afghanistan would be put onto the agenda. Their joint message was that women should be routinely included in political processes and represented in the government. 'Women are our natural allies,' said Jos Hoenen of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who is responsible for promoting the 1325 agenda at NATO and for implementing the NAP in places like Afghanistan. The fact that an Afghan woman was given speaking time at the conference is a direct result of these joint efforts. It made history.

Lobbying for better representation for Afghan women in the government has led to more women candidates being nominated for positions in national politics. In addition, the AWM and GCI has arranged for women to be admitted for the first time ever to the peace *jirga*, the big meeting of all the country's tribal leaders. Eventually, the Afghan women were allocated 20% of the 1,200 seats.

'Women in Afghanistan should not be seen any more as mere victims. We are ready, capable and willing to take up leadership positions and fight for our empowerment,' says Afifa Azim, director of the AWN.

The AWM and GCI derive a great deal of momentum from each other and the women they work with, but they still need the support of the international community to get the best possible results.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Operational Paragraph 8:

'Adopt measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary'

Burundi

Women contribute to the security sector



Partnerships for women's rights

In recent years, armed conflicts in the Great Lakes Area have claimed over five million lives. Ethnic tensions between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes sparked off a civil war in Burundi which cost the lives of almost half a million people. The war was not just about ethnic conflicts: other causes included the colonial legacy, a shortage of resources and problems in neighbouring countries. In 2000, a peace agreement was brokered under the leadership of the former South African president Nelson Mandela, but Burundi still remains fraught with tensions.

The Netherlands has been actively contributing to Burundi's reconstruction for several years. In April 2009, the Netherlands and Burundi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in which both countries undertook to develop and professionalise the Burundi security sector for an eight-year period. In this connection, 11 instructors at the Burundian Ministry of Defence completed a course in ethical decision-making as part of the project on strengthening military ethics within the Burundian armed forces. The course covered such topics as human rights, legislation and Resolution 1325. This project is rather unique as it was developed jointly with civil society organisations in Burundi. Various women's organisations were also involved to ensure that the content of the teaching material represented everyday reality in Burundian society.

Over a two-month period, two lieutenant colonels from the Dutch Ministry of Defence trained the 11 instructors and supervised their first lessons. Now, the instructors give weekly training to large groups of Burundian officers. The size of the budget made available by the two countries under the terms of the memorandum, and the quality of the core training staff shows that Burundi sets great store by this project and by the topic of ethics as a whole. Professionalisation is not limited to the army but has also been introduced into the working culture of the police force. In this context, a Dutch police adviser is engaged in collaboration with the NGO International Alert.

In another activity implemented within the framework of the MoU, military barracks were renovated. In this project, too, the Netherlands worked side by side with the Burundian army and once again, a number of women's organisations were also invited. As Lieutenant Colonel Alwin van den Bogaard, programme manager from the Dutch Ministry of Defence describes: 'We went into the barracks with representatives of the women's movement. It was the first time that these organisations had had contact with women living in barracks and indeed, with women military personnel. We considered what could be done to provide separate showers and toilets. The women demonstrated the importance of better lighting. Making sure dark places are well lit can prevent sexual violence against women.'

Besides the Dutch government, numerous private actors are working for peace and security in Burundi. For instance, since 2001, the Dutch-based Stéphanie Mbanzondere and her foundation Burundian Women for Peace and Development (BWPD)¹ has been working hard for peace in her home country. The BWPD was founded with the aim of supporting Burundian refugees in the Netherlands, but it is also helping to boost reconstruction in Burundi. Stéphanie Mbanzondere and the BWPD have achieved good results in a relatively short time. Public recognition included a nomination in 2008 for the Peace Prize awarded every three years by the Belgian city of Ypres, for Stéphanie's Social Harmony project in Burundi, which establishes 'peace committees' for conflict resolution. Through training courses attended by Hutus and Tutsis, the causes of the conflict are discussed. The participants spend several days in discussion. They speak about current events, but the main focus is on the past. By sharing their experiences, the participants come to appreciate each other's situations. Ultimately, they are able to identify with one another and realise that they are not enemies after all.

Originally, only women were invited to these courses. Although they were enthusiastic about the project, they were also critical about the exclusion of men. There can be no stable peace if women are excluded from the process and the same applies to men. It was therefore decided that in future, 30% of the group members would be men, a percentage known as the critical mass for ensuring diversity. Diverse perspectives on one's own conditions, and that of the family's and the community's will shed light on the complexity of the situation, such as the fact that children sometimes belong to a different ethnic group from their mothers. Understanding the implications of these issues is essential to achieving a sustainable peace.

¹ BWPD is involved in the multicultural Women Peacemakers Programme, which is part of the *Platform for Women and Sustainable Peace* (VDV), a signatory to the Dutch National Action Plan.

Diaspora

Women living in the midst of conflict - the real-life experts

The Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network Netherlands (MWPN) is a networking organisation of migrant and refugee women committed to mobilising support in the Netherlands and women and women's organisations in their home countries, to campaign for peace and security. Women living in conflict areas are the real experts: they understand the need for peace better than anyone. They have a unique commitment, energy and desire to contribute to the peace process in their communities and home countries. By making use of the internet and social media, they can communicate easily and rapidly with women in various conflict areas and also here in the Netherlands, thus 'cross-fertilizing' ideas.

Women for Peace in the Moluccas (VvVM), one of the member organisations of the MWPN, is working on the implementation of the '100 villages plan', which focuses on strengthening the role of women, many of whom have a disadvantaged position in their community. The project was launched in response to the Muslim-Christian unrest in the Moluccas between 1999 and 2004. In 2008 a VvVM delegation visited the Moluccas for three days of talks with civil society organisations, including various faith-based groups. The needs analysis revealed three priorities: awareness of women's rights, participation of women in politics (especially at local level), and a new mentality that welcomes gender equality. The aim is to set up 'early warning committees' through which women and women's organisations can alert local bodies as soon as they detect signs of trouble, in order to prevent further outbreaks of conflict in the future.

In the Netherlands, the VvVM is actively lobbying municipal authorities to support women involved in the peace process in the Moluccas. Together with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) they are considering the feasibility of forging links between local authorities in three Dutch towns (Ridderkerk, Krimpen aan den IJssel and Capelle aan den IJssel) and three municipalities in the Moluccas.

The positive experience of working on the '100 villages plan' with women from a range of faith backgrounds has spurred on the VvVM's current efforts, in partnership with the MWPN, to highlight the significance of religion in peace processes. This was done through a conference entitled 'The inter-faith perspective in realising the role of women peacemakers in the implementation of SCR 1325', which took place in Indonesia in September 2010. Religion has the potential to either hamper or promote peacebuilding. The conference primarily considered how religious structures can be used to support reconciliation and peacebuilding and, of course, how women's potential role in this can be used to full advantage.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Operational Paragraph 11:

‘Emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible, from amnesty provisions’

Democratic Republic of Congo

An innovative approach to ending sexual violence



No more impunity for sexual violence

The Democratic Republic of Congo is situated in the Great Lakes region, where internal and external conflict has claimed millions of casualties since 1994. Eastern Congo is grappling with repeated outbreaks of violence, which have caused the human rights situation to deteriorate in recent years. Grave human rights violations, including murder, kidnapping and widespread rape are widespread in the DRC. Sexual violence is consistently used as a weapon of war.

The Dutch twin sisters Ilse and Femke van Velzen are using film documentaries to reach the Congolese public: local people relate their first-hand experience of sexual violence in the DRC. 'We believe in film as a medium and in its power, because it reaches a target group and gives you a platform from which people can tell their own stories.' The sisters' first film about the DRC, *Fighting the Silence*, features women who have been raped. They go through hell twice: firstly the rape itself, and second, the rejection by their husbands and their community. After the film, the big question remained: 'what makes ordinary men capable of committing rape time after time?' To find answers, the two sisters went on to make *Weapon of War*, in which they interviewed the rapists. In this second film, the documentary-makers focus on the perpetrators, because in order to tackle the problem it is necessary to show just how large a proportion of Congolese men commit acts of violence. Both films were sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. What makes this project unique is that the films are not only used as documentaries but also as teaching material and a lobbying tool.

The documentary *Fighting the Silence* is being shown all over the DRC using a mobile cinema. In the past year, it has reached audiences of over 300,000 people. Every open-air screening draws crowds of people from far and wide and gets men and women talking about how to stop violence against women. The project is being financed by Amnesty International and run by a local Congolese organisation. This successful venture was recently extended for three years. The Van Velzen sisters have used footage from the second documentary to set up another innovative project. This time, mobile cinemas are being used to instruct Congolese militiamen about sexual violence. The fact that soldiers themselves are interviewed in the film enables viewers to identify with them, and in turn makes it easier to challenge them about their behaviour.

The mobile cinema will travel from one battalion to another. The idea is to focus attention on the impact of sexual violence on the victims, society and the soldiers themselves. Did the rapists have any idea of what the long-term effects would be on their victims and, indeed, themselves? Many soldiers are now suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The questions raised by the film provide a foundation for tackling these crimes effectively. 'We really believe it

can help,' say the Van Velzen sisters. Furthermore, the Congolese authorities have responded positively to the initiative, which is largely funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The last film in the series of three by these talented young women will be released in 2011. This third documentary is also about sexual violence, but this time from the perspective of the dysfunctional legal system and widespread impunity in the DRC. This film completes the trilogy, which addresses the issue from three viewpoints – those of women, men and the state.

The Dutch embassy in Kinshasa is also addressing the problem of impunity in the DRC. It is funding the 'Gender and Justice' programme in the province of Maniema, which started up at the end of 2009. The purpose of the project, to which the Netherlands is contributing \$5.2 million, is to combat impunity and provide economic support for victims. The project is being jointly implemented by HEAL Africa and the American Bar Association (ABA). The programme targets traditional community leaders and the highest court in the DRC. Among other things, it aims to set up five clinics offering free legal aid, organising mobile courts in order to boost access to justice in rural areas, and provide scholarships so that more women can study law.

The Dutch embassy in Kinshasa is also co-secretary of the Thematic Sub-group on Sexual Violence, led by the DRC's Ministry for Gender, Family Affairs and Children. From the outset, the Sub-group has worked actively to make the judiciary less of a male bastion. Its most notable achievement was the appointment of 40 women among the most recent 1,000 judges sworn into office in the spring of 2010. Currently, the Sub-group is actively involved in developing material on sexual violence, which is to be incorporated into its three-month training course.

Understanding masculinities

'If we really want to take SCR 1325 to another level, we will have to get men on board'

This statement embodies the vision of the *Women Peacemakers Programme* run by the NGO IFOR, which has been campaigning since 1997 to get more women involved in peacebuilding. It achieves this by organising training courses, among its many other activities. Over time, it became evident that capacity building is a vital element in training women for active participation in peace processes, but it was equally clear that they could not really count on their husbands' support for their local peacebuilding activities. Even their male counterparts in peacebuilding organisations were reluctant for them to be involved. They could not see how women could contribute anything extra, different or better to the processes of reconciliation and peacebuilding.

This was a golden opportunity for IFOR/WPP to help build constructive collaboration between men and women. A two-year pilot project was launched, in which 19 men from 17 different countries (both countries in conflict and post-conflict countries) were given training in the theory of masculinity. The course looks in-depth at such topics as traditional patterns of expectation about masculinity and men's roles (e.g. strength, power and violence) and their relationship to typical patterns of expectation about the role of women. During the course, the men were made aware that partnership with women activists could actually benefit the peace process. The different perspectives, interests and needs of women and men complement and strengthen each other, so the resulting joint effort is ultimately more effective.

The men who have undergone this training pass on what they have learnt about the useful part women can play in peacebuilding to other men within their own organisations and networks. They also serve as important role models to men and women in their own communities through their open attitude to female participation in decision-making processes. To further promote this collaboration, IFOR/WPP has linked the men up with female activists who can give them support and advice. It is expected that these men will be able to play an active role in lobbying for implementation of the UN resolution on women in peace and security processes. This pilot project – the start of a long-term programme to involve men in promoting an active role for women in peace processes – was brought about with the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Operational Paragraph 2:

'Increase the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes'

Sudan

Women elect and are elected



Women as political leaders

In the western Sudanese province of Darfur, an armed conflict broke out in early 2003 between government troops supported by Arab militias, and insurgents fighting for greater regional power and against marginalisation. In January 2005 the civil war that had raged for over twenty years between Northern and Southern Sudan came to an end, thanks to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). However, the violence in Darfur has caused a humanitarian crisis of unprecedented proportion.

The Netherlands-Darfur Foundation for the Organisation of Women (VOND)² is a Dutch organisation set up in March 2005 by women originally from Darfur, living in the Netherlands. VOND organised a conference in Khartoum, which brought together women from various ethnic minorities in northern, western and southern Darfur. They attended training courses and discussed peacebuilding and political participation. At the end of the conference, the organisations involved founded the platform 'Darfur Women Uniting for Peace.' Since then, 26 women's organisations have joined. It is vital to bring these women together because they are the bricks and mortar of society. VOND also provided the Darfur delegates with computer literacy training (sponsored by Oxfam Novib), and is planning to arrange English classes for them in the future. The purpose of all these activities is to boost the capacity of women's organisations so that they are better equipped to participate in the Darfur peace process and to stand up for women's rights.

The international NGO Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) promotes the political participation of women in Southern Sudan. Women have their own unique insights and these different perspectives enable a more thorough analysis of the situation. In turn, this benefits the quality of reconstruction activities. To enhance the active role played by women in peace and reconstruction processes, Isis-WICCE founded a women's leadership institute. In 2009, 52 women from all over Southern Sudan received training to develop their leadership talents. This equipped them to take part in peace talks and the reconstruction of Southern Sudan. As a result of their training and the new enthusiasm about their leadership potential, 21 out of the 52 women on the course went through the primaries to stand for election as members of parliament in the April 2010 elections. Before the elections, Isis-WICCE gave the candidates training in how to campaign effectively and communicate their ideas to the public. The organisation also trained voters to participate in the political process. The skills were crucial to the candidates, campaign agents and communities in a country which had not had democratic elections for 24 years.

² VOND is involved in the multicultural Women Peacemakers Programme.

Feedback shows that a number of them have gone on to take up leadership positions as members of parliament. It is now vital for the international community to ensure that women are permanently involved in the peace process and that they continue to participate in politics.

Isis-WICCE receives funding from the Dutch MDG3 Fund, which supports projects that promote gender equality, the rights of women and girls, and the opportunities open to them. Between 2008 and 2011 the fund supports 45 projects worldwide. Its total budget is €70 million, of which some €14 million is reserved for organisations working with women in fragile states.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Report of the Secretary-General (13 October 2004):

‘Develop approaches and guidelines for ensuring that all programmes and policies in support of the rule of law, including constitutional, judicial and legislative reform, promote gender equality and women’s human rights’

The Netherlands

Invisible, yet invincible – coordinating the NAP from The Hague



Coordinating NAP 1325

The Dutch National Action Plan consists of 19 goals and 72 activities to be accomplished by 2011 – quite a challenge. In accordance with the non-binding language of SCR 1325 on monitoring and accountability mechanisms, no reporting or accountability system was set up before the Action Plan was launched. Instead, the NAP signatories followed a pragmatic approach: to develop a monitoring system in the course of the implementation process. After simply sharing experiences in 2008, the NAP actors decided to set joint targets for 2009. That same year, a monitoring and evaluation task force was set up, consisting of government and non-governmental representatives. By the end of 2009, all the ministries and organisations involved had successfully completed a monitoring exercise, which provided data about results achieved so far, and activities planned for 2010. The outcomes of this exercise were subsequently fed into the NAP Mid-Term Review, which took place in April 2010. All NAP signatories agreed on one thing: it was impossible to be involved everywhere so joint efforts needed to be given a specific focus. It was decided that we should concentrate on the following three areas:

- promoting and supporting female leadership in a maximum of four fragile states;
- increasing the support base for women, peace and security in the Netherlands;
- strengthening coordination of the network of signatories to the Dutch NAP.

Being jointly accountable for achieving the NAP objectives calls for a different kind of interaction between government and civil society. Looking back on almost three years of NAP implementation, Annemieke de los Santos, NAP Coordinator at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, puts it as follows: ‘Sometimes, during yet another heated debate at our NAP meetings, I find myself wondering in how many countries there are where the representatives of civil society, and of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, actually sit around the same table to discuss the current state of affairs on women, peace and security. We made the NAP our collective responsibility. We must all learn to listen to new and diverse points of view. We have learned to take account of our divergent interests. And this is surely what SCR 1325 is all about – giving a voice to the people who are not usually heard. We have learned that it is indeed worthwhile to listen, to speak each other’s language and – slowly, but surely – to become partners.’

Results of the integrated approach to boost active participation by woman in peace and security efforts:

- a gender section has been incorporated into the revised assessment framework for military operations in accordance with the Dutch 3D approach (diplomacy, defence and development);
- information about the position of women is now included in regular reporting to Parliament on military missions; gender expertise is now part of the Expert Pool Roster for short missions to fragile states;
- a number of 1325 initiatives are being supported through the Stability Fund, a source of quick and flexible funding for peace and security efforts in the field (ODA and non-ODA);
- concrete recommendations have been made to NATO on how to incorporate women's perspectives on peace and security into its operations, based on a review of the implementation of SCR 1325 in Afghanistan, commissioned by Norway, Finland, Sweden and the Netherlands;
- a special focus on integrating women in reconstruction processes in Dutch bilateral interventions in fragile states including DRC, Burundi, Sudan and Afghanistan.

Into the next decade

- More women participating in political decision-making in Sudan
- More men advocating women's political participation
- More perpetrators of sexual violence in DRC being brought to justice
- More Afghan women campaigning for the vote

Resolution 1325 is currently the focus of much attention. This must not fade away after the tenth anniversary.

We are jointly responsible for ensuring that the actions envisaged in the resolution – the participation of women in conflict prevention and peace and reconstruction processes – become embedded in the work of the United Nations, NATO and the EU, and of civil society and government authorities in fragile states.

In implementing NAP 1325 the Netherlands has taken a stand nationally and internationally on the theme of women, peace and security. Although the NAP will officially end in 2011, its effects will continue to be felt.

Over the next years, the integrated Dutch Do's on women, peace and security will be further consolidated.

Diplomacy – Defence – Development – In Partnership

Factsheet

Resolution 1325 (2000) was the first SCR to link women to the peace and security agenda. It recognises that women are disproportionately affected by conflict and calls for their active participation at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace processes, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. SCR 1325 further calls for the effective protection of women from sexual and gender-based violence in conflict settings, for the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all aspects of peace operations, and for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality.

Resolution 1820 (2008) was the first SCR to recognise conflict-related sexual violence as a matter of international peace and security. It calls for armed actors to end the practice of using sexual violence against civilians to achieve political or military ends, and for states to put an end to impunity for sexual violence and provide effective protection for civilians. It also calls on the United Nations and peace operations to develop mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including through the training of personnel, the deployment of more women to peace operations, the enforcement of zero-tolerance policies and strengthening the capacities of national institutions.

Resolution 1888 (2009) strengthens the implementation of SCR 1820 by assigning leadership and establishing effective support mechanisms. It calls for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General to coordinate UN efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, as well as for the rapid deployment of teams of experts and advisors to situations of concern. SCR 1888 also calls for the issue of sexual violence to be included in peace negotiations, in approaches to address the effects of sexual violence, and in improved monitoring and reporting on conflict trends and perpetrators.

Resolution 1889 (2009) addresses obstacles to women's participation in peace processes and peacebuilding, in line with SCR 1325. It calls for the UN Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of SCR 1325. It also calls for the strengthening of national and international responses to the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Useful websites

www.womenwarpeace.org

Website from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), part of UN Women.

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/> Policies / Human Rights / The Human Rights Policy of the EU / Women, Peace and Security

Website on the implementation of EU policy on Women, Peace and Security

<http://www.nato.int> / NATO A-Z / Gender Perspectives, NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives

Website from the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives:

www.womenpeacesecurity.org

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security promotes gender equality and women's involvement in maintaining international peace and security:

www.peacewomen.org

PeaceWomen is a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

www.isis-europe.org /Gender & Security and WIIS

Isis Europe (International Security Information Service Europe) has an overview of recent EU, EP, UN, NATO and OSCE publications on women, peace and security:



Contact

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Human Rights, Gender, Good Governance and
Humanitarian Aid Department
Bezuidenhoutseweg 67
Postbus 20061
2500 EB Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 (0)70 348 6486
Website: www.minbuza.nl

Ministry of Defence

Principal Directorate of Personnel / Gender &
Diversity Division
Postbus 20703
2500 ES Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31 (0)70 339 6792
Website: www.defensie.nl

Colophon

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