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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Political and Security Committee

Subject: 15th anniversary and Global Review of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace
and Security
Commitments of the EU and its Member States

1. The United Nations Working Party (CONUN) reached agreement on the text as set out in the Annex to this note on 9 October 2015.
2. The Political and Security Committee is invited to confirm this agreement and endorse the text.

15th anniversary and Global Review of UNSCR 1325**on Women, Peace and Security****Open Debate at the UNSC, 13 October 2015****Commitments of the EU and its Member States**

The European Union (EU) is committed to ensuring the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, both internally and in its relations with third countries. Implementing the objectives of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions ("UNSCR 1325") in the areas of prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery is a long-term undertaking, which requires the concerted efforts of EU institutions and EU Member States alike.

Despite the substantial efforts undertaken by the international community to implement the WPS agenda and the progress that has undeniably been made, numerous challenges remain. In this context, the High-level Review of UNSCR 1325 convened on the occasion of its 15th anniversary is an opportunity to assess the progress made so far; and to intensify our efforts to accelerate implementation of the WPS agenda.

The EU action relies on the premise that the WPS agenda aims both to promote and protect human rights of women, and to make conflict resolution and peacebuilding more effective. Women's active participation in peace processes and, more generally, in political, social and economic life enhances chances for sustainable peace. Therefore, the core of the EU's approach to WPS focuses on promoting and supporting the role of women as agents of change, of peace and development; whilst also preventing women from becoming victims and protecting them in situations of conflict.

Against this background, the EU and its Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) hereby commit:

1. Policy

- 1(a) The EU and its Member States will continue assuming political leadership on the WPS agenda, in the framework of their *Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on WPS*, and in view of the learnings from the High-level Review of 2015.
- 1(b) The EU will continue to call on and to support the EU Member States in developing and implementing their National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325.
- 1(c) The EU and its Member States will implement the new *EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (2015 – 2019)*. The Action Plan has dedicated actions on human rights of women and a focus on further gender mainstreaming, including in the areas of women's political participation and leadership, of conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms and of peacebuilding, in accordance with UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions.
- 1(d) The EU will integrate gender equality and gender mainstreaming in its Common Foreign and Security Policy, including its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), at all levels. The EU will put in practice the decisions taken to promote gender equality and gender sensitivity in the context of CSDP and the related checklist, from the early planning to the conduct and evaluation of the EU crisis management missions and operations. Furthermore, a gender perspective will be fully integrated in the EU's peace building activities, and targeted actions will be developed to promote gender equality and to enhance the role of women in post-conflict.
- 1(e) The EU will ensure that all its humanitarian assistance systematically tailors its responses to the different and specific needs of women and men of all ages, and adhere to the approach to gender and gender-based violence outlined in its staff working document *Gender: Different Needs, Adapted*, adopted in 2013, through interventions of mainstreaming, targeted action and capacity building. This will be done by using tools such as the ECHO Gender-Age Marker, which assess how strongly all EU's humanitarian actions integrate gender and age.

- 1(f) By the end of 2015 the EU will complement its generic standards of behaviour for its CSDP missions and operations with the adoption of a *Code of Conduct and Discipline* common for all civilian CSDP missions. The new code is expected to ensure better coordination on conduct and disciplinary matters across civilian missions, and to streamline disciplinary procedures. It may also lay the ground for stronger preventive measures.
- 1(g) The EU will continue to actively promote women's participation in its peacebuilding and mediation efforts, and to place specific importance on gender-related elements in its conflict analysis and early warning activities.
- 1(h) The EU will adopt an EU policy framework by the end of 2015 on support to transitional justice, which will integrate a strong gender dimension. A gender sensitive approach will be promoted in all transitional justice mechanisms and processes, from their design to the implementation of recommendations. This approach will take into account the different experiences and needs of women, men, girls and boys, while taking into consideration the role of women as both combatants and peacebuilders. The EU will also promote women's leadership and their active role in conflict resolution, peace talks and recovery, including through support to civil society and grassroots women's organisations.
- 1(i) The EU will actively coordinate its policies on WPS and on preventing and countering violent extremism in all its forms, through making this a key priority issue for the recently appointed Principal Adviser on Gender and WPS of the European External Action Service (EEAS), who will guide the development of pilot projects and will arrange periodic briefings that bring together the relevant EU services, Member States' representatives and experts.
- 1(j) The EU will take measures to tackle the under-representation of women in political decision-making with a view to attaining a more balanced participation of women and men in the European institutions.
- 1(k) The European Commission will ensure, by the end of its mandate, that a significant percentage of middle and senior management positions in its administration are filled with female candidates.

- 1(l) The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy will ensure, by the end of her mandate, that a substantial number of Heads of EU Delegations are female.
- 1(m) The recently appointed EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and WPS will ensure exchanges and coordination of the EU with other international, regional and national actors on gender- and WPS-related policy and action; and she will contribute to the EU's internal coordination on gender- and WPS-related matters, to their enhanced visibility and to their prioritisation in the EU's external action. The EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and WPS will define clear targets for ambitious but realistic internal and external goals (in consultation with relevant internal and external stakeholders) within the first six months of her mandate, to cover the first three years of delivery, and she will aim to consult civil society organisations at least twice per year. The EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and WPS will report directly to the EEAS Secretary General.
- 1(n) The EU will prioritise the implementation of its *Guide to Practical Actions at EU level for Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict*, adopted at the end of 2014. Through a holistic approach, the EU will undertake actions in the areas of prevention, support, protection and accountability, in contexts of conflict prevention, crisis response and humanitarian aid, and will promote cooperation in the multilateral fora, ensuring strong reporting and transparency to guarantee accountability and the sharing of good practice. The EU will report twice a year on progress made on the actions suggested in this Guide.
- 1(o) The EU will continue to support the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, and all work aimed at an integrated approach to prevent and punish acts of sexual violence, as well as to bring justice, services and reparation to its victims.
- 1(p) The EU will continue and enhance its work with third countries in order to strengthen national capacity to investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based crimes, including in connection to armed conflict and humanitarian crises, to ensure access to justice for survivors and accountability for perpetrators.

- 1(q) The EU will maintain and intensify its cooperation and support to a strong, universal, efficient and independent International Criminal Court, enabling it to investigate and prosecute those most responsible for sexual and gender-based crimes under the jurisdiction of the Court.
- 1(r) The updated *Toolkit on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in EU Development Cooperation* will include an annex on addressing sexual violence in conflict.
- 1(s) The “*Gender equality and women's empowerment: Transforming the lives of girls and women through EU external relations (2016 – 2020)*”, successor to the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP), will contain objectives and indicators related to WPS issues such as participation, prevention and protection.
- 1(t) The EU and its Member States will support actively policy and donor coordination in implementing UNSCR 1325, to ensure synergies and maximise the impact of their WPS action.
- 1(u) In the framework of its close and strategic partnership with UN Women under their Memorandum of Understanding, the EU will continue to support the organisation in the area of WPS, including women's leadership and political participation, combating sexual and gender-based violence, and women's empowerment in global issues.
- 1(v) In the context of the UN reviews of peacebuilding and of peace operations, which have been conducted in parallel with the High-level Review of UNSCR 1325, the EU expects significant synergies to be achieved. The EU will encourage the enhancement of the gender dimension in the UN peace and security architecture.

2. Civil society engagement

- 2(a) The EU will continue engaging in close dialogue with civil society on issues concerning women in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to empower women's participation and leadership in peacebuilding initiatives, through regular regional or thematic meetings with representatives of women's organisations.
- 2(b) In the framework of its cooperation to support human rights defenders, the EU will pay particular attention to the protection of women human rights defenders, especially in situations of conflict.
- 2(c) The EU will continue associating civil society to the formulation, implementation and monitoring of its WPS action, notably by contributing financially to civil society initiatives through dedicated calls for proposals, and by holding regular consultations with civil society throughout the cycle of WPS policy formulation, implementation and evaluation.

3. Cooperation

- 3(a) The EU will optimise use of its financial instruments and programmes to support human rights and women's rights organisations, to promote gender equality and to implement UNSCR 1325 in its external actions:
- i. The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) will continue contributing towards a comprehensive EU approach to crisis response, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness through actions worldwide. In building upon the 21 million euro already committed between 2010 and 2014, gender mainstreaming will remain core across all sectors, including *inter alia* mediation, natural resources and conflicts, security sector reform, early warning, post-conflict/disaster needs assessment, police/civilian stabilisation missions. Furthermore, the IcSP annual programming of priorities will also continue to include gender specific actions, in line with the IcSP Strategy 2014-2020.

- ii. The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, as well as the European Development Fund, and the Programme for Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development, will also be relevant to support actions in the framework of the WPS agenda.
- iii. The EU will allocate more than 100 million euro over the next 7 years to gender equality, women and girls empowerment under the EU Global Public Goods and Challenges thematic programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), an instrument that supports the EU external cooperation.
- iv. Gender equality will continue to be a component in EU funding to neighbourhood and enlargement countries through the European Neighbourhood Instrument and the Instrument for Pre-Accession to the EU.
- v. Based on humanitarian needs the EU will continue to deliver a comprehensive multi-sectorial response to survivors of gender-based violence in humanitarian crises, including medical care, psychological support, referral to legal services and, if possible, livelihood support and socio-economic assistance.

4. Monitoring

- 4(a) By the end of 2015 the EU will update the indicators used to monitor its commitments under the *Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on WPS*, to make them more effective in evaluating the impact of EU action.
- 4(b) Based on the updated indicators, the EU will continue reporting on its WPS action every two years.
- 4(c) The EU will strengthen the work of its informal task force on UNSCR 1325 by sharing information and best practices on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and by enhancing coordination among the EU Member States, the EU institutions and services involved in UNSCR 1325 implementation, regional and international organisations (UN and all its agencies, NATO, OSCE, Council of Europe, African Union, CELAC, OAS, ASEAN, G7/G20 etc.), and civil society organisations.