

Increasing Momentum for UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans

Meeting Report

April 24, 2009

New York, NY

Summary

On April 24, 2009, Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and current President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, and Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Chair of The Institute for Inclusive Security, convened a group of prominent government, United Nations, and civil society leaders in New York to discuss strategies for increasing the development and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) National Action Plans (NAPs) and to encourage creative international cooperation on NAPs. The meeting bolstered gains made at a June 2008 meeting, “Making the Case for Security Council Resolution 1325,” and the March 2009 International Colloquium on Women’s Leadership, Empowerment, International Peace and Security, in Monrovia, Liberia.

During the morning session, experts on UNSCR 1325 formulated key actions that Member States, multilateral and regional institutions, the United Nations and civil society can take to stimulate the development and implementation of NAPs leading to the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. Representatives of UN Member States further refined these recommendations in the afternoon session, and a drafting committee edited them subsequently.

Recommendations for Member States

1. Develop and adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325/1820 using a participatory, transparent process that involves the highest level of political leadership, all relevant government agencies (including foreign affairs, defense, military, and police) with civil society. Whenever possible, NAPs should be advanced through foreign affairs and defense ministries rather than gender-specific agencies.
2. Integrate NAPs into domestic law and legal systems and other relevant national policies, particularly national security plans, existing planning frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, gender and development plans, and peace-building plans.
3. Develop systems for monitoring and accurately assessing NAP implementation with lines of accountability and including the development of indicators with relevant

- periodic reports to the legislature. Provide appropriate resources for implementation and monitoring of progress and results.
4. The highest level of political leadership should encourage governments to “twin” with one or more other countries towards development and implementation of NAPs and/or to provide financial and technical resources to support plan development and implementation. During this process, good practices and lessons learned should be documented and shared widely with other relevant actors.
 5. Standardize reporting on NAP implementation and make reports readily available to civil society organizations. Members of the Security Council should convene quarterly Security Council briefings on the status of implementation of UNSCR 1325 in advance of the 10th anniversary in 2010.
 6. Hold private sector actors and outside contractors accountable to UNSCR 1325 and 1820 standards, in line with the broad principles of corporate social responsibility. For example, ensure that major contracts for development of extractive industries are 1325/1820 compliant and do not exacerbate or provoke erosion of women’s security. National laws and regulations associated with NAPs on 1325/1820 should also apply to private entities holding government contracts or receiving financial support.

Recommendations for Multilateral and Regional Institutions

1. Develop UNSCR 1325 and 1820 integrated regional plans, comprising all aspects of the institutions’ work, including funding (ODA and other) and crisis management. These action plans should also be integrated into, and supported by, other relevant regional peace and security policies.
2. Effectively collaborate with civil society organizations in international, regional, and national processes related to UNSCR 1325 and 1820.
3. Promote active cooperation among multilateral and regional organizations and between these and the UN in order to maximize effectiveness of action, including sharing of expertise and lessons learned, and providing space for dialogue on issues linked to UNSCR 1325 and 1820.
4. Promote and support NAP elaboration and implementation by Member States and partner countries, including on a regional basis.
5. Request Member States to report regularly on activities to advance UNSCR 1325 and 1820 implementation in their respective regions.
6. Set up taskforces or other appropriate structures to monitor, promote and evaluate progress regarding the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and develop joint indicators to assess progress.

Recommendations for the United Nations Secretariat, Departments and Agencies

1. Create a United Nations High-level Steering Committee to bring greater visibility and coherence to UNSCR 1325 and 1820 within the UN system.
2. Strengthen coordination among existing UN agencies and entities supporting NAP coherence (in the spirit of “One UN”) so as to ensure effective, coherent and coordinated provision of technical assistance to countries to develop and implement NAPs. This should include regularly collecting and disseminating “best practices” in developing NAPs within the UN system and Member States, encouraging the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820, including through “twinning” and other collaborative measures.
3. Promote a vigorous awareness-raising and advocacy campaign with Member States, especially in conflict and post-conflict countries to ensure political commitment for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820. Ensure adequate human and financial resources, including from a core budget, to support implementation of adopted NAPs in developing countries, including conflict-affected countries and fragile states.
4. Use donor conferences and post-conflict needs assessments to call for NAP development (or integration of 1325/1820 objectives to other planning frameworks such as PRSPs or peace-building plans) and to channel funds for implementation where NAPs already exist.
5. Incorporate the spirit and guidelines of UNSCR 1325 into UN day-to-day operations and employee evaluation and training.
6. Request information, including from independent civil society organizations, about NAP implementation and development in country reports to the Secretary-General. Include standardized reporting on NAPs in the annual Report by the Secretary-General to the Security Council on UNSCR 1325.

Recommendations for Civil Society (including private and not-for-profit entities)

1. Provide expert advice and capacity to national governments, UN and regional/multilateral bodies as they develop and monitor NAPs on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.
2. Continue to track NAP development, identify best practices and lessons learned, and disseminate related information broadly. Create “report cards” and undertake shadow reporting on NAP implementation. Recognize and publicize exemplary national planning efforts.
3. Advocate to national governments and regional multilateral organizations to create, adopt, fund, and implement National Action Plans.
4. Develop and engage in civil society coalitions, including cross-border coalitions, and youth organizations and networks, to advocate for NAPs and to participate in national action planning.

5. Generate broader ownership and awareness of NAPs by ensuring that civil society organizations and the wider population, particularly women living in rural areas and any marginalized groups, are actively engaged and have the opportunity to feed into and identify priorities for the NAPs. These groups should also be involved in validation of the draft plan and in any subsequent meetings with government to assess and monitor implementation.
6. Advocate to the UN, multilateral/regional institutions, and Member States to introduce incentives and accountability mechanisms for NAP development and implementation.

Other issues discussed included:

- The need to engage the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the UN Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO) on UNSCR 1325 and 1820, especially by appointing a senior gender advisor within DPA.
- The need for more data on and analysis of existing and pending NAPs.
- Ways the Peace Building Fund could be used for 1325 NAP development and implementation.
- The concept of “twinning” NAPs as a promising way to advance UNSCR 1325 implementation.

Key Outcomes and Next Steps:

- United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro agreed to create and chair a **UN High-level Steering Committee on UNSCR 1325** to bring greater visibility and coherence to UNSCR 1325 within the UN system. The Committee will include heads of UN agencies and should report to the Security Council. DSG Migiro and ASG Rachel Mayanja will take next steps in its formation.
- UNIFEM will make available an **On-line Calendar of Meetings and Events leading up to the 10th anniversary of 1325**; Finland, Ireland, and Iceland announced events/summits on UNSCR 1325 and 1820.
- The European Commission will convene a meeting on **Twinning of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans** this October/November under the Swedish presidency. Organizations such as the Club of Madrid will encourage its members to promote the concept of twinning.
- The Great Lakes Regional Meeting in February 2010 in Kigali will explore the potential for using **UNSCR 1325 NAP development as a tool in regional peace-building**.