

DISCUSSION CIRCLE: IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 1325

The members discussed on the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325. Some of the key topics of discussion focused on the difficulties in implementing the Resolution and the need to create mechanisms measuring the implementation of Resolution 1325, and the results achieved.

*UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) mandates that women in post-conflict states fully participate in all aspects of the transition. The resolution is historic because of the depth of change — in procedure, assessment, delivery and attitudes — necessary for its full implementation. Eight years after its adoption, some progress has been made. Resolution 1325 has been reiterated in various Security Council resolutions and other mechanisms and documents. In 2005, UN Security Council released the 'Report of the Secretary-General on Women and Peace and Security', which outlines a system-wide action plan for implementation of resolution 1325 and seeks to strengthen accountability across the UN. The difficulty of taking the recommended actions and realizing the resolution's commitments remains. Relevant actors continue to lack the knowledge and practical means to facilitate women's engagement. Political will and resources are lacking across institutions, and to date, only ten UN Member States have developed national action plans for resolution 1325. **Still, women from Afghanistan and East Timor to Haiti and Sudan continue to pressure governments and international institutions, demanding its implementation.***

Summary

Bahar Salimova underlined in his contribution the problems with the implementation of the UN Resolution. "The greatest importance of UN Resolution 1325 is that it requires governments to acknowledge the importance of women's participation in peace-building, post conflict reconstruction, and humanitarian response processes. Although many governments have signed this resolution, there is a real problem with its implementation. One reason is that signing international resolutions has become a diplomatic tool for many governments to assert themselves as part of the international community and to promote their image as "democratic" and "progressive". It makes the main goal of signing such resolutions and conventions not achieving the results stipulated in the documents, but to promote international political agenda of governments. Another reason might be extremely difficult socio-economic and political situation in the post-conflict countries. Such a difficult situation creates additional barriers and roadblocks in the implementation of the resolution. Therefore, it is absolutely important to create mechanisms measuring the implementation of Resolution 1325, and the results achieved. Such measures should include not only quantitative indicators, but also qualitative ones that show at what levels and how women participate in the peace-building and post conflict reconstruction

processes. It is also important to create incentives for governments to implement the provisions of the resolution. Some incentives might include promoting the positive image of the governments achieved most successful results. Another incentive might be providing financial assistance to governments creating and implementing programs relevant to the provisions of Resolution 1325. Additionally, civil society, and in particular the women's organizations, should actively advocate for including women in peace-building and reconstruction processes and for the implementation of Resolution 1325. This will not only create the awareness of the resolution and women's issues within a country, but will also create pressure over a government to implement the provisions of the resolution. Bahar Salimova”

For other participants, it is clear that this UN Resolution is not known by local organizations. A women working in the Northeastern province of Somalia and Somaliland, shared her experiences. She was shocked to find out that none of the civil society functioning in these two areas knew anything about UN Resolution 1325. For her, most of local women's organizations operating in conflict zones lack the resources in domesticating this Resolution and many international organizations - particularly feminist organizations - need to raise awareness of this important tool.
