

**NATO SECRETARY GENERAL'S SECOND ANNUAL PUBLIC REPORT ON
IMPLEMENTING UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325
ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY, AND RELATED RESOLUTIONS**

The adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, in 2000, marked an historic recognition on the part of the international community of the disproportionate effect that armed conflict has on women and children in particular, as civilians, refugees or internally displaced persons who are increasingly targeted by combatants. At the same time, our experience in NATO has shown that women bring a valuable contribution to our armed forces and operations and play an important role in conflict prevention and resolution. Whilst nations have the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of Security Council Resolutions, NATO is playing its part in ensuring the full implementation of the Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

In concert with its Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) partners, NATO has developed an overarching policy to achieve the goals set out in UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960) and is implementing this policy as part of its comprehensive approach to effective crisis management and cooperative security. Such an approach recognises that military means are not enough on their own to meet the many complex security challenges we face. Increased coordination, together with political and practical cooperation, is needed on the part of countries, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and local authorities on the ground in order to achieve peace and security and to ensure respect for women's rights.

The Chicago Summit in May 2012 reconfirmed the commitment of NATO Heads of State and Government to the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, in recognition of the fact that "Widespread sexual and gender based violence in conflict situations, the lack of effective institutional arrangements to protect women, and the continued under-representation of women in peace processes, remain serious impediments to building sustainable peace". In August 2012, I appointed the Norwegian diplomat Mari Skåre as my Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. She is NATO's focal point for work on UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions. She will help give further impetus to this work by increasing awareness and competence across NATO structures on women, peace and security issues, by supporting the incorporation of gender perspectives in all aspects of planning, exercises and training, and by strengthening our outreach and cooperation with other partner countries, international organizations and civil society.

Progress in 2012

NATO-led Operations and Missions

The Alliance incorporates the objectives set out in the UNSCRs on Women, Peace and Security in all NATO-led operations and missions. NATO and its Operational Partners in the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and in the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in the Balkans, continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to promoting the important and distinctive role that women can play in conflict resolution, and to the full and effective participation of women at all stages and at all levels of its operations and missions. They recognise that differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities need to be taken into account in all stages of planning, designing, implementing and evaluating NATO-led operations and missions.

At the Chicago Summit meeting in May 2012, the Heads of State and Government of the ISAF countries and of Afghanistan emphasised “the importance of full participation of all Afghan women in the reconstruction, political, peace and reconciliation processes in Afghanistan and the need to respect the institutional arrangements protecting their rights”. The Commander of ISAF and the Senior Civilian Representative have been active in supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions by promoting the role of women and the importance of gender balance in the rebuilding of Afghanistan within the ISAF chain of command, the Afghan Government and civil society. Specific guidance has been included in the ISAF Operations Plan on “Gender Perspective Integration into ISAF Plans and Operations.” With respect to civil society, ISAF and the Office of the Senior Civilian Representative have focused particular efforts, in the course of their Key Leader Engagements, on promoting the role of women within the Afghan Parliament and the Afghan High Peace Council. Throughout 2012, NATO, together with the Government of Afghanistan, has continued to raise gender awareness, and to provide gender-related training as well as to support the recruitment and retention of women in the Afghan security forces.

In the Balkans, the Commander of KFOR continues to highlight the importance of the gender perspective, particularly when dealing with civil society, and has facilitated efforts to increase the participation of women in the Kosovo Security Force.

In August 2012, NATO’s Strategic Commanders issued a revision of the Directive on Integrating UNSCR 1325 and the Gender Perspective into the NATO Command Structure. This Revision incorporates the lessons learned since 2010 and it constitutes the new baseline document for ensuring that all forces in the NATO structure and within NATO-led operations fully implement the Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and systematically integrate gender perspective at all times into planning and reporting mechanisms.

Gender advisers have an important role to play in ensuring that gender perspectives are taken into account and in reporting on gender-related issues in a specific area of operation. Both of NATO's strategic headquarters have deployed Gender advisers, and several gender-related positions have been created and filled in various ISAF headquarters in Afghanistan. In 2012 the decision was taken to appoint an ISAF military Gender Adviser of Flag Officer rank. Additional gender advisers or points of contact with similar responsibilities have been deployed by individual nations in their Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan. One Gender Adviser has also been deployed at KFOR Headquarters.

The Alliance is currently conducting a review of the practical implications of UNSCR 1325 for the conduct of NATO-led operations and missions, the outcome of which should help us further assist in the development of NATO policies, action plans and military guidelines.

Cooperation with partners

NATO continues to cooperate with partner countries and with other international organisations on women, peace and security issues. Work with partners focuses on the enhancement of political dialogue and practical cooperation in the security and defence fields. In both its political and practical work, NATO encourages the adoption of specific goals related to UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions, and encourages partner nations to make use of the many training and education activities developed by Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and nations. Of particular note in 2012 were: NATO facilitation of a United Nations Development Programme project on Support for Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans; NATO support to an Expert Meeting in Georgia on mainstreaming a gender perspective into Security Sector reform; and the adoption by two Partners (Austria and Ireland) of a discrete Partnership Goal on Gender Perspectives within the Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process.

With respect to international organisations, attention is focused primarily on the United Nations, the European Union and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and during the course of 2012 NATO contributed to the United Nations Secretary-General's Annual Report on UNSCR 1325 Implementation.

Training and Education

During the course of 2012, NATO and individual Allied and partner civilian and military organisations continued to develop and refine training and education activities and expertise in order to reflect the aims of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions. In January 2012, following close collaboration between ACT and Sweden, the new "Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations" was opened in Sweden, and the Centre is now designated the Department Head for the training of all Gender Advisers

and Gender Field Advisers in NATO and for NATO-led operations. Of particular note with respect to Afghanistan are:

- The completion in late 2012 of helicopter pilot training in the United States of two female Afghan air force officers.
- In the framework of NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme, the Silk Afghanistan Project has been developed, with the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education in the lead, for capacity building in managing information technology: four advanced training courses have been held to date, with two Afghan women participating in each course.

The importance of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was also acknowledged by Smart Defence Tier 1 project "Female leaders in Security and Defence" with the objective to integrate gender perspectives into strategic planning, capabilities development and force preparedness.

Way Forward

NATO remains fully committed to implementing the UNSCR 1325 and related United Nations Security Council Resolutions. In order to achieve further progress, our actions will be directed, with priority, to the following areas:

- Further strengthening education and training as a strategic tool for ensuring implementation of the Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.
- Further deepening our cooperation with partners and other international organizations, both politically and practically.
- Reviewing the practical implications of UNSCR 1325 for the conduct of NATO operations and missions with a view to further refining our policy and Action Plan.
- Continuing to raise public awareness of our policies on gender mainstreaming in our structures, operations and programmes in order to reinforce our message of commitment to implementing the principles of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions.

Achieving greater empowerment and more effective protection of women against the specific dangers they face in armed conflicts is of benefit not only to women, but to us all. This is, in my mind, a crucial component of a comprehensive approach to the security challenges of the 21st century.