

*10 February 2009*

**The Swedish Government's action plan for 2009–2012  
to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)  
on women, peace and security**

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## **Foreword**

The United Nations (UN) Security Council, which is the body responsible for international peace and security, adopted Resolution 1325 (on women, peace and security) in 2000. Resolution 1325 stresses the importance of women who are affected by conflicts also being involved in their resolution and of women being represented as actors in the international community's initiatives to bring about peace. It also states that women and girls are particularly vulnerable in conflict situations, meaning that they require increased protection. The latter point was also highlighted in Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in conflicts, which is also taken into account in this action plan.

The UN General Assembly and various subsidiary bodies have undertaken extensive initiatives over many years to promote women's status and equality. Resolution 1325 is an important complement to these efforts, not least because it establishes that women and gender equality issues are also significant in efforts to achieve international peace and security.

The implementation of Resolution 1325 contributes to achieving aims within foreign, security, development and defence policy, but also gender equality policy. The full and equal participation of women in conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and peace-building contributes to international peace and security. It also contributes to democracy, increased respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, development and poverty reduction.

## Introduction

In the autumn of 2000, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. It was an expression of the need for and importance of strengthening women's participation in efforts to find resolutions to armed conflicts and in conflict prevention work. The issue of gender equality and issues of women's participation in decision-making have long been on the UN agenda as part of the work of the General Assembly. The issue of women and peace has also been on the agenda of UN conferences on women and their follow-up sessions. Despite this, today women are still often excluded from peace-building and conflict prevention processes and women's skills are not utilised to maintain peace and security.

The Resolution calls on the UN system and its Member States to take concrete measures to:

- increase women's participation in conflict prevention and peace-support operations and support women's peace initiatives in conflict areas,
- secure the participation of women in institutions and in decision-making in post-conflict situations and transition processes from conflict to peace,
- strengthen protection for women's and girls' enjoyment of their human rights, protection under international humanitarian law and special needs in war and conflict situations,
- incorporate a gender equality perspective into peace-keeping, security-building and humanitarian operations.

The starting point for the resolution is the fact that women are affected by and can affect armed conflicts. Women in conflict and post-conflict areas are actors but are also particularly vulnerable. In 2008, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1820 on sexual violence and security, thereby acknowledging the link between the two. Gender-related violence is not infrequently used as a strategy by warring parties in an armed conflict or in fragile post-conflict situations. Impunity for such violations is widespread. Protecting women and girls, not least against sexual violence, enables more women to participate actively in peace processes and conflict prevention efforts. In this action plan Resolution 1820 is treated as lending depth and clarity to the protection aspect of Resolution 1325.

The recognition of the importance of women as actors in conflict resolution and the fact that they are particularly vulnerable in armed conflict situations underlines the need for intensified efforts to integrate a gender equality perspective into the preparations for and the implementation and assessment of peace-keeping operations. A clear gender and gender equality perspective in which the situation and conditions of women and girls are given full attention is also needed in humanitarian efforts during and after conflicts. As a member of the UN, Sweden will contribute to the implementation of Resolution 1325 through activities at three levels: national, regional and global. The Swedish action plan

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focuses on enabling the active participation of women in peace processes, and also on ensuring that the special protection needs of women and girls are fulfilled.

## **Sweden's national action plan – background**

Sweden's first national action plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 covered the period 2006–2008. Sweden was one of the first countries to adopt a national action plan and the Swedish plan has attracted interest and inspired several other countries and international organisations. (To date, the following countries have adopted national action plans: Austria, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the UK).

Since the first action plan was adopted in 2006 experience has been gained and lessons have been learned from work concerning Resolution 1325 at global, regional and national level. Knowledge of work concerning Resolution 1325 has increased and efforts to implement it have developed. It has become clearer where the biggest challenges lie – where organisation, training and implementation are key. New factors have arisen that should be reflected in the new action plan, such as UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in armed conflicts. Continued active Swedish commitment on these issues within the UN, the European Union (EU) and other regional organisations is also an important factor in the production of a new action plan. This action plan aims to take account of these experiences and strengthen the implementation of Resolution 1325. It is a natural part of the Swedish Government's ambitions that Sweden should continue to lead the way in efforts to implement Resolution 1325.

The action plan has been drawn up by a working group within the Government Offices, which in turn has been guided by a dialogue with various stakeholders: government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, international organisations and other countries. This joint approach will also be characteristic of the implementation of the action plan.

## **Follow-up of the previous action plan**

A number of the aims set for the previous plan have been achieved. Resolution 1325 has been a defining issue for Sweden during the period 2006–2008, both in development assistance and in several regional and international organisations. In bilateral development assistance, the Government has given special priority in its country focus to countries in conflict/post-conflict situations. Resolution 1325 is an important tool in cooperation with these countries.

As co-chair of the UN-backed initiative Partners for Gender Justice between 2005 and 2006, Sweden contributed to a number of specific measures in several conflict and post-conflict countries to strengthen women's participation in reforms of the justice sector. Sweden supports the Gender Action Plan and is also a member of the World Bank's Advisory Council for the Gender Action Plan and contributes to the World Bank Adolescent Girls Initiative for education in poor, fragile and post-conflict countries. For a number of years Sweden has been proactive in developing Resolution 1325 in policy and specific initiatives within the framework of the EU and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) via, for example, initiatives to appoint gender advisers in ESDP operations. Within the

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Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Sweden has seconded a Resolution 1325 expert to the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

In other areas implementation has not made such progress, and special initiatives will therefore need to be taken in several areas. The proportion of women in civilian and military crisis management operations must increase, not least in the ESDP, and there must be more women at higher levels. Cooperation and exchange of experiences, including identifying existing knowledge concerning Resolution 1325 must increase at national level. Follow-up of the implementation of Resolution 1325 and reporting on progress and setbacks in the process are needed in order to implement it fully.

## **A Swedish action plan based on experience and broad commitment**

Since the adoption of Resolution 1325, Sweden has actively encouraged the conversion of commitments made into tangible initiatives that change and improve the situation of women and girls in armed conflicts and facilitate women's participation in all phases of a conflict. The Government's work surrounding Resolution 1325 is based on a comprehensive approach to security, development and human rights.

Using the action plan, Sweden has consciously and actively contributed to the implementation of Resolution 1325 by initiating, developing, taking and evaluating a number of measures. It has been arduous work, partly because these issues are given varying levels of priority in different countries. The initiatives laid down in the action plan concern both continuing initiatives already begun in order to achieve greater impact and effect, and taking new initiatives. The accelerated work in recent years to implement Resolution 1325 has also taught us lessons which are the basis for future activities and have influenced the formulation of the national action plan. On the basis of this experience, several challenges can be identified:

- The general – and growing – support for Resolution 1325 must result in agreement on prioritising issues concerning its implementation.
- Growing awareness of the resolution must also be followed by deeper knowledge at all levels of its implementation.
- Overall strategies and programmes of action must be supplemented by tangible efforts in specific situations, such as prevention and peace-keeping operations, peace negotiations and in post-conflict situations.
- The importance and value of implementing Resolution 1325 must be clarified and seen as an integrated and necessary element if efforts to promote peace and development are to meet the goals set.
- The mutual dependency between the national and international level must be made clear, along with countries' special responsibilities in their capacity as members of international organisations, development assistance donors and contributors of troops and police.
- The requirement of an increased proportion of women in operations must be seen from both a quantitative and qualitative point of view. More women are needed in management and decision-making positions.
- Cooperation and interaction between different actors and at different levels needs to be further strengthened.
- Implementation of the resolution depends on sufficient resources being allocated to priority initiatives.

## **Objectives and focus of Swedish action**

Resolution 1325 will be an integrated and natural part of both day-to-day and long-term strategic work for peace and security. The increased participation of women and a gender equality perspective will be secured in the areas covered by the resolution. Sweden and the international community will support and strengthen different national and local organisations, actors, measures and initiatives engaged in implementing Resolution 1325.

The Government will prioritise measures designed to achieve three general aims:

- A considerably larger proportion of women to participate in international peace-support and security-building operations, within the framework of regional and international organisations, and operations to be implemented with a gender perspective in order to increase their effectiveness.
- The protection of women and girls in conflict situations to be strengthened and based on analysis in which women participate actively.
- Women in conflict areas to participate fully and on equal terms with men at all levels in mechanisms and institutions for conflict prevention, crisis management, peace-building, humanitarian operations and other initiatives during a post-conflict phase.

This requires that ongoing activities are developed and strengthened. This concerns both specific measures and policy development. Special efforts will be made in conflict areas in which Sweden contributes to and is involved in peace-support and security-building operations, including via development cooperation, in which Resolution 1325 is an important tool in cooperation strategies for focus countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

## **Measures and activities**

To make it clear that the challenges in implementing Resolution 1325, and therefore also the need for initiatives, vary, the Swedish action plan contains activities for implementation at three levels:

- nationally,
- in the EU and regional organisations such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe, NATO/the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and Nordic cooperation, and
- globally, above all in the UN.

In efforts at regional and global level, Sweden is one of many actors, which limits its opportunities for influence. One precondition for Sweden to be able to work for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in regional and global organisations is that the resolution is fully implemented at national level. Sweden will continue to be a leading nation, both with regard to national implementation and in driving developments at the international level.

Responsibility for implementing Resolution 1325 is shared, and extends from civil society to international organisations. This also applies to information and analysis, training and capacity-building. It is important to establish the planned measures and activities within the local operational area if they are to have genuine effect. Cooperation with organisations and networks in current or potential conflict areas is therefore of particular importance. Efforts to implement Resolution 1325 must be the common concern of all actors and of both women and men.

### **Efforts at national level**

At the national level, efforts to implement Resolution 1325 primarily involve the ministries and departments in the Government Offices engaged in peace-support and security-building activities, human rights and/or gender equality issues (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Justice and Integration and Gender Equality) as well as the agencies that train and deploy personnel to international operations or carry out relevant research activities (primarily the Swedish Armed Forces, the National Police Board, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the Swedish Defence Research Agency, the National Defence College, the Swedish Prison and Probation Service, the National Courts Administration and the Swedish Prosecution Authority). Swedish missions abroad in conflict and post-conflict areas and at the international organisations (UN, EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, NATO etc.) play an important role. Non-governmental organisations help strengthen Sweden's collective commitment at both national and international level, and this is taken into account in any decisions on support to these organisations.

The following measures and activities are planned at national level to achieve the three general aims:

*1. A considerably larger proportion of women to participate in international peace-support and security-building operations, within the framework of regional and international organisations, and operations to be undertaken with a gender perspective in order to increase their effectiveness.*

- The agencies concerned are to continue to intensify their efforts to implement Resolution 1325. A Resolution 1325 perspective is to be reflected in all relevant appropriation directions. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish National Defence College and Swedish Prison and Probation Service)
- Work concerning resolution 1325 is to involve women as well as men.
- The Government Offices and the agencies concerned are to ensure that the aim of having a considerably larger proportion of women at all levels and in different types of positions in international operations is prioritised when personnel are recruited for civilian and military conflict prevention operations. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, National Courts Administration and Swedish Prosecution Authority)
- In civilian peace-keeping and security-building operations, and in the civilian components of multifunctional operations, there is to be equal participation of women and men. This applies in all types of non-uniformed positions and at all levels. (Folke Bernadotte Academy, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and Swedish Prison and Probation Service)

- Agencies that only deploy individual officials to international operations are to aim to achieve a gender balance in the recruitment and nomination of personnel. (National Courts Administration and Swedish Prosecution Authority)
- In military peace-keeping and security-building operations women and men are to participate on equal terms. The recruitment base for such operations is relatively small. This means that the proportion of women in international operations should be greater than the proportion of women in equivalent groups in national activities. Women's skills are to be utilised. It is important to ensure the participation of women in carrying out all types of task and at all levels. This requires strategic efforts from the agencies concerned to increase the proportion of female conscripts, professional soldiers and officers. (Swedish Armed Forces and National Service Administration)
- In police peace-keeping and security-building operations women and men are to participate on equal terms. It is important to ensure the participation of women in carrying out all types of task and at all levels. (National Criminal Police)
- More female candidates are to be identified and nominated for senior positions in international operations. When nominating several candidates for senior positions in regional and international organisations, at least one female candidate is to be sought. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish Prison and Probation Service and Swedish National Defence College)
- A survey of skills found at national level regarding Resolution 1325 is to be carried out. In particular, this is to be done within the framework of the supply of personnel for civilian operations that the Folke Bernadotte Academy has been tasked with administering.
- The agencies concerned are to consider developing their own complementary guidelines for the implementation of Resolution 1325 and regularly review their application and follow-up regulations and methods. The agencies concerned have been tasked through appropriation directions with reporting annually on the work undertaken to implement Resolution 1325. The agencies are tasked with preparing gender-disaggregated statistics for all operations and reporting annually on these statistics. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish National Defence College and Swedish Prison and Probation Service)
- Concrete methods and tools are to continue to be developed by the agencies concerned to increase women's participation and incorporate a gender equality perspective into planning, preparations, training, implementation and evaluation of peace-keeping and humanitarian

operations. Existing methods and tools must be used and improved as necessary.

- Cooperation between those agencies that deploy personnel, representatives of civil society and the Government Offices is to increase with regard to exchanging information, knowledge and experiences concerning aims, purpose and implementation of Resolution 1325. The project *GenderForce*, which was concluded at the end of 2007 but lives on as a network for cooperation between agencies concerned and NGOs, is a good example. The Folke Bernadotte Academy has a special responsibility for ensuring that forms of cooperation are developed.
- Cooperation with research institutions is to be utilised to map out, gather and contribute to the spread of relevant research. Alongside the Swedish Defence Research Agency, the Swedish National Defence College and other universities and higher education institutions, the Folke Bernadotte Academy continues to be a platform for cooperation on these issues.
- Resolution 1325 is always to be taken into account when developing strategies for partner countries in conflict or post-conflict situations. (Sida)

*2. The protection of women and girls in conflict situations to be strengthened and based on analysis in which women participate actively.*

- Special attention is to be paid, both in the short term and the long term, to issues concerning the security and protection of women and girls in operational areas, including the need for initiatives for sexual and reproductive health and rights. The increased participation of women and respect for women's enjoyment of their human rights can help prevent gender-related violence, such as men's violence against women and girls, in a broader perspective. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish National Defence College and Swedish Prison and Probation Service)
- Special attention is to be paid to women's security when Sweden is directly involved in peace processes. Swedish men and women who represent the international community are to be encouraged to bear these issues in mind.
- The authorities responsible are to continuously evaluate and develop training for Swedish personnel who are to take part in international operations and peace assignments. All Swedish personnel that participate in peace-support and humanitarian operations must have knowledge of both Resolution 1325 and Resolution 1820, along with conditions specific to the operation, the relevant legislation and ethical issues. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish National Defence College and Swedish Prison and Probation Service)

- There are to be continued and more in-depth efforts to integrate a clear gender equality perspective into initiatives to strengthen and secure the judicial system in post-conflict countries. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, Swedish National Defence College, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, National Courts Administration and Swedish Prosecution Authority)

*3. Women in conflict areas to participate fully and on equal terms with men at all levels in mechanisms and institutions for conflict prevention, crisis management, peace-building, humanitarian operations and other initiatives during a post-conflict phase.*

- The programme for Swedish delegations visiting conflict areas is to include discussions with women. The delegations are to consist of both women and men. Talks with relevant representatives – women and men – of governments, parties to a conflict, international, regional and national organisations are also to cover issues concerning women's participation, human rights, humanitarian rights and security, as well as prevention of abuse and penal measures against perpetrators.
- Practical instruments such as checklists, guidelines, instructions and background material for dialogue are to be developed continuously and integrated into the day-to-day activities of the relevant ministries and agencies with regard to current and potential conflict countries and post-conflict countries.
- Swedish missions abroad and other Swedish actors in conflict areas have a special responsibility for work with Resolution 1325 in these countries. National and local women's organisations are important cooperation partners and should be supported. The Government is to continue to support and cooperate with Swedish non-governmental organisations in efforts to implement Resolution 1325 nationally in Sweden and in initiatives to support relevant women's organisations in conflict and post-conflict countries.
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida must utilise opportunities to give strategic financial contributions and other forms of capacity-building support for targeted activities to increase women's participation in conflict prevention initiatives, conflict management and peace-building.
- The development of initiatives and strategies for reform of the security sector in post-conflict countries is to take account of Resolution 1325 and the active participation of women and their security, roles and enjoyment of their human rights. Areas of interest include education and recruitment as well as broader issues concerning reform of the judicial system. (Swedish Armed Forces, National Police Board, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Swedish National Defence College, Sida, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and Swedish Prison and Probation Service)

- A Resolution 1325 perspective is to continue to be taken into account in all cooperation strategies for countries in conflict and post-conflict situations as well as for other countries where appropriate.
- When developing and implementing Sweden's cooperation strategies with countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, consultations with national and local actors are to include women. Multi-annual programmes, conflict analyses and other frameworks and activities to promote peace and security are other important instruments in integrating Resolution 1325 into development cooperation.

## **Efforts at regional level**

### *The EU*

As a member of the EU, Sweden has a special interest in, and responsibility for, ensuring the full implementation of Resolution 1325 in EU peace-support and security-building efforts. Special endeavours are made within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), as well as in development cooperation, humanitarian operations and migration policy where appropriate. The Council and Commission are responsible for ensuring that Resolution 1325 is taken into account and Sweden is to undertake various actions to ensure that this is the case. Sweden is to seek to cooperate with likeminded EU Member States in these efforts. Sweden is also continuing to work to ensure that the EU is proactive in the implementation of Resolution 1325 within the UN.

To achieve results, initiatives are needed both at EU level and within the Member States and candidate countries. Particular account must be taken of the implementation of Resolution 1325 in negotiations with applicant and candidate countries with experience of conflict and lessons drawn from their experiences.

Sweden is to continue to participate in various institutions, committees and working groups and work for the implementation of the policy documents that have been produced within the EU, particularly the 2008 EU action plan to integrate Resolutions 1325 and 1820 into the ESDP. Sweden is also to encourage and, where requested, support initiatives in the Member States to implement Resolution 1325 at national level. The following activities and measures are being undertaken to achieve the three general aims:

1. A considerably larger proportion of women to participate in international peace-support and security-building operations, within the framework of regional and international organisations, and operations to be undertaken with a gender perspective in order to increase their effectiveness.

- The proportion of women in civilian and military ESDP operations is to increase, including in senior and decision-making positions. Responsibility lies primarily with the Member States, who must nominate more female candidates, but also with the heads of operations, particularly when filling key positions, and the Council Secretariat. Efforts to increase the number of women should be based on gender-disaggregated statistics and analysis of the causes of the current distribution of women and men in ESDP operations. Sweden is to both set a good example at national level and work for an intensification of statistics and analysis work within the EU.
- In various institutions, committees and working groups, Sweden is to continue to be proactive in making Resolution 1325 a natural part of planning, formulation, implementation and evaluation of the EU's civilian and military crisis management operations, as well as of other conflict prevention and peace-support activities.
- Sweden is to strive to ensure that gender advisers in ESDP operations receive the necessary resources, powers and support. Responsibility for

integrating a gender perspective lies within existing leadership and management structures; gender equality advisers support the operational commanders. In order to implement Resolution 1325 in all phases of an operation, gender equality advisers must be appointed at the same time as other leaders and advisers and participate in planning, information gathering and force generation conferences.

- Sweden is to be proactive in speeding up implementation of the code of conduct and strengthening observance of it for personnel in ESDP operations, for example through training. Agencies that contribute personnel to international operations have a special responsibility.
- Sweden is to work to ensure that a Resolution 1325 perspective is integrated into those parts of the Council Secretariat that plan and carry out civilian operations (CPCC) and military operations (EUMS).
- Competence in gender and gender equality issues and other relevant issues is to be available at the offices of European Union Special Representatives (EUSRs), European Commission delegations and other field presences in conflict areas, as well as at the Council Secretariat and the Commission. Other Member States are to be encouraged to train their personnel with regard to Resolution 1325, and its intensification in Resolution 1820, and gender issues.
- Sweden is to work to strengthen reporting from EU missions and follow-up on Resolution 1325-related issues. This is done by supporting the development of the 'lessons learned process' and by working to ensure that Resolution 1325 aspects are integrated into the mandate for the exploratory initiatives, six-monthly follow-up reports and final evaluations of missions.

*2. The protection of women and girls in conflict situations to be strengthened and based on analysis in which women participate actively.*

- Sweden is to continue to work for the mandate of EU Special Representatives and ESDP operations to take account of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and issues concerning strengthened protection for women. Exchanges of experience between special representatives and others who hold senior positions should be encouraged, both internally within the EU and between the EU and other organisations.
- Sweden is to support the existing ban on the purchase of sexual services by personnel involved in ESDP operations. This is to be achieved by strengthening the implementation of and compliance with the code of conduct for personnel involved in ESDP operations, through training and also through clear sanctions. Agencies that contribute personnel to international operations have a special responsibility.
- By participating in relevant working groups, institutions and implementing committees, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida are to work for the

general aims surrounding Resolution 1325 to be translated into concrete humanitarian assistance measures in conflict and post-conflict countries.

*3. Women in conflict areas to participate fully and on equal terms with men at all levels in mechanisms and institutions for conflict prevention, crisis management, peace-building, humanitarian operations and other efforts during a post-conflict phase.*

*Sweden is to work actively to ensure that:*

- The mandate of EU Special Representatives takes account of Resolution 1325 and issues concerning women's participation in peace processes and that representatives have knowledge of Resolution 1325 and implement this in their activities.
- When representatives of the EU institutions or Presidency visit conflict areas, their programme includes talks with national and local women and women's organisations. Delegations should consist of both women and men. Issues concerning women's participation and security are to be discussed with both men and women.
- A Resolution 1325 perspective and issues concerning the participation of women are reflected in different training initiatives, including in the working programme for the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and EU Group on Training, and in training for specific missions before or during an operation. The Folke Bernadotte Academy and the Swedish National Defence College, which are the Swedish contact points for various training initiatives, continue to have an important role to play in this work, along with the agencies that contribute and train personnel for international operations.
- A Resolution 1325 perspective is integrated into strategies for countries in conflict and post-conflict situations and other relevant policy and planning documents. EU development assistance policy is a basis for this work.
- Issues that strengthen women's participation, influence and power in post-conflict situations are made an integrated part of development cooperation with such countries. This can include support for women's participation in peace processes and reconstruction, education for women and ensuring that women are also able to benefit from loans and credit.
- The EU's strategic cooperation with the UN, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the African Union (AU) in the area of peace and security are extended to include the Resolution 1325 perspective, both in specific operations and in the preparation of thematic strategies. In the implementation of the EU's action plan for the ESDP and Africa, the strengthening of women's participation and security is to be systematically given attention in the formulation of support and cooperation.

*Other organisations and cooperation*

Within the framework of its membership of, and cooperation with, other regional and sub-regional organisations, Sweden is to actively strive to implement Resolution 1325. Through the prevailing consensus within Nordic cooperation to drive developments in international organisations, Sweden and the other Nordic countries have greater opportunities to influence the implementation of the resolution in several different regional organisations and cooperation projects.

### OSCE

Within the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), work concerning Resolution 1325 is carried out in all peace-support and security-building activities within all three of the organisation's 'dimensions' (the human dimension, politico-military dimension and economic and environmental dimension). However, the major part of the work takes place in the OSCE field offices, the Gender Section of the Secretariat in Vienna and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). Swedish initiatives within the OSCE primarily aim to increase knowledge and awareness within the organisation of the need for and purpose of Resolution 1325 and to strengthen the implementation of the resolution in all relevant parts of the OSCE.

- Sweden is to continue to work for the implementation of the ministerial decision of 2005 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. There is particular focus on:
  - 1) Implementing the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which includes Resolution 1325,
  - 2) Developing ways of identifying and nominating women candidates (particularly to senior and decision-making positions),
  - 3) Developing and adjusting projects, strategies and initiatives so that they fulfil the undertakings in Resolution 1325 and the OSCE gender equality plan.
  - 4) Increasing training initiatives and active use of the Gender Security Sector Reform Toolkit, which contains concrete and practical tools including training materials, to integrate a gender equality perspective into security sector reforms etc.
- Sweden is to work to ensure that all OSCE field missions report on their efforts to implement Resolution 1325.
- Sweden is to work to ensure that the recommendation from the OSCE Secretariat's gender equality advisers that the acting heads of OSCE field missions should be made focal points for Resolution 1325 is implemented in practice.
- Sweden is to continue to work to ensure that a Resolution 1325 perspective is introduced into the OSCE's follow-up of the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence follow up and contribute to NATO's work to develop a policy and action plan for Resolution 1325 within NATO/Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPR) policy. Through Sweden's commitment to peace-support operations under NATO leadership and cooperation with the defence alliance in the framework of the EAPR/Partnership for Peace (PFF), Sweden has the opportunity to work for the implementation of Resolution 1325 within NATO/EAPR.

- Swedish participation in NATO operations is to be undertaken with a gender equality perspective, with the aim of making operations more effective and bringing them into line with activities and operations undertaken at national level.
- Sweden is to work to ensure that, in the operations in which Sweden participates, NATO makes Resolution 1325 a natural part of its planning, formulation, implementation and evaluation of the operations as a whole.
- Sweden is to work within the EAPR to ensure that NATO draws up an action plan for Resolution 1325 based on the policy guidelines that Sweden has helped to draw up.
- Sweden is to continue to strive for Resolution 1325 and gender advisory measures in the EAPR/PFF format. This applies in particular to the training carried out within the PFF framework.

#### *Council of Europe*

The human rights work of the Council of Europe also includes promotion of gender equality and women's participation in all areas of society. Sweden works actively for gender equality in the Council of Europe and its Member States, thereby contributing to the implementation of Resolution 1325. Sweden is to continue to work to ensure that the Council of Europe takes account of Resolution 1325 in future conflict prevention and crisis management work. There is particular focus on follow-up of measures for women's participation.

#### *Other organisations and forms of cooperation*

Attention is to be given to the Resolution 1325 perspective in the development and implementation of relevant Swedish strategies for cooperation with, support to, and dialogue with, regional and sub-regional organisations. The main responsibility rests with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida, although other ministries and agencies are also involved. The African Union and the sub-regional African organisations are of particular importance. In this context attention should be given both to the importance of the increased participation of women in local and regional institutions and processes, and to the need for strengthened protection of the security and human rights of women and girls in conflict situations.

## **Efforts at global level**

### *The UN system*

As a committed member state and active participant in peace-support activities, Sweden will support and hasten efforts to fully implement Resolution 1325. Priority will be given to a number of measures for which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the main responsibility but where work will be carried out in close consultation with other ministries and with the Swedish UN representations.

- Sweden is to continue to support development towards the implementation of Resolution 1325 becoming a clear and integrated part of the mandate for UN peace-support missions and political offices. The gender equality perspective must be reflected in information gathering, planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation of multifunctional missions and activities.
- Sweden is to support the implementation and follow-up of the UN system's joint Action Plan for Resolution 1325 adopted in 2005. Practical methods for implementation and feedback should be developed, and coordination should be strengthened within the UN system and between the UN and other actors. Special attention should also be given to the forms of UN cooperation with, support for, and consultation with national and local women's organisations in conflict and post-conflict countries.
- Sweden is to continue to demand clear guidelines for the Secretary-General's special envoys and representatives, directors and commanders of peace-support missions, mediators and other similar functions. These key UN representatives must pay attention to the situation and security of women and girls and their enjoyment of their human rights. They must also promote and report on the measures they have taken to fully involve women in the dialogue with the UN system in the field, and also what they have done to encourage the participation of women in national and local institutions, legislative assemblies and decision-making processes.
- Sweden is to work to ensure that training and training material developed and supplied by the UN covers issues concerning the participation, security and vulnerability of women and girls. This is particularly important with regard to those in senior positions. Competence in these areas should also be reflected in the job profile for service in international missions.
- Sweden is to aim for more systematic exchanges of knowledge, experience and information between international actors. Resolution 1325 should be one of the issues discussed at the regular meetings held between the UN and regional organisations.
- Sweden is to continue to participate in the New York-based group of friends of Resolution 1325.

1. A considerably larger proportion of women to participate in international peace-support and security-building operations, within the framework of regional and

*international organisations, and operations to be undertaken with a gender perspective in order to increase their effectiveness.*

- Sweden is to work to implement the goal of increasing the proportion of women in peace-support operations, including in senior and decision-making positions, and to this end will encourage increased exchanges of experience and methods between countries and organisations. Sweden has a special responsibility to nominate more women for senior positions within the UN.
- There is to be continued support for the establishment of the function of civilian observers in UN peace-support operations. This kind of category of personnel broadens the recruitment base and improves opportunities to increase the proportion of women in operations, which in turn improves the opportunities for contact with the female section of the civilian population.

*2. Protection of women and girls in conflict situations to be strengthened and based on analysis in which women participate actively.*

- Sweden is to work to ensure that peace operations receive the mandate and resources to provide the necessary protection for women.
- In the relevant forums, Sweden is to counter impunity for attacks against women and girls, for example in the form of gender-related violence.
- Sweden is to support efforts to develop, implement and follow up the UN strategy for the prevention and elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse and strengthening observance and follow-up of codes of conduct and ethical guidelines for personnel in peace-keeping operations.

*3. Women in conflict areas to participate fully and on equal terms with men at all levels in mechanisms and institutions for conflict prevention, crisis management, peace-building, humanitarian operations and other initiatives during a post-conflict phase.*

- Sweden will actively support the Peacebuilding Commission and its Support Offices in their task of increasing the participation of women and integrating a gender equality perspective into their work both in specific conflict areas and on individual factual issues.
- As a major donor to the UN system, including the Secretariat, funds and programmes that are active in the area of peace, security and humanitarian operations, including the Department for Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (including the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR)), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Sweden will work to ensure that these bodies pay attention to, and implement, Resolution 1325 in their own activities, where

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relevant. Priority will be given to issues concerning support to, and consultation with, women and women's organisations.

## **Implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the action plan**

The Government has overall responsibility for the implementation of Resolution 1325, and Resolution 1820 which goes into greater depth on the sexual violence aspect of Resolution 1325, but responsibility also lies with the relevant ministries, missions abroad and agencies in Sweden. Agencies that deploy personnel to international operations have a special responsibility to ensure that these personnel have the necessary knowledge and that the Resolution is fully implemented within their own organisation. Implementation is dependent on these actors cooperating and interacting to effectively integrate Resolution 1325 as a natural part of both day-to-day activities and long-term work. Swedish NGOs are important partners and a prerequisite for full and effective implementation of the Resolution. Civil society plays an important role in disseminating information at national level, but also in operations through contacts with and support for national women's organisations.

The participation of both women and men is very important if Resolution 1325 is to be implemented fully. Resolution 1325 must be implemented in all components of conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict work. Within mechanisms and organisations that are dominated by men, initiatives for female participation must also come from within. Men in senior positions have a particular responsibility to include women and facilitate female participation. Good examples that show both women's and men's competence and abilities as peacebuilders and participants in processes to create peace and security are needed in order for Resolution 1325 to be fully implemented and become a natural part of all peace-building and security-building work.

The action plan applies for the period 2009 to 2012. Regular reporting and evaluation are important tools for identifying gaps in knowledge and implementation of Resolution 1325. Through appropriation directions, the Government tasks the agencies with reporting (via their annual reports or regular reports on specific issues) on initiatives to implement Resolution 1325, and Resolution 1820, which goes into greater depth on the sexual violence aspect of Resolution 1325. A review of the action plan will take place through annual meetings where the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will call those involved in the Government Offices, agencies and NGOs for discussions. When the action plan expires, an overall evaluation will be carried out with regard to the aims set in the plan.

There is continuous assessment of the priority level of different initiatives in order both to allow scope for strategic ventures and to utilise the opportunities that arise in international organisations and contexts. The implementation of the plan will be financed within the framework of existing appropriations and funds and regular budget and other control processes.