



CENTRE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION

**SSR and Gender Conference:
“Equal Opportunities: Implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related UNSCRs –
Differences between Proclamation and Reality”**

SSR/IRC-02-CF

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Group photo

Abstract

In this fourth programme activity on the subject of implementation of the UNSCR 1325 as the landmark UN resolution on women, peace and security, including all corresponding and supporting resolutions,

the main intention was to initiate the establishment of a tentative framework for monitoring and evaluation of the regional progress made to implement the subject resolutions. In that respect this Conference was a welcome move in the process of laying down of the foundation for the

creation of a common framework based on measurable indicators, that were duly identified and discussed constructively and in great detail during the Conference. Thus, thanks to the valuable inputs and motivation demonstrated by the Conference participants and speakers, an important set of conclusions was made that can serve as a foundation for future projects.

Activity Background

This Conference was a fourth programme activity in a row of events that have aspired to track progress of the process of implementation of UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960 and 2112 in the countries of South East Europe participating in RACVIAC work, i.e., in line with a series of events jointly organised by RACVIAC and the relevant ministries and agencies in the SEE region.

This time around the conference was conducted in cooperation with the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the express purpose of this conference RACVIAC also partnered up with regional coordination mechanisms monitoring the implementation of NAPs.

Participation

The participants were members of coordination mechanisms established to monitor the implementation of 1325 NAPs, experts from Parliaments, governmental agencies/institutions and ministries dealing with human rights protection and the Gender aspect, as well as representatives of the public sector and

the civil society from South East Europe, namely Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia¹, Montenegro, Republic of Serbia and Republic of Slovenia.

Ms Ankica Tomić, MSci, Deputy Chairperson of the Coordination Board of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers for the implementation of the AP UNSCR 1325 - Women, Peace and Security was the main conference speaker who, together with Ambassador Branimir Mandić, RACVIAC Director, gave on the first day of the conference an introduction on the Conference Agenda and Methodology.

Activity Overview



The conference drew together members of coordination mechanisms, experts from Parliaments and ministries dealing with human rights protection and the Gender aspect

The event started with the opening speeches and welcome words by Ambassador Branimir Mandić, RACVIAC Director and Ms Ankica Tomić, MSci, Deputy Chairperson of the Coordination Board of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers for the implementation of the AP UNSCR 1325 - Women, Peace and Security, who

¹ Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

emphasized the purpose and objectives of the event on the highly specific topic of gender equality. The conference was conducted in synergy and cooperation with the Agency for Gender Equality of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is a state organization operating under the umbrella of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and deals with the full complexity of the real life implementation of the national policy on gender equality.



Mr Beno Arnejčič, PhD from the Faculty of Education, Primorska University, Koper, SI

After the introductory Panel, i.e., after each Conference participant presented her/himself to the audience, a video projection was shown, titled „Man and Woman: A duality in Gender Equality“ which was presented by Mr Beno Arnejčič, PhD, Professor at Primorska University, Koper, SI, which demonstrated an attempt to analyse the perennial question why the struggle for equal opportunities has been going on for the last 200 years. During his presentation, Mr Arnejčič emphasized the fact that a change of our ways of thinking and politics of equality and empowerment of women's rights is needed, that we cannot change culture but society and that freedoms and rights are the same side of the coin. Ms Janja Vuga's presentation that followed immediately afterwards, given by Mr Branko Kromar, MSci, SSR Programme Manager in RACVIAC revolved around

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gender mainstreaming and equal participation of women and men in decision-making, the security sector and civil society organizations and why equal participation of women and men matters. The presentation focused primarily on the case of Slovenia, the female peacekeepers, male vs. female ratio during the deployments and opportunities for women in the SAF in particular.

The ensuing part of this session of the conference was devoted to the process of adoption of the UN SCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs) in the Republic of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia², Republic of Serbia and Republic of Slovenia, whose representatives gave 10-minute presentations on the subject. This was followed by national presentations on „Establishing a functional coordination mechanism for UN SCR 1325 NAP implementation“ for the same countries. As could be expected, a majority of the countries cited budgetary constraints, lack of administrative capacities and women in decision making positions in politics, political parties, police and military structures, furthermore, insufficient understanding of the importance of the UNSCR 1325, the need to further



Ms Ankica Tomić, MSci speaking about the process of Adoption of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans

sensitize the governmental and civil society sector and a gender sensitive policy in the area of peace of security as the main problems they face while striving to more strongly integrate women in the security and defence sectors at home. One of the suggestions on how to improve cooperation in the region when it comes to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and other relevant resolutions, put forth by Ms Ankica Tomić, MSci included the establishment of a Secretariat for monitoring of the implementation of these resolutions, whereby Ms Tomić cited RACVIAC as „our joint tool“ for the achievement of the desired goal(s).



LtCol Suzana Tkavc gave a presentation on Republic of Slovenia's Security Sector Forces and UNSCR 1325 NAP

Although in countries such as Republic of Croatia and, f.e., Republic of Albania the status of women in the military is equal to men's, their role necessitates improvement and methods need to be devised on how to prevent the number of women gradually falling down once they start to climb the ladder of duties. Attracting women to the security sector forces and keeping them satisfied is one of the main challenges the Republic of Serbia currently faces in its attempts to achieve better levels of gender equality in defence and security fields. In Bosnia and Herzegovina 7 % of women are employed in the Armed Forces and the target minimum is 10 %, while in Montenegro this

percentage is slightly higher, with 9,6% of women employed in the Armed Forces and 41,4% in the MoD. „Each country is a case for itself“, concluded Mr Sandro Knezović, PhD (IRMO) who in his presentation on the subject of “Women and security sector forces” underlined that the gender aspect should be included more actively in training, planning and operations since female military personnel provides a unique contribution in the fight against security threats and challenges. By providing further “food for thought” this presentation served as an intro into the last day of the Conference which encompassed in-depth country presentations on „Gender mainstreaming and NAP 1325“ and „Regional cooperation and implementation of 1325 NAPs“.



Mr Sandro Knezović, PhD, IRMO, HR gave a lecture on the topic of „Women and security sector forces“

Closing remarks and Recommendations

In accordance with its conclusions and individual evaluations the event was a true success. What is even more important, it identified a significant potential for the future developments in this activity area, primarily in the context of regional cooperation that is being facilitated by RACVIAC - Centre for Security Cooperation. All participants without exception provided great insights regarding the Conference topics, showing rare enthusiasm that has high importance in this particular line of work due to its limitations and difficulties.

The stated dedication on the participants' part was truly visible during the presentations of conclusions and concrete recommendations. These are some of the most significant ones:

- To develop and sustain formal regional gender networking mechanisms;
- to establish a "knowledge base" for this particular field of interest;
- to diversify different types of events (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.);
- to design a "key leadership" seminar in order to include all decision-making levels;
- to present a region with "global" experiences and solutions;
- to extend the scope to other components of the security sector and not just to the military and police forces;
- to transform these types of events into regularly occurring activities (taking place at least once a year);
- to insist on the participation of the same profile of participants (operational level professionals working on a daily basis on issues of gender equality);
- to discuss decision-making processes which should include the gender aspects, etc.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that RACVIAC shall continue to dedicate its resources and thus fully support regional gender equality efforts not just through the programme activities but also through the development and execution of corresponding and regionally owned projects. To achieve this, a specific document is being drafted in the form of a joint statement that should be verified by all the participating countries and then serve as a common platform - a source of guidelines for future activities conducted together and through RACVIAC. To a certain point this should enable a strategic

and regional approach and provide a foundation for the synergy of our future joint efforts.

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