Overview
SSR-07-RT

Annex A

SSR and Gender: Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820

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Dates
12 – 14 March 2013

Location(s)

Background
Among other topics, RACVIAC’s mid-term SSR programme aims to cover the protection of human rights. Thus, from the 20th to 21st of March 2012, in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, RACVIAC organised the first in a series of events on the mentioned topic – a Round Table entitled “SSR and Gender: Implementation of the UN SCR 1325 and 1820”. The Round Table took place in Slovenia, at the Ministry of Defence, SAF, DDETC Kadetnica, Maribor.

The protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is legally based on the UN Charter (1945) and the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) adopted and proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 217. Gender aspects are based on the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, European Convention on Human Rights (Council of Europe 1950), 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and other regional instruments in Europe. Implementation of human rights protection on the national level is an important political obligation, not only for the SEE countries. Promoting equal opportunities for women and men remains a big challenge for independent state institutions in their efforts to work together towards the elimination of discrimination, especially at the time of economic and financial crisis and its effects on gender issues.

The second Round Table in the “SSR and Gender” series of events is a contribution to the above-mentioned efforts.

Purpose & Objectives
The purpose of the second Round Table that will be executed in RACVIAC and the Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in the period of 12-14 March 2013 is two-fold. Firstly, it aims to bring together the representatives from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and provide them with relevant general information on the norms guiding Security Sector Reform and gender with a main focus on the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, 2004 OSCE Action Plan, European norms and regional instruments for promoting gender equality.

Secondly, it aims to encourage the participants from parliaments, ombudsman institutions, ministries, governments and NGOs from the SEE countries to present their experiences in implementing Action Plans with measures to strengthen the role of women in public sector.
The main objectives are:
- To provide participants with relevant information on the history of human rights and fundamental freedoms and on the norms guiding Security Sector Reform and gender;
- To highlight the gender perspective in the UN programming, EU, NATO and OSCE reporting and in peace support operations;
- To give an overview of the participation and representation of women at different levels of decision-making, promoting their engagement in politics;
- To exchange national experiences of the SEE countries in implementing national action plans and programmes aimed at strengthening the role of women in the public sector - national presentations are expected.

Participants
Approximately 30 participants from parliaments, national human rights protection ombudsman institutions, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Ministries of Interior, as well as representatives of the public sector and NGOs and experts from various national institutions and think-thanks. Experts from relevant UN, NATO, OSCE and EU departments and NGOs are invited to take part and provide information on the subject matter.

Methodology
The Round Table will comprise keynote speeches on the importance of gender issue in Security Sector Reform, followed by presentations on national action plans/programmes.
The working language will be English.

POC
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