

WOMEN COUNT

Security Council Resolution 1325:
Civil Society Monitoring Report 2012



**A project of
the Global Network
of Women Peacebuilders**

**Afghanistan, Colombia,
Democratic Republic of
Congo, Fiji, Liberia, Nepal,
Netherlands, Philippines,
Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South
Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka,
Sweden, and Uganda**

The Netherlands

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There have been many contributors to the Netherlands' 2012 GNWP monitoring report, including Dutch civil society representatives, the 1325 NGO Working Group, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives, Dutch Ministry of Defense representatives and Dutch Embassy representatives from Dutch embassies in various National Action Plan (NAP) focus countries. However, this report is written from the perspective of Dutch civil society.

WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform, has facilitated the input to this report based on information gathered from the aforementioned personal sources, as well as from publicly available documents and websites. It doesn't claim to be complete.

The indicators that will be reported on are those most directly relevant to the new Dutch National Action Plan II 1325's (2012-2015) ("NAP II") focus on female leadership and political participation; thus indicators 1, 3, 5, 10, 11a, 11b. This will be the framework for future contributions to the GNWP monitoring report as well.

Reflective analyses are provided throughout the report and were specifically derived from the Dutch NGO Working Group 1325 inputs that were validated during the working group meeting held on 6 September 2012.

Furthermore, relevant background and examples from within the NAP II's identified focus countries and region – Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, South Sudan and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region – are highlighted.

List of acronyms

ARTF	Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DVN	Defensie Vrouwen Netwerk (Defense Women's Network)
EU	European Union
EUPOL	European Union Police Mission
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
ISAF	International Security Assistance Force
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MFA	(Dutch) Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MFM	Multi-stakeholders' Financing Mechanism
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	non-governmental organization
PVV	Partij voor de Vrijheid (Party for Freedom)
SRHR	sexual and reproductive health and rights
SSR or SSD	Security Sector Reform or Security Sector Development
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMID	United Nations Mission in Darfur
UNMIS	United Nations Missions in Sudan
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

I. Women, peace and security profile

A. Nature of the conflict

Since the end of World War II, the Netherlands has not experienced internal armed conflict. However, currently, Dutch military personnel are taking part in a variety of combat and non-combat missions in, among other places: Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq, the Middle East, Somalia, Kosovo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Kenya and Darfur.¹ Dutch missions usually occur within an international coalition and often under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU) or North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). An overview of Dutch participation in UN peacekeeping operations in 2011 is provided in Indicator 3.

The Dutch ended its combat operations in Uruzgan, Afghanistan in 2010. However, the military continues to provide 120 personnel and air support in Mazar-e Sharif (west of Kunduz) with the purpose of locating improvised explosives. As needed in 'acute emergency situations', they can also provide protection to Afghan and international units.²

In 2011, the Dutch military supported the NATO Libya Operation Unified Protector, but there was no external combat intervention in Libya. Finally, the Dutch armed forces are also involved in protecting sea lanes and ships from piracy along the coast of Somalia, the Horn of Africa and along the Arabian peninsula.³

Dutch development CSOs are deeply connected to citizens in conflict areas and are therefore highly motivated to apply UNSCR 1325 principles in their projects as well as their national and international advocacy efforts. With success, Dutch development Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) support men and women in war-torn and transition countries and have made great strides, for instance, in promoting the Dutch government to also integrate and implement 1325 principles as well. These efforts are highlighted throughout the report.

B. Impact of conflict on women

In April 2011, the Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister, Uri Rosenthal, together with U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, issued a joint statement on supporting women's political empowerment in emerging democracies. This led to a concrete proposal of € 2 million being earmarked for women's political participation in the MENA region by Minister Rosenthal and resulted in increased internal attention. Minister Rosenthal dedicated his entire New Year's speech to ambassadors on the importance of women in conflict areas.

¹ For a complete list of foreign military missions, see: <http://www.government.nl/issues/international-peace-and-security/the-netherlands-military-missions> (last accessed 9 August 2012).

² Afghanistan mission overview. See <http://www.defensie.nl/english/tasks/missions/afghanistan/> (last accessed 22 August 2012).

³ Excerpts from June 2011 Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security to the OSCE by the Netherlands. <http://www.osce.org/fsc/80917> (last accessed 6 August 2012); AND see also Dutch government website at: <http://www.government.nl/issues/international-peace-and-security/the-netherlands-military-missions/other-missions> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

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The speech with Clinton included a focus on strengthening "women-led and women-focused non-governmental organizations (NGOs)."⁴ Their message was welcomed in the Netherlands and elsewhere and particularly reinforces the ambitions of CSOs and government priorities in the Netherlands, as also the Dutch NAP 1325 (2012-2015), or 'NAP II', demonstrates.

Rosenthal and Clinton stated their countries' support of women in countries, such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Colombia, Iraq and the Great Lakes, and the urgency for the increased participation of women in peacemaking and political processes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

In general in 2011, the Dutch government has contributed to Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiatives pertaining to UNSCR 1325 - and specifically with regard to female leadership and political participation - in a variety of ways including through funding, technical support, training and awareness raising. Some examples of these activities from 2011 are highlighted throughout the report.

Civil society organizations, such as the peace movement, development NGOs and diaspora organizations, have relentlessly stressed the importance of women in conflict areas, and continue to prioritize this issue in their programs and advocacy.

Given the Dutch CSOs' success in stimulating the Dutch government's recognition of the impact of conflict on women and children, as well as the recognition that women can and should fulfill vital leadership roles in politics and peacemaking in conflict, post-conflict, transitions settings; three Dutch ministries have responded to the call of CSOs in the Netherlands to implement the Dutch National Action Plan II on UNSCR 1325 (2012-2015). The three Dutch ministry signatories are the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Defense; and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

⁴ Rosenthal and Clinton joint statement on Women, Peace and Security. The full speech is available here: <http://www.minbuza.nl/en/news/speeches-and-articles/2011/04/joint-statement-on-the-important-role-of-women-in-emerging-democracies.html> (last accessed 8 August 2012).

The Ministry of Defense, for instance, has prepared an internal action plan on UNSCR 1325 which addresses both women entering missions as well as those women residing in the conflict and transition countries.

C. Relevant policies

Dutch National Action Plan 1325 (2012-2015)

One of the key achievements of 2011 was the signing and launch of the Dutch National Action Plan 1325 (2012-2015)⁵ in December. Dutch CSOs were most proactive in pushing the development of the new NAP and successful in gathering support from Ministries and research institutes. The NAP II is therefore unique in that the collaboration is not limited only to CSOs, but also has the participatory support of the Dutch government and research institutes.

It was signed by no fewer than three Dutch government ministries, four research institutions and over 30 civil society organizations (CSOs).⁶ The civil society organizations that have signed this NAP vary from multinational NGOs to women's peace movements and diaspora organizations run by volunteers. Many of these organizations have close contacts with the women on whom this plan focuses, and often the women working in these organizations have experienced situations of armed conflict themselves.⁷

In the NAP II, there are four specific objectives to which all signatories are committed and are willing to be held accountable on:

1. Equal participation by women and men in peace and reconstruction processes at all decision-making levels.
2. Consistent integration of gender and UNSCR 1325 into all signatories' policies and actions on fragile states and countries in transition and or peace building and reconstruction efforts in these states.
3. Increased awareness in the Netherlands, the European Union and other regional and international bodies of gender issues in fragile states and transition countries and increased public support for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
4. Effective and efficient cooperation between NAP

⁵ For the Dutch NAP II 1325 (2012-2015), visit: <http://www.nap1325.nl/uploadedfiles/nederlandsnap13252012-2015def.pdf>. (Last accessed 31 July 2012).

⁶ Complete List of NAP 1325 (2012-2015) signatories: African Sky; Burundian Women for Peace and Development; Centre for Conflict Studies – University of Utrecht; Clingendael Netherlands Institute of International Relations; Cordaid; Defence Women's Network; E-Quality; Fund for the Advancement of Women's Human Rights in Francophone Africa; Gender Concerns International; Hivos; ICCO and Kerk in Actie; IKV Pax Christi; Ministry of Defence; Ministry of Education, Culture and Science; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network; Netherlands Council of Women; Netherlands Expertise Centre for Alternatives to Violence; Netherlands Women's Organizations for Gender and Development; Nuffic; Oxfam Novib; Platform Women and Sustainable Peace; Refugee Organizations of the Netherlands; Rights for Change; SNV Netherlands Development Organisation; StopAidsNow!; Sundjata Foundation; Support Trust for African Development; The Darfur Women Foundation in the Netherlands; TIYE International; Tosangana Foundation; Wageningen University; WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform; Women for Peace; Women for Peace on the Moluccas; Women in Europe for a Common Future; Women Peacemakers Program – International Fellowship of Reconciliation; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – Netherlands; YWCA.

⁷ Ibid.

signatories and other relevant stakeholders to ensure worldwide implementation of UNSCR resolution 1325.

The main differences from NAP I (2008-2011) to the present NAP II (2012-2015) include the following:

- ▶ The 2008-2011 NAP did not have measurable outputs and goals. Thus, for NAP II, a specific theme – female leadership and political participation - and goals within UNSCR 1325 and Women, Peace Security were selected to guide priorities.
- ▶ In the 2008-2011 NAP, there was no geographical focus. In NAP II, it was felt that having a selection of focus countries would cause more effective contributions. Therefore, six Focus countries (Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan) and one region (MENA) were identified;
- ▶ With the selection of the focus countries and region, it was decided that working groups per country and region would be prudent for steering discussion and activities and for enhancing accountability. Specific working groups for each country and region were created and each working group includes a combination of representatives from the Dutch government and CSOs (including women's organizations, general development CSOs and research organizations);
- ▶ Given the fact that there were no funds made available in 2008-2011 specifically for NAP 1325 activities and also as a result of the selection of focus countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has allocated a budget of €300,000-350,000 per country per year and €2 million for the MENA region. Though, no funds have been disbursed at the time of writing, all funds will be fully utilized in 2012.⁸ It is foreseen that one project per country will be funded each year;⁹
- ▶ Since there were no mechanisms for accountability in the first NAP, there is now a concept of a Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) matrix with indicators to support reporting and accountability processes. The M&E matrix will become more operationalized between 2012-2013;
- ▶ Additionally, a number of specific results are provided throughout the NAP II as guidance for project implementation and measuring progress and impact.

NAP II Country Working Groups

As mentioned above as one of the improvements from the previous NAP, a working group for each focus country and region were created (Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan and MENA region). Each working group consists of representatives from various Dutch CSOs and Dutch government ministries; usually the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or Ministry of Defense. Representatives from some research institutes also participate in some of the working groups. Representatives in each group have experience working in the given focus country, as well as established networks with local CSOs in the given focus country. Working groups also network with diaspora groups that may exist in the Netherlands. As a

⁸ Information from representative at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by e-mail on 31 August 2012.

⁹ Information from representative at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a meeting on 27 July 2012.

Specific results are provided throughout the NAP II to guide implementation and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) matrix was also created for accountability purposes.

result, the voices of the local CSOs working for women's rights, gender equality and 1325 are represented in the working group meetings.

Since the signing of the NAP II 1325 (2012-2015), the working groups have been meeting regularly in the Netherlands and collaborating together with the inputs from local CSOs and diaspora groups to prepare project proposals for the funds allocated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to each country working group. The project proposals are facilitated by Dutch CSOs. Working group members, including the Dutch government, will provide technical support and guidance in implementation.

At the time of reporting, no project proposal has been implemented, although some are at the phase of formal approval. This is because the process of developing project ideas and preparing the proposals between the working groups and local CSOs and obtaining approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes a long time given the number of stakeholders. It is a new process for everyone so the cooperation and ways of working between the several different parties that are involved must be built up steadily to allow time for clarification of issues and process, points of disagreement, planning, etc. It is however expected that several project proposals will be accepted and projects will start to be implemented before the end of 2012.¹⁰

Mutual Responsibility and Accountability

A key element of the unique Dutch NAP is that signatories are from the Dutch government and civil society. So there is mutual accountability for the execution of the NAP 1325, its activities and results in the focus countries. The Dutch government does not only fund project but through its embassies in the focus countries, is actively involved in implementation of the NAP alongside the Dutch and local CSOs of focus countries.

Given the high work burden though, it will indeed be challenging for embassies to actively meet and support grassroots women organizations, especially in the rural areas. However, this role was the specific wish of the Dutch Parliament, so one can expect embassies to actively engage and relate with local gender justice organizations.

While the ownership of the NAP II implemented projects and results lies at the local level in the given focus country, the working groups in the Netherlands also bear some accountability for the process ensuring implementation and impact. Accordingly, specific results are provided throughout the NAP II to guide implementation and a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) matrix was also created for accountability

¹⁰ Interview. 27 July 2012. Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative.

purposes.¹¹ However, since the NAP II is still new and in the process of being implemented, the M&E has yet to happen in practice, so any challenges that may come out of the process will be revealed in 2013.

The NAP II process is a complex task in reality, given the goals and implementation difficulties, such as CSO members facing budget cuts and reduced personnel capacity due to government funding cuts since 2011. Specifically, the staff from the CSOs must carry on their own organizational responsibilities, but also balance the many commitments to the various (and increased) working groups set-up around the NAP II, and with fewer resources and decreasing organizational support. Moreover, the procedure to get NAP proposals funded should be made more transparent and streamlined.

In addition, there is the challenge with regard to deciding priorities within the country working groups. Balanced and participatory priority setting and decision-making between the Dutch CSO members and government within the NAP II country working groups prove tricky on politically sensitive topics, countries, or regions. This is perhaps most visible with regard to the MENA region and its working group. However, despite the challenges, CSO members are balancing the priorities given their long-standing enthusiasm and commitment to UNSCR 1325 principles.

A detailed report on progress, focusing on direct results and impact, in the NAP II focus countries will be published in the 2013 Netherlands' Monitoring Report to GNWP, since the first projects funded by the NAP II allocated funds will have started and be underway by then.

Ministry of Defense Action Plan on 1325 and Operationalization

*Commandant der Strijdkrachten*¹² (CDS) Guideline A-104

In 2005, the Dutch Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces issued a policy guideline to direct gender policy in the Ministry of Defense. "It specified that gender issues should be given due consideration at the various stages of an assignment: during the formation phase, the preparatory phase as well as during and after the mission."¹³ The Netherlands Ministry of Defense has since taken the CDS Guideline further with the NAP 1325 and has made strides in operationalizing gender awareness and 1325 principles into policy and strategy. Below is an excerpt from the new NAP 1325 (2012-2015), as well as some highlights of the implementation in reality. The Dutch Ministry of Defense is exceptional in that it has developed its own internal plan on 1325.

"The Dutch Ministry of Defense has developed an internal action plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Experience in conflict areas has convinced the Dutch armed

¹¹ See Annex I of the Dutch NAP (2012-2015) on page 55. Accessible at: <http://www.nap1325.nl/uploadedfiles/nederlandsnap13252012-2015def.pdf> (last accessed 20 August 2012).

¹² Translated as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

¹³ Andreassen, Birgith, et al. May 2009. Operational Effectiveness and UN Resolution 1325 – Practices and Lessons from Afghanistan. Report number: FOI-R-2760-SE, page 36. Accessible at: <http://www2.foi.se/rappp/foir2760.pdf> (last accessed 22 August 2012).

forces that UNSCR 1325 is an important tool for increasing their operational effectiveness. During the execution of military missions, for example in Iraq and Afghanistan, the armed forces found it extremely difficult to create a safe and secure environment for the population if they were unable to make contact with the entire population. Engagement with local women thus has a direct impact on security.

The efforts of the Ministry of Defense regarding 1325 will focus on the following areas identified in the internal action plan:

- ▶ the inclusion of local women in missions;
- ▶ the incorporation of a gender component into all operations;
- ▶ the incorporation of a gender component into military training;
- ▶ sufficient female personnel;
- ▶ more visible results of gender policies.¹⁴

Operationalization of Defense Action Plan

In addition to including gender as part of trainings “for new recruits and career advancement courses, other examples of operationalization of 1325 in the Ministry of Defense include:

1. All operational orders now include a section on UNSCR 1325;
2. The Operations Branch has appointed a gender adviser to make sure that gender constitutes an element of all military planning for operations;
3. Staff sent to crisis areas receive gender awareness training prior to their deployment;
4. An international course entitled ‘A Comprehensive Approach to Gender in Operations’ has been developed in cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Spanish Defense and Foreign Ministries to increase the gender capacity of missions.¹⁵

Further procedures in place to embed 1325 in policy include the following measures¹⁶:

- ▶ Setting a number of action points and desired outcomes in the areas of Policy, Strategy and Control; Preparation and Readiness; Operational level, the Commander and his Adviser; Knowledge retention: Gender expertise - Enhance, Share, Secure and Evaluate, and Attracting and Retaining Women.
- ▶ Stipulating that reporting on progress will take place twice a year to the Minister of Defense by the Deputy Chief of Defense.

14 See page 30 of Dutch National Action Plan 1325 (2012-2015). Accessible at: <http://www.nap1325.nl/uploadedfiles/nederlandsnap13252012-2015def.pdf> (Last accessed 21 August).

15 Ibid.

16 Information originates from a DRAFT document obtained from a representative at the Netherlands Ministry of Defense by e-mail on 1 August 2012. Not publicly available.

Some examples of the numerous action points being developed include:

Policy, Strategy and Control

- ▶ Action point: Establish requirements for number of gender advisers per mission.

Preparation and Readiness

- ▶ Action point: Include gender and UNSCR1325 in the curriculum of the school for peace missions.

Operational level, the commander and his adviser

- ▶ Action point: Promote inclusion and training women in all security institutions.

Knowledge retention: Gender expertise, enhance, share, secure and evaluate

- ▶ Action point: Participate in international working groups in UN, NATO and EU level in the field of gender and UNSCR1325 to implement UNSCR1325 to raise and promote the role of women in operational directives UN, NATO and EU is anchored.

Attracting and retaining women

- ▶ Action point: Encourage women through the P-services of the operational commands, to participate and/or to apply for the secondary or higher level career training for officers.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gender Policy and 1325

As with the Ministry of Defense, the Foreign Affairs Ministry has been mainstreaming gender internally and into its operations and this is arguably most visible in its development cooperation. In November 2011, Foreign Affairs Minister, Uri Rosenthal, and Dutch Foreign Affairs Secretary, Ben Knapen, issued a brief to Parliament outlining the Ministry’s gender policy and planning. Even though the entire brief is relevant to the subject of this report, an excerpt of the main points is provided below. The brief’s gender policy emphasizes support to women in the Arab region, which is also reflected in the NAP. In general, the policy brief further reinforces the areas of focus and planning contained in the Dutch NAP II 1325 in all four priority areas.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is mainstreaming UNSCR 1325 implementation in two tracks. The first is an overarching international gender policy while the second is a systematic gender mainstreaming in the three pillars of foreign policy (safety and legal order, prosperity and freedom) and in the four priority areas of development (safety and rule of law, food security, water and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

In the excerpt from Brief to Parliament, “the first track is an autonomous, overarching international gender policy with four priorities.

1. Leadership and political power of women

Objectives: Increasing participation of women in political and social change and more female leadership in the Arab region and development in the 15 partner countries.

2. Follow-up on UNSCR 1325

*Objectives: Increasing the role of women in peace and democratization processes in the 6 focus countries of the National Action Plan 1325. The Netherlands supports increased stability in these 6 countries by strengthening the position of women.*¹⁷

3. Economic empowerment of women

Objectives: Increase the economic power of women and strengthen the role of women in decision-making over economic affairs.

4. The fight against trafficking and violence against women

Objectives: Decrease violence against women, fight against trafficking of women and eliminate harmful practices worldwide.

Furthermore, a section in the Dutch NAP 1325 (2012-2015) also clearly illustrates the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' specific plans and activities on UNSCR 1325.¹⁸ Several points reiterate points contained in the gender policy brief, but there are also specific points demonstrating the Ministry's ongoing work to promote broader action on 1325. These points are:

- ▶ Continued active promotion of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 within the EU, UN, OECD, NATO and other relevant international institutions;
- ▶ Call for action and presentation of concrete proposals in the European Union to strengthen the position of women in the Libyan constitutional process and the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820.¹⁹

These detailed plans from the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs clearly demonstrate the impetus around UNSCR 1325 and women, peace and security largely due to the NAP II development process as well as the momentum initially created and pushed by committed Dutch CSOs. The plans and ongoing actions to operationalize gender policy and 1325 by the Dutch government within the Netherlands and in its involvement in other countries illustrate why it remains unique in this area.

However, the actual effects of these policies and plans on women in (post-) conflict zones still need to be seen. Gender mainstreaming within the MFA is progressing slowly. The same is also true for the Ministry of Defense's action plan, while good, is still slightly ambitious. In general, gender mainstreaming of organizations and institutions is a long-term and ongoing process, in order to achieve sustained awareness-raising and actual behavioral change.

¹⁷ Dutch Parliament Kamerbrief international genderbeleid DMH/EM-212/2011 (International gender policy), 15 November 2011, Accessible only in Dutch at: <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2011/11/15/kamerbrief-internationaal-genderbeleid.html> (last accessed 22 August 2012).

¹⁸ See page 29 of Dutch National Action Plan 1325 (2012-2015). Accessible at: <http://www.nap1325.nl/uploadedfiles/nederlandsnap13252012-2015def.pdf> (Last accessed 21 August).

¹⁹ Ibid.

Currently, CSO insight into the Ministry of Defense and actual integration of 1325 and gender into its operations is very limited. For instance, does the Ministry of Defense have its own internal M&E for ensuring its gender and 1325 policies, as well as its trainings, are truly embedded in its operations – in the Netherlands and in its missions? Do they know what impact these policies and trainings are having on the ground among the local populations? CSOs are interested in this information and CSO knowledge and expertise can be better leveraged to support their efforts if communication is more open.

Furthermore, the M&E system of the NAP II needs to be further developed and operationalized, as is expected to occur between 2012-2013, so that the real effects and results of the policies and plans can be monitored and reported. In 2013, there should be more insight into the real successes and challenges within these two ministries and implementation of the above, as well as regarding the NAP II cooperation.

II. Data presentation and analysis

A. Participation

The Dutch government collapsed in April 2012 following disagreements over drastic budget austerity measures between the minority coalition government, led by Minister-President, Mark Rutte, and the coalition's (supporting) partner party, the Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) or 'Party for Freedom', led by Geert Wilders. This government leadership remains in office until new elections on 12 September 2012.

The politics of the Netherlands takes place within the framework of a parliamentary representative democracy, a constitutional monarchy and a decentralized unitary state. The Netherlands has three tiers of government. There are two levels of local government in the Netherlands - the provinces and the municipalities. The Netherlands is divided into twelve provinces. They form the tier of administration between the central government and the municipalities. Municipalities form the lowest tier of government in the Netherlands, after the central government and the provinces. The municipal council (Gemeenteraad) is the highest authority in the municipality.

Indicator 1 - Index of women's participation in governance

Figure 1.1: Women's participation in governance 2011

	Number of Women	Number of Men	% of Women
Women in senior positions in cabinet/ministries ⁱ	5	15	25
Women in Parliament ⁱⁱ	88	137	39.1
Total women in national government leadership	-	-	25.7 ⁱⁱⁱ
Women in senior positions in local governance structures – provinces ^{iv}			39
Women in senior positions in local governance structures - municipalities ^v	-	-	30.5 ^{vi}

Figure 1.2: Percentage (%) of participation in governance 2009, 2010, 2011

	2009	2010	2011
Women in senior positions in cabinet/ministries ^{vii}	-	20	25
Women in Parliament	38.35	37.65	39.1
Total women in national government leadership (ABD) ^{viii}	24.9	25.9	25.7
Women in senior positions in local governance structures – provinces	38	38	39
Women in senior positions in local governance structures - municipalities	27.4 ^{ix}	30.4 ^x	30.5

i Number is from counting the number of individuals as listed on the website: <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries> (last accessed 31 July 2012). Totals include Ministers and State Secretaries only.

ii Situation as of 30 June 2012. 61 women (of 150 seats) in Lower House, and 27 women (of 75 seats) in Upper House according to <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm> (Last accessed 31 July 2012).

iii 2011 Rijksoverheid jaarverslag. Available at: http://www.prinsjesdag2011.nl/pd09_sites/objects/c6b/32k/fd75ecb094e02d22c0aa6e5ea88a4/11_jv_7_binnenlandse_zaken.pdf (last accessed 26 August 2012).

iv See http://www.ipu.nl/sites/default/files/documents/ipo_personneelsmonitor_2011.pdf (last accessed 31 July 2012)

v Monitor in Gemeenten 2011, Personeel in Perspectief, page 20. Women in leadership ("leidinggevenden") positions – any level. http://www.aeno.nl/fileadmin/publicaties/personneelsmonitor/Personneelsmonitor_Gemeenten_2011.pdf (last accessed 7 August 2012).

vi Last year's reported figure of 46.8 % was incorrect, as that was the total amount of women working in the local municipalities. The figure in 2010 for women in leadership roles was in fact 30.4 %, so there has been a 0.1% increase.

vii Totals include Ministers and State Secretaries only.

viii 2011 Rijksoverheid jaarverslag. Most readily available information is for the governing body of the national government, the Algemeen Bestuursdienst (ABD) for 2009-2011. Available at: http://www.prinsjesdag2011.nl/pd09_sites/objects/c6b/32k/fd75ecb094e02d22c0aa6e5ea88a4/11_jv_7_binnenlandse_zaken.pdf (last accessed 26 August 2012).

ix Personeelsmonitor Gemeenten 2009. Accessible at: http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=monitor%20in%20gemeenten%202009%2C%20personeel%20in%20perspectief%2C%20&source=web&cd=2&ved=0CEsQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aeno.nl%2Fprogrammas%2Fpersonneelsmonitor%2Fpublicaties%2Fpublicaties-van-voor-2010%2F%3FfeD%3Ddam_frontend_push%26docID%3D4694&ei=9u00UJnaJMqs0QW%2Fg4DoBQ&usq=AFQjCNEVDVfugi0lsUuAht19k3kKxzKM53Q&cad=rja (last accessed 22 August 2012).

x Personeelsmonitor 2010. Accessible at: http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rt=j&q=gemeenten%20personeelsmonitor%202009&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&ved=0CCGQFjAB&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aeno.nl%2Fprogrammas%2Fpersonneelsmonitor%2Fpublicaties%2Ffactuele-publicaties%2F%3FfeD%3Ddam_frontend_push%26docID%3D4693&ei=BBc5ULmoCcaY0QXwo4GwCQ&usq=AFQjCNH4-zG4DdiGf1KjRlh2N3f8_rU44Q (last accessed 25 August 2012).

In nearly all levels of governance, except for in the national government leadership, there have been increases in the percentage of the participation of women. The largest increases have been of women in senior positions in cabinet/ministries and departments and in municipalities.

In nearly all levels of governance, except for in the national government leadership, there have been increases in the percentage of the participation of women. The largest increases have been of women in senior positions in cabinet/ministries and departments and in municipalities. The 5 percent increase in cabinet/ministries, however, is only due to 1 person. It cannot be concluded that a clear policy has led to the particular increase of women as ministers or state secretaries, in parliament, or in the provinces.

In 2010, for example, for comparison to the average among EU member states, "the gender balance in national governments of the EU was up from 16 percent in 1994/5 (EU-15) to 26 percent in 2009 (EU-27)."²⁰ Also, in 2009, the Netherlands was 4th out of the European member countries in the number of women in parliament (both houses combined).²¹ In terms of parliament and national government, the Netherlands is ahead of most European member countries.

There is no official quota system in the Netherlands to support women in leadership positions. However, there is currently a discussion on a quota policy in the Netherlands and at the EU level. The mentioned quota is 30 percent of all position in semi-public bodies and business.²² However, the Dutch government has issued a new Emancipation policy for 2011-2015 on the emancipation of women and homosexuals. In the policy, among other things, the government highlights the need to focus on flexible working hours for women with children and to get more women in leadership.²³ The Dutch government supports many initiatives in these areas through the organization, called *Talent to the Top Foundation*.

Talent to the Top focuses "on facilitating and encouraging government, employers and top female talent to be intrinsically motivated to promote the recruitment, promotion and retention of women at the top of organizations." The organization "developed the *Talent to the Top* Charter which is an employers' code to make a voluntary commitment for an effective and sustainable gender diversity policy."²⁴ While voluntary, there are many signatories across all sectors such as Dutch government bodies, CSOs, businesses and more.

²⁰ Report by the European Commission, "More women in senior positions, Key to economic stability and growth". January 2010. Available at: ec.europa.eu/social/BlockServlet?docId=4746&langId=en (last accessed 6 September 2012).

²¹ Ibid., page 52.

²² See articles: <http://www.radar.nl/read/quota-voor-vrouwen> AND <http://www.spitsnieuws.nl/archives/binnenland/2012/03/geen-quota-voor-vrouw-in-top> (both last accessed 25 August 2012).

²³ Emancipation Policy 2011-2015. Accessible in Dutch at: <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/bestanden/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2011/04/08/hoofdlijnen-emancipatiebeleid--vrouwen--en-homo-emancipatie-2011-2015/hoofdlijnen-emancipatiebeleid-vrouwen-en-homo-emancipatie-2015.pdf> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

²⁴ Talent to the Top Foundation website at: http://www.talentnaardetop.nl/Home_EN/Organisation/Vision/ (last accessed 26 August 2012).

Talent to the Top reports that, "Since the launch of the Charter, the percentage of women in senior positions has grown yearly. In 2010, the share of women in senior positions in organizations that signed the Charter in 2008 and 2009 grew by 7.5 percent, and the total percentage of women in senior management positions was 17.2 percent (compared with 16.0 percent in 2009). The vast majority of signatories – 72 percent – saw growth; 13 percent remained the same and 15 percent recorded a decline. The target for the organizations that became signatories in 2008 and 2009 is 21.4 percent.

In a sector comparison, women account for the following percentages in senior positions:

- ▶ 36 percent of senior management positions in employers' and employees' organizations (unions);
- ▶ 27 percent in the health and welfare sector;
- ▶ 23 percent in the government sector;
- ▶ 11 percent in ICT/construction/infrastructure consultancy;
- ▶ 8 percent in industry/energy/construction sectors.²⁵

The lack of female representation and women in management positions in the government bodies and businesses affects credibility of the Netherlands in its NAP 1325 efforts and weakens the position and efforts of NAP 1325 signatories, particularly that of the Dutch government, in conflict-affected countries to stimulate female leadership and political participation in conflict-affected countries. The working group urges the new government to take this issue seriously and to make women's participation in decision-making bodies and businesses a priority, as well as to make sure women are equally represented in the new cabinet.

Indicator 3 – Index of women's participation in the justice, security sector, and peacekeeping missions

Figure 3.1: Index of women's participation in the justice, security Sector, and peacekeeping missions in 2011

	Number of Women	Number of Men	% of Women
Women in Military (All levels) (NL)^{xi}	4,322	41,886	9.35
Officer Positions	1,030	9,297	9.97
Lower Positions	3,292	32,589	9.17
Women in the Police (NL)^{xii}	21,499	39,851	35.0
High Commissioners ^{xiii}	7	18	28 ^{xiv}
Officers ^{xv}	31	119	20.7
Lower Positions	21,461	39,714	35.1

xi Information provided by representative of the Netherlands Ministry of Defense by e-mail on 14 August 2012. Figures do not include civilian personnel.

xii 2011 Police Annual Report. <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/bestanden/documenten-en-publicaties/rapporten/2012/06/04/jaarverslag-nederlandse-politie-2011/jaarverslag-nederlandse-politie-2011-def.pdf> (Last accessed 21 August 2012).

xiii Politietopdivers, <http://www.politietopdivers.nl/article/politie-telt-fors-meer-vrouwen-in-top> (last accessed 6 August 2012).

xiv Last year's report of 32% was incorrectly calculated. The source provides an incorrect calculation for the percentage. 7 women + 18 men = 25 total head commissioners, thus 7/25 = 28% women.

xv Ibid.

25 Talent to the Top 2010 monitoring report accessible in English at: http://www.talentnaardetop.nl/uploaded_files/document/Summary_Monitor_Talent_to_the_Top_2010.pdf (last accessed 26 August 2012).

Women in Judiciary (NL)^{xvi}	1,308	1,140	53.4
National level	-	-	-
Lower court	-	-	-
Local courts	-	-	-
Dutch Women in Peacekeeping (DPKO Data only)^{xvii}	2	40	4.76
Military experts	1	23	4.16
Troops	0	3	0
Individual Police	1	14	6.6
Formed Police Units	-	-	-
Countries/Missions where peacekeepers are deployed			
UNAMA ^{xviii}	0	1	0
UNAMID ^{xix}	0	1	0
UNTSO ^{xx}	1	11	8.3
UNMIS ^{xxi}	1	27	3.57

Figure 3.2: Percentage (%) of women's participation in the justice, security sector, and peacekeeping missions 2009, 2010, 2011

	2009	2010	2011
Women in Military	9.00 ^{xxii}	9.00 ^{xxiii}	9.35
Women in Police	34.9 ^{xxiv}	35.2 ^{xxv}	35.0
Women in Judiciary	51.2 ^{xxvi}	52.3 ^{xxvii}	53.4
Women in Peacekeeping ^{xxviii}	17.5	5.00	4.76

Between 2009 and 2011, there were the following changes:

- ▶ 0.35 percent increase of women in the (non-civilian) military;
- ▶ 0.1 percent increase of women in the police from 2009 to 2011, with a larger increase in 2010 and then a decline from 2010 to 2011.
- ▶ 2.2 percent increase of women in the judiciary between 2009 and 2011.

xvi Judiciary 2011 Annual Report. <http://www.rechtspraak.nl/Organisatie/Publicaties-En-Brochures/Documents/Jaarverslag%20Rechtspraak%202011.pdf> (last accessed 6 August 12)

xvii DPKO data as of 31 December 2011. http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/2011/dec11_5.pdf (last accessed 4 August 2012).

xviii Ibid.

xix Ibid.

xx Ibid.

xxi DPKO data as of June 2011. Accessible at: http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors_archive.shtml (last accessed 22 August 2012).

xxii From Netherlands' 2011 Monitoring Report to GNWP, page 320. Accessible at: <http://www.gnwp.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Netherlands.pdf> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

xxiii Ibid.

xxiv 2009 and 2010 figures reported in 2010 Police annual report. Available at: http://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=jaarverslag%20nederlandse%20politie%202010&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&ved=0CCEQFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rijksoverheid.nl%2Fbestanden%2Fdocumenten-en-publicaties%2Fjaarverslagen%2F2011%2F06%2F20%2Fjaarverslag-politie-2010%2F7053-bw-jnp-2010-def-versie-15-6_df&ei=gjc6UN3oF Kad0AXU7oCQAw&usq=AFQjCNGPICV7vLtOKGkK1KgHxcL2iUnA

xxv Ibid.

xxvi 2009 and 2010 figures reported in 2010 Judiciary annual report. Available at: <http://www.rechtspraak.nl/Organisatie/Publicaties-En-Brochures/Documents/2010%20Jaarverslag%20Rechtspraak.pdf> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

xxvii Rechtspraak (Judiciary) 2010 Annual Report available at: <http://www.rechtspraak.nl/Organisatie/Publicaties-En-Brochures/Documents/2010%20Jaarverslag%20Rechtspraak.pdf> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

xxviii DPKO data as of December 2009. Accessible at: http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors_archive.shtml (last accessed 22 August 2012).

- ▶ 12.74 percent decrease of women in peacekeeping operations from 2009 to 2011. This is due to the ending of missions, such as the mission in Cyprus and the start of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), to which the Netherlands has not contributed many peacekeepers.

Military: The armed forces have implemented a few practices in order to recruit and retain more women. In 2010, the Ministry of Defense Equal Policy Memorandum outlined recruitment goals for 2010 for all the services and set a target of 12 percent female personnel strength. Concepts such as part-time employment, policies on parental leave, child care (the fact that women can take six years unpaid leave) and family policy is designed to enhance recruitment.²⁶ Furthermore, women are actively encouraged to apply and participate in the secondary or higher level career training for officers.²⁷

Deployments

While there is clearly an impact on women residing in the conflict and transition zones, the Dutch women deployed on missions abroad are also affected. When assessing the objective of deployments, the gender perspective is emphatically included in the considerations. Female military personnel have the same opportunities to develop their career as male military personnel (except in the Marine Corps, Corps Command Troops and the Submarine Service). Dutch servicewomen have participated in various mission areas all over the world in support of Peace Support Operations and other humanitarian operations. The operations usually last from 4 to 6 months. According to regulations, "the military personnel of the armed forces, both men and women, serve under the obligation to be fit for duty abroad. Deployment is not on a voluntary basis. Women with one or more children under the age of five are not deployed abroad, unless operational reasons make it absolutely necessary."

The impact of the deployment on women in the Netherlands is present on various levels. Some women are themselves deployed as part of a peace or combat mission, while others are partners or family members of a deployed individual. Also, some deployed individuals return to the Netherlands with physical injuries, while others might experience social or mental health problems during or after their deployment.

Police: The Dutch police have a specific organization focused on increasing diversity in the police force and particularly in the leadership, in terms of more women as well as more ethnic diversity. The name of the unit is PolitieTopDivers. According to the PolitieTopDivers website, in 2011, diversity at the top of the police is a fact and will remain so. The website further mentions that there is a strong recruitment and retention of women and ethnic minorities as well as offers of national and international career opportunities for top leadership.²⁸

The participation of women in the military and peacekeeping sectors still need significant attention and improvement.

26 NATO Committee on Women in NATO Forces website: <http://www.nato.int/ims/2001/win/netherlands.htm> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

27 Information originates from a DRAFT document obtained from a representative at the Netherlands Ministry of Defense by e-mail on 1 August 2012. Not publicly available.

28 PolitieTopDivers website at: <http://www.politietopdivers.nl/category/over-politietop-divers> (last accessed 25 August 2012).

While female participation in the police is good, it can still be improved. The Ministries of Defense and Security and Justice need to prioritize the promotion of women in the security sector, which also includes analyzing the factors that form an obstacle to women's participation and designing intervention strategies to remove any barriers (e.g., through the provision of appropriate policies, including sexual harassment) that women may encounter in the security sector and while on mission.

Indicator 5 – CSOs in task forces/committees on UNSCR 1325 (out of total task force members)

Figure 5.1: CSOs in Task Forces/Committees on UNSCR 1325

Number of CSOs	Total Members (Organizations)	% of CSOs (within group)
WO=MEN Gender Platform NGO working group 1325	35+	70% CSO/ 30% individuals
WO=MEN's Lobby Working Group on 1325	6	100
NAP 1325 Public Support Subgroup ^{xxix}	10	80
NAP II general signatory/ies working group (NAP II signatories)	39	82
NAP II Afghanistan working group	9	77.7 ^{xxx}
NAP II Burundi working group	6	66.7 ^{xxxi}
NAP II Colombia working group	10	90 ^{xxxii}
NAP II DRC working group	8	87.5 ^{xxxiii}
NAP II Sudan working group	4	50 ^{xxxiv}
NAP II South Sudan working group	12	83.3 ^{xxxv}
NAP II MENA region working group	15	86.7 ^{xxxvi}
11 groups total on UNSCR 1325		

The members of the above-mentioned groups are comprised of CSOs, research institutes and government representatives. The CSOs which are members of the groups are either women organizations and include a focus on women, gender equity and WPS, or they are general development CSOs and research/educational institutes which also incorporate the same aspects into their broader work.

NGO Working group 1325

The Dutch gender platform WO=MEN facilitated the creation of a working group on UNSCR 1325. The NGO Working Group 1325 consists of NGOs only and its establishment preceded the creation of the NAP 1325 working group. The NGO Working Group 1325 monitors the implementation of the NAP and conducts policy dialogue, knowledge sharing and awareness raising with the Dutch government to advocate effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 within the UN

xxix Based on information contained in 21 June 2012 meeting notes provided by WO=MEN by e-mail on 21 August 2012.

xxx 7 out of 9 are CSOs, according to list of Country Groups provided in July 2012.

xxxi 4 out of 6 are CSOs, Ibid.

xxxii 9 out of 10 are CSOs, according to information provided by Colombia NAP II working group members by e-mail on 14 August 2012.

xxxiii 7 out of 8 are CSOs, Ibid.

xxxiv 2 out of 4 are CSOs, Ibid.

xxxv 10 out of 12 are CSOs, Ibid.

xxxvi 13 out of 15 are CSOs, Ibid.

and EU context as well as within its bilateral partnership with conflict affected countries. The Working Group also engages in policy dialogue and advocacy with the Dutch Parliament to promote greater accountability for effective implementation of UNSCR 1325.

NAP II 1325 General Signatories Working Group

The NAP II 1325 Working Group consists of signatories of the NAP and other involved organizations and individuals. The NAP 1325 general signatories working group was created following the formation of the NGO Working Group 1325. The members of the NAP II 1325 general signatories working group contribute to the implementation of NAP 1325 within their own work, based on their specific mandate, expertise and capacities, eg. by:

- ▶ Supporting local women’s organizations and communicating their interests and needs to the Dutch government;
- ▶ Network building between local organizations, South-South and South-North;
- ▶ Representing community based needs, through local NGO expertise or research and monitoring missions;
- ▶ Assisting partner organizations to lobby and advocate for the implementation of UNSCR 1325;
- ▶ Acting as an implementing partner to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, providing policy inputs as well as independent feedback and monitoring; and
- ▶ Continuing to advocate the implementation of NAP 1325 and UNSCR 1325 in the Netherlands and European Union.

The NAP 1325 Public Support Subgroup

The NAP 1325 public support subgroup is a more informal group focused on awareness raising activities. The subgroup’s goal is: “Increased awareness in The Netherlands, the European Union, The United Nations and other regional and international bodies and their member states of the importance of gender and conflict and increased public support for UNSCR 1325.”²⁹ Members of the subgroup include CSO and government representatives.

The Dutch CSOs strive to maintain independency and an ability to critically monitor the Dutch government on implementation of 1325. As such, Dutch CSOs have created supplementary 1325 NGO working groups, which are in addition to the NAP II general and country working groups. On the dynamics of the CSO member working groups, there is a high-level of fluidity in groups with a regular core group of attendees, but also a steady influx of new participants. This ensures a broad base of involved CSO stakeholders yet at times can also make effective and focused collaboration a bit challenging. Furthermore, as stated before, CSO participants face constant challenges in balancing their own organizational responsibilities and the many other commitments to the all other 1325 working groups, while available CSO budget and full-time employees (FTE) have diminished considerably since 2011.

²⁹ Ibid.

While CSOs are highly involved in the NAP II working groups the Dutch government signatories are less so. Their involvement and openness in dialogue should increase. Their actions sometimes do not correspond with their stated policy and implementation commitments on gender and 1325 in meetings. Thus, it seems that gender and 1325 policies are therefore not adequately mainstreamed into ministry-wide directorates. Accordingly, awareness raising needs to be placed higher on the agenda and better communicated internally within the ministries. Furthermore, based on experiences of NGO partners in conflict-affected countries, particularly in the NAP II focus countries, the Dutch embassies can become more pro active in organizing and attending in-country working groups with other governmental and non-governmental partners.

B. Prevention and protection

As the primary focus of the Dutch NAP 1325 (2012-2015) is on female leadership and political participation, explicit focus in this report has been given to this subject and those relevant indicators. It is however acknowledged that prevention and protection are equally relevant as, and interrelated to, female leadership and political participation.

C. Promotion of a gender perspective

Indicator 10 – Number and percentage of pre-deployment training and post-deployment programs for military and police incorporating UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820, international human rights instruments and international humanitarian law

Figure 10.1: Number and Percentage of Pre-Deployment Training and Post-Deployment Programs for Military and Police

Type of Training	Pre-deployment	Post-deployment	% of all troops receiving trainings	% of all trainings
UNSCR 1325	Yes	-	-	-
Human Security	Yes	-	-	-
UNSCR 1820	Yes	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

The precise data were not retrievable for the report. While all trainings prior to deployment address key issues in international humanitarian law and law of war (see below), it is not clear what percentage the training on 1325, human security and 1820 comprise of the total specifically. Starting in 2011, there have been in-depth trainings for pre-deployment personnel on 1325, but the percentage of troops this accounts for is not clear.

On ensuring that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available to Dutch military personnel³⁰

International humanitarian law is instructed to all military

³⁰ Excerpts from June 2011 Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security to the OSCE by the Netherlands, p. 5. <http://www.osce.org/fsc/80917> (last accessed 6 August 2012).

personnel, as well as other relevant international conventions and commitments, for instance those within the framework of the United Nations or NATO. Particular attention to this subject is given in the Soldiers and Officers Handbooks. Further, the principal rules of international humanitarian law summarized on easy-to-carry personal instruction cards distributed to each individual soldier.

Additional Training for Dutch and other European military personnel before deployment³¹

In 2011, a training curriculum was designed in collaboration with Dutch and Spanish ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs, CSOs and DCAF. The Dutch-Spanish initiative focuses on “young leaders” among foreign affairs and defense personnel being deployed to international missions (of the rank 26 of captain and higher). The project involves one-week courses held twice a year (in Spain and the Netherlands) starting in June 2011, focusing on both theoretical and practical aspects of gender-sensitivity in international missions. The gender advisor in the Operations Directorate expressed the hope that the course would eventually be recognized and accredited at the EU and UN levels.

Based on the NATO template, the training focuses on different aspects:

1. Gender as concept and UNSCR 1325
2. Gender and SSR and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
3. Scenarios and role-plays
4. UN projects and initiatives

Defense Women's Network (Defensie Vrouwen Netwerk, or DVN)

Since 2008, DVN has constantly requested the government to give more attention to women's rights, security and gender awareness. In 2010, DVN took their work to another level by enabling female veterans to share their mission stories and experiences with commanding officers and (male) colleagues. These meetings were called, Women with a Mission. Once a year three women tell about their mission experiences in word and images. To enlarge the attention and focus on gender awareness and the NAP 1325, DVN is currently developing interactive information gatherings for soldiers and non-commissioned officers. DVN has translated parts of the NAP 1325 (2012-2015) and added relevant social and cultural information about the focus countries. DVN thinks it's important that soldiers and non-commissioned officers have better understandings of gender awareness and the NAP 1325, and why local women are so important in the process of stabilization in their countries.³²

31 Seminar report. April 2011. “Gender and Defence Transformation: Transforming national structures, sustaining international operations”. Accessible at: http://www.google.nl/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=7&cad=rja&ved=0CGUQFjAG&url=http%3A%2F2Fwww.dcaf.ch%2Fcontent%2Fdownload%2F41000%2F605033%2Ffile%2FDCAF_PfP_April_2011_Seminar_Report.pdf&ei=W58zUJKALIPX0QXLn4GYBw&usq=AFQjCNE8Nr9509RiPTIX9IEEfnwgEan0A (Last accessed 21 August 2012).

32 Defense Women's Network document provided by e-mail on 5 September 2012. Not publicly available.

Police Training and Gender Component in Police Training Mission in Kunduz, Afghanistan

“Between the summer of 2011 and mid-2014, the Netherlands will provide training to the civilian police force in northern Afghanistan. A total of 545 personnel will be deployed and stationed partly in Kunduz province and partly in the capital city of Kabul and in Mazar-e Sharif. In the context of the police training mission, the Netherlands is contributing to both the EUPOL and the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan.”³³ As of October 2011, the Dutch gender team, led by Major Sander Emeis, together with German and American teams, trained 11 women to be part of the Kunduz police force. The trainings have continued since 2011. A blog (in Dutch) is maintained on activities in Kunduz within the police training mission.³⁴

Deployment of Gender Advisers and Promotion of Gender Perspective

According to the Ministry of Defense, in 2011, the Netherlands deployed 4 gender advisers to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and one gender adviser to the SSR/D program in Burundi.³⁵ In Burundi, a gender perspective in the security sector was developed by the Burundian Ministries of Defense and Public Security, together with the Dutch Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs. This led to specific empowerment programs for female military personnel and to a high number of female applicants for the Burundi police force.³⁶

While there are many efforts to increase the awareness and understanding of military personnel on gender and 1325, it is still the case that many military personnel lack sufficient understanding of gender and 1325 and how they can be leveraged in the contexts where they work. Moreover, it is known that, due to time constraints in trainings, gender issues sometimes fall off of the training agendas. It is important to conduct a review to see whether the gender sensitization and 1325 trainings lead to a real behavioral change. Also, the impacts and results from the work of deployed gender advisers should be better measured and be widely communicated.

In addition, while the Ministry of Defense is taking strides to attract more women to the military and to accommodate their needs for deployment, for example, there still a need to put protocol in place for supporting and protecting women from harassment and violence – either from military colleagues or from external persons in the area of deployment.

33 EUPOL website. Accessible at: http://www.eupol-afg.eu/sites/default/files/PR_IWD_%20EN.pdf

and <http://www.eupol-afg.eu/sites/default/files/EUPOL%20Actively%20Supporting%20The%20Position%20Of%20Women.pdf> (last accessed 8 August 2012).

34 Blog. Dutch police mission in Afghanistan. <http://afghanistan-nederland-kunduz.blogspot.nl/2011/10/11-politievrouwen-kunduz-geslaagd-voor.html> (Last accessed 9 August 2012).

35 Information provided by representative of the Netherlands Ministry of Defense by e-mail on 15 and 16 August 2012.

36 Statement by H.E. Mr. Schaper, Representative of the Netherlands in the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, October 28, 2011. http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/SecurityCouncilMonitor/Debates/WPS/WPS2011/neth_wps_oct2011.pdf (last accessed 8 August 2012).

Indicator 11a – Allocated and disbursed funding marked for women, peace and security (WPS) projects and programs to CSOs

In 2011, the Netherlands contributed €4.6 billion to the development of partner countries related to the MDGs.³⁷ The percentage of this contribution which was dedicated to WPS specifically is not easily discernible.

Dutch government primary funding channels

The money the Dutch government spends on development cooperation is distributed through various channels. Most of it goes through bilateral channels (e.g. through the Dutch embassies abroad), multilateral channels (e.g. the World Bank and the United Nations) and civil society organizations (e.g. Oxfam Novib, Cordaid, HIVOS and ICCO). The Netherlands works with both international NGOs and Dutch NGOs. Some of the support to NGOs in developing countries also goes directly through the Dutch embassies there. The NGO channel encompasses all support to non-governmental organizations in the developing world. It accounts for around a quarter of the total development budget. More than a quarter of the development budget goes to multilateral programs run by the United Nations (such as the development agency UNDP, the refugee agency UNHCR and the population fund UNFPA), the European Union and the regional development banks.³⁸

Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW)

FLOW is the largest fund on Gender Equality in the world. The Dutch MDG3 Fund was a centrally managed program that invested in projects promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and girls. The fund supported 45 projects worldwide, with an initial €70 million distributed between 2008 and 2011.

FLOW is the successor to the MDG3 Fund and a further €70 million has been allocated for the period 2012-2015. FLOW has three priorities: "1) security (including violence against women and UN Resolution 1325); 2) economic empowerment (with an emphasis on food security, land, water and economic rights), and 3) political participation. In these three priorities, female leadership is seen as an important instrument."³⁹ Grantees were notified in 2011 of their application success and project implementation is currently underway now.

As Dutch sources, the FLOW funding and the funding for the NAP country working groups are the two funds allocated most directly to the areas of 1325 and Women, Peace and Security.

³⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs website in English. <http://www.government.nl/issues/development-cooperation/the-development-policy-of-the-netherlands> (last accessed 8 August 2012).

³⁸ Ministry of Foreign Affairs website in English. <http://www.government.nl/issues/development-cooperation/partner-organisations> (last accessed 8 August 2012).

³⁹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.minbuza.nl/en/key-topics/development-cooperation/grant-programmes/flow-funding-leadership-and-opportunities-for-women> (last accessed 8 August 2012).

FLOW is the largest fund on Gender Equality in the world.

The 2011-2012 recipients of the FLOW program are below.⁴⁰ Nearly half are women's organizations.

1. ActionAid
2. Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)
3. Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
4. Breakthrough
5. Central American Women's Fund
6. Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR)
7. Comité de América Latina y el Caribe para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (CLADEM)
8. Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA)
9. Diakonia
10. Ecumenical Women's Initiative (EWI)
11. Fund for Global Human Rights
12. Fundación Puntos de Encuentro, para la transformación de la vida cotidiana
13. Gender at Work
14. Global Fund for Women
15. International Association of Women Judges
16. International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)
17. International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)
18. Just Associates Inc. (JASS)
19. Latin-American Consortium for Gender Equality
20. Nobel Women's Initiative
21. Oxfam GB
22. Pesticide Action Network Asia Pacific (PAN AP)
23. Shirkat Gah - Women's Resource Centre
24. The Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)
25. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
26. Urgent Action Fund Africa for Women's Human Rights
27. Vital Voices Global Partnership
28. WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future
29. WiLDAF West Africa
30. Womankind Worldwide (W/W)

⁴⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.minbuza.nl/en/key-topics/development-cooperation/grant-programmes/flow-funding-leadership-and-opportunities-for-women/grantee-information.html> (last accessed 8 August 2012).

1325 and Gender Funding Outlook for 2012

Following significant budget cutbacks in 2010, the total amount of Dutch government development aid has been “permanently reduced from 0.8 percent to 0.7 percent of the Netherlands’ Gross National Product.”⁴¹ In 2011, the total was 0.75 percent however.⁴²

For 2012, the government reserved a total of €42 million for international gender policy.

Of which:

- ▶ €3 million is devoted to Policy Article 5.2 (social society);
- ▶ €39 million is devoted to Policy Article 5.3 (equal opportunities and rights for women).

Of the €39 million for Equal Opportunities and rights for Women:

- ▶ €17.5 million is for the FLOW fund
- ▶ €4 million for the MDG3 fund
- ▶ €4 million on UNSCR 1325
- ▶ €2 million for the Dutch National Action Plan (2012-2015)
- ▶ €2 million for the MENA region (not earmarked for NAP activities)
- ▶ €6 million to UN WOMEN

For the remainder of the €39 million: In 2012, it is estimated that around €2 million will be channeled through central funds and approximately €5.5 million will be spent via the embassies.⁴³

Fund for Small NGOs (Fonds Kleine Organisaties 1325)

In addition to the major FLOW program, the MFA has made a small amount of funding available to small NGOs working on 1325. This fund is to only cover basic expenses of 15 small NGOs to a maximum of €1,500. The €1,500 is intended to compensate some of the unpaid participants (volunteers) of small organizations, travel to the office, office costs and other related small running expenses.⁴⁴

Despite the relatively high and appreciated amount of money that has been made available for gender and for 1325 related activities such as in the FLOW program, a large share of money has been primarily directed to big or multilateral organizations, and not to smaller women’s organizations in need. Smaller and flexible funding possibilities are especially needed in fragile

41 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs English website at: <http://www.government.nl/issues/development-cooperation/the-development-policy-of-the-netherlands> (last accessed 9 August 2012).

42 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs English website at: <http://www.minbuza.nl/en/ministry/policy-and-budget/foreign-affairs-budget-2011-2012.html> (last accessed 9 August 2012).

43 Dutch Parliament Kamerbrief international genderbeleid DMH/EM-212/2011 (International gender policy), 15 November 2011, Accessible in Dutch at: <http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten-en-publicaties/kamerstukken/2011/11/15/kamerbrief-internationaal-genderbeleid.html> (last accessed 9 August 2012).

44 Information provided by a working group member in an e-mail on 7 September 2012.

states where the situation can erupt rapidly, and the needs of women, human rights and/or peace organizations can change quickly. Thus, small organizations - which is usually the case with women’s peace groups, since these tend to operate in the margin due to their pioneering and sometimes controversial work - that are crucial to accomplish change in the struggle for gender equality in conflict countries are largely excluded from major funding. This underlines the need to critically review whether Dutch funding mechanisms for women’s empowerment operate sufficiently on gender-sensitive criteria, in order for the right target groups to be supported. On a final note regarding FLOW, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was more consultative with CSOs under the previous women’s fund (MDG3 fund) and, arguably, the MDG 3 criteria were more gender-sensitive.

A strategy needs to be built to ensure complementarity and synergy between the MFA’s FLOW program and the Embassy’s small CSO budget lines in order to promote greater impacts for 1325. In addition to the FLOW funding, there is a need for greater transparency in the decision-making and criteria around NAP II country group funding, especially as regards the MENA region which is also a politically sensitive region for the Dutch MFA. Until now, CSOs in the NAP II working group have not been regularly consulted with regards to the spending of funds made for this region, yet a large proportion of the allotted € 2 million has been spent or allocated via large multilateral channels.

Indicator 11b – Allocated and disbursed funding marked for women, peace and security to government

Data on the amount of money the Dutch government has allocated and disbursed to government bodies in the focus countries is not easily available. Often, if funding reaches the national government bodies in the focus countries, it is sometimes via a CSO in the form of budget support or through a bilateral partnership between the Dutch government and the government of the given country. If and when the Dutch government supports governments directly with funding, the likelihood that it is earmarked for Women, Peace and Security is low.

As the Ministry’s website confirms, “40 percent of Dutch funding goes to trust funds for government programs such as the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) and the Law and Order Trust Fund. In addition, the Netherlands provides support through bilateral and multilateral channels to a number of ministries, UN agencies, international and national NGOs and the private sector. The Dutch contribution is aimed primarily at agriculture, democratization, good governance and human rights.”⁴⁵ Determining whether and how much funding goes to WPS/1325 is not an easy task.

45 Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs website: <http://www.minbuza.nl/en/key-topics/development-cooperation/partner-countries/countries-alphabetically/a> (Last accessed 10 August 2012).

ARTF⁴⁶

An example of the Dutch government's direct government budget support in another country is found in Afghanistan. The Netherlands contributes money to the pool of funds in the ARTF, managed by the World Bank. Among the many kinds of activities and programs funded, women/girl and gender-focused projects can also be found. According to an ARTF document, a gender approach is also applied in its programming.⁴⁷

Joint Donor Team (JDT) in South Sudan

In addition to providing technical expertise to South Sudanese CSOs, the Dutch government, as part of the Joint Donor Team based in Juba, together with the governments of Canada, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the UK, provides technical expertise and funding to the government of South Sudan. According to the JDT website, the mission is to provide "technical expertise to Joint Donor Partners and the Government of South Sudan in support of sustainable peace, poverty reduction and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals."⁴⁸ Priority areas for the JDT – among others – include gender equality, rule of law, civil society capacity building.

Following the split between Sudan and South Sudan in 2011, the JDT prepared a fact sheet on gender equality in South Sudan. In it, they highlighted the "critical gaps in the formal recognition of women's rights in the Transitional Constitution 2011 and that South Sudanese social institutions remain highly discriminatory of women and girls, resulting in a low prioritization of their rights and access to basic services."⁴⁹ As a result, the JDT identified some priority focus areas for technical and funding support, namely:

1. Support strengthened gender responsiveness of JDPs programming;
2. Promote that South Sudan's legislative and policy framework increasingly promotes the realization of gender equality and adherence to women's rights;
3. Support improved awareness of opportunities for gender mainstreaming in national development planning and financing;
4. Advance enhanced capacities of the ministry of gender and the national gender focal persons system to support gender mainstreaming across government policies, programs and funding.⁵⁰

46 World Bank <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/AFGHANISTANEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20152008~pagePK:141137~piPK:217854~theSitePK:305985,00.html> (last accessed 10 August 2012).

47 World Bank on ARTF: http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTAFGHANISTAN/Resources/Afghanistan-Reconstructional-Trust-Fund/Gender_Briefing.pdf (last accessed 10 August 2012).

48 Website of Joint Donor Team in South Sudan. Accessible at: <http://www.jdt-juba.org/> (last accessed on 22 August 2012).

49 Fact Sheet – Gender Equality. September 2011. Accessible at: http://www.jdt-juba.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Gender_fact_sheet_update_sep_2011.pdf (last accessed on 22 August 2012).

50 Ibid.

Thus, the Dutch government – in cooperation with others – is providing support in the area of WPS to South Sudanese government bodies.

Multi-stakeholders' Financing Mechanism (MFM) in Burundi

In Burundi a Multi-stakeholders' Financing Mechanism (MFM) for the implementation of Burundi's National Action Plan on resolution 1325 is being prepared. The MFM will be led jointly by UN Women and the Ministry of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender of Burundi. The Netherlands Embassy in Burundi has started the project pipeline process for possible Dutch contribution to the establishment of a MFM for the NAP 1325 in Burundi. This will be accompanied by matching funds from Dutch NGO - Cordaid earmarked for Burundian CSOs. Contributions from other donors including the private sector will also be generated. This is an innovative example in multi-sectoral cooperation to mobilize resources and ensure transparency and accountability in implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women and peace and security, informed by the outcomes of the Costing and Financing 1325 study by Cordaid and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders.

Thematic Sub-group on Sexual Violence

"The Dutch embassy in Kinshasa has been co-secretary of the Thematic Sub-group on Sexual Violence, led by the DRC's Ministry for Gender, Family Affairs and Children. From the outset, the sub-group has worked actively to make the judiciary less of a male bastion. Its most notable achievement was the appointment of 40 women among the most recent 1,000 judges sworn into office in the spring of 2010. The Sub-group was actively involved in developing material on sexual violence, which is to be incorporated into its three-month training course."⁵¹

III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

The position of women in leadership roles and in political participation in the Netherlands itself is not yet ideal and fair. Equality between men and women in leadership positions and in non-leadership positions needs significantly more attention. While there is some discussion on whether an official quota should be set, there are CSOs like *Talent to the Top* which are solely focused on increasing the number of women in senior positions across all sectors. The results from their signatories including government, CSOs and businesses: show positive

51 The Dutch Do's on Women, Peace and Security. December 2010. Accessible at <http://vwm.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/PDFversie-BrochureDutchDos1325.pdf> (last accessed 26 August 2012).

impact and promise. However, within the report indicators, the most equity is seen in the judiciary, followed by Parliament. There is still a severe imbalance between men and women in the military and in peacekeeping missions, for instance. It is acknowledged that an imbalance between men and women in this sector will always exist, but it is important that the military and missions are gender-sensitive and include a sufficient number of women for the most relevant tasks that would be most suitable to the local context.

Due to the determination of Dutch CSOs in pushing for the Dutch government to recognize, adopt and integrate UNSCR 1325 principles since the incipience of UNSCR 1325 in 2000, the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Foreign Affairs have undertaken many steps to change policy and practice on gender equity, women's rights and UNSCR 1325.

The Dutch armed forces have made strides in planning and trying to operationalize a gender approach internally, as well as externally in its missions. For example, women with children are given more flexibility with regard to deployments. Externally, gender advisers are regularly deployed on missions and human rights' training is offered to personnel prior to deployment, as well as to local police in the police training missions in Afghanistan, Burundi and elsewhere. Furthermore, a special training course on 1325 has also been developed by Ministry of Defense staff for Dutch and other European military personnel. However, despite the efforts, no data is made available for the writing of this report as to what extent the policies and practices have translated into real impact and results, both internally and among the populations. How do the trainings on gender and 1325 translate on the ground? Do soldiers truly embrace and apply a gender-sensitive approach when active on a mission? What are the results from deploying gender advisers? Are results measured at all? The answers to these and other similar questions need to be made public.

Like the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is making efforts to mainstream gender internally and in its external cooperation. However, progress is slow and it is difficult to see from the outside just how much is being achieved in reality with regard to mainstreaming gender. Some ministry officials remain unaware of 1325 and the policy prioritization of it, which is also visible at embassy level. Furthermore, while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is active within the NAP II process, open communication with partner CSOs and inclusion of CSO partners in all relevant NAP II decision-making can also be increased.

When compared to the NAP I, NAP II has many improved elements. If summarized altogether, the NAP II has greater focus: greater focus in targeted results, in geographical focus, in thematic focus and in accountability measures. The intention (and hope) is that with this strong focus in the NAP II, there will be more effectiveness and impact in funding spending and project results in the focus countries.

The NAP II signatories and working groups are currently active in planning the first projects with local CSO partners in the focus countries. The hope is that several projects will begin in the next few months of 2012. Progress in this respect has been

slow, but cooperation with many different partners and ways of working had to be overcome in the early part of 2012.

A major item to monitor is funding. While funding for the NAP working groups has been committed to and allocated for the coming 4 years, it is not 100 percent guaranteed to be disbursed through 2015, given the forthcoming change in government in September 2012. Time will tell. This funding uncertainty is also true for the wider development sector with some budget cutbacks already in place. We need to advocate that this tax money is also allocated to smaller local organizations who are effective in bringing about change at the grassroots.

Naturally, there are obstacles working in complex conflict, post-conflict and transition countries, but great strides are being achieved with regard to women's rights, female leadership and political participation; thanks, in great part, to the vibrant women's movements and local CSOs in those countries. Indeed, there are strong women's movements in several of the Dutch NAP II focus countries – Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia and in the MENA region – to name a few. These strong movements present opportunities for the Dutch government, the NAP II country working groups and local CSOs to further capitalize on.

Yet, even in those focus countries with arguably weaker or less coordinated women's movements, there are opportunities. Examples of opportunities that exist include, strengthening the networks among those local women, gender and political participation CSO groups that do exist, providing training and capacity building to enhance the local CSOs' impact and raising awareness of what is happening in those countries with regard to women, peace and security.

The Dutch hold a strong policy engagement in a lot of conflict affected countries, particularly because of its contribution to funding and providing technical support to peace and security as well as women empowerment related programs. Thus, facilitating the NAP 1325 development processes in all of the focus countries that do not already have NAPs should also be high on the agenda of the Dutch government and Dutch CSO partners. Furthermore, special attention needs to be made to supporting conflict-affected countries to effectively implement their respective NAP 1325.

Before the end of 2012, the first Dutch NAP II funds will be disbursed and women, peace and security/UNSCR 1325 projects will start. The reporting in 2013 will provide many insights into the challenges and opportunities faced in the implementation in the Dutch NAP focus countries, as well as the cooperation between the NAP signatories – the government, Dutch CSOs and local CSOs. Direct results from the focus countries will then be presented in detail.

In closing, the following recommendations are suggested:

Recommendations

- ▶ In the Netherlands, the State and provincial governments, as well as the police and military and peacekeeping forces, should explore more ways to recruit and promote

women into leadership roles. The new cabinet should make women's participation in decision-making bodies and businesses a priority, as well as make sure women are equally represented in the new cabinet.

- ▶ The Ministry of Defense should create and implement a clear protocol on the protection of females in its armed forces, both from sexual harassment and violence from within, as well as from external parties encountered when deployed on missions. Trainings on these issues should also be made mandatory and complaint mechanisms strengthened.
- ▶ The Netherlands should ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence.
- ▶ Embassies should leverage the unique Dutch NAP II 1325 to provide greater support to the development and effective implementation of the National Action Plans 1325, particularly in the Dutch NAP 1325 focus countries.
- ▶ Dutch CSOs and Embassies should seek ways to start or join working groups or task forces where they do not exist in the focus countries, together with local CSOs, to support local CSOs (working in human rights, peace building, democracy, etc.) and women's movements.
- ▶ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NAP II signatories should coordinate and enhance lobby and advocacy within Europe to implement WPS/1325 and enhance participation of women in leadership and politics.
- ▶ The Dutch government, and in particular the Ministry of Defense, should increase communication with Dutch CSOs and also leverage their expertise to improve the impact of its policies and practices on gender equity, women's rights and 1325.
- ▶ The Netherlands should advocate greater coordination between EU member states on development of 1325 NAPs, implementation, and funding within the conflict-affected countries.
- ▶ The Netherlands should advocate for the adoption and implementation of 1325 policies by the EU External Action Service (EEAS).
- ▶ The Dutch government should make its funding mechanisms more transparent and also gender mainstream these funds.
- ▶ Embassies should include a specific chapter on Gender and Implementation of 1325 in their Multi-Annual Plans, particularly those Embassies working in conflict-affected countries and especially in the Dutch NAP focus countries and region.
- ▶ The Dutch government should provide an annual report to the parliament and the general public on the results of its implementation of UNSCR 1325 (with special attention to NAP II) in the Netherlands, as well as in partner countries, especially in the NAP II focus countries.
- ▶ Dutch government bodies should institute a comprehensive M&E system on 1325.
- ▶ The added value of the cooperative set-up of the Dutch NAP II and its working groups should be reviewed in 2013. Has the set-up increased synergy and cooperation? What added value has the joint government-CSO cooperation brought?
- ▶ Dutch CSOs should mandate WPS/1325 a priority, including dedicating personnel where possible, despite the recent decrease in funding and other challenges.

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"All peace and security advocates – both individually and as part of organizational work - should read the 2012 civil society monitoring report on Resolution 1325! It guides us to where we should focus our energies and resources to ensure women's equal participation in all peace processes and at all decision-making levels, thereby achieving sustainable peace." -Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations

"The GNWP initiative on civil society monitoring of UNSCR 1325 provides important data and analysis on the implementation of the resolution at both the national and local levels. It highlights examples of what has been achieved, and provides a great opportunity to reflect on how these achievements can be further applied nationwide. In this regard my Ministry is excited to be working with GNWP and its members in Sierra Leone on the Localization of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 initiatives!" - Honorable Steve Gaojia, Minister of Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs, Government of Sierra Leone

"The 2012 Women Count: Security Council Resolution 1325 Civil Society Monitoring Report uses locally acceptable and applicable indicators to assess progress in the implementation of Resolution 1325 at the country and community levels. The findings and recommendations compel us to reflect on what has been achieved thus far and strategize on making the implementation a reality in places that matters. Congratulations to GNWP-ICAN on this outstanding initiative!" - Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

"The civil society monitoring report on UNSCR 1325 presents concrete data and analysis on the implementation of the resolution at national level. It helps us identify priorities for implementation and allocate resources to ensure women's participation in all peace processes and achieve long lasting peace. A must read for all peace and security actors and advocates. Congratulations to GNWP on this outstanding initiative!" - Sadhu Ram Sapkota, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, Government of Nepal

"A beautifully presented, thoroughly documented accounting of what is happening to a resolution that came from the grass roots, was vetted by the grass roots and was lobbied for by women for unanimous adoption by the Security Council. Cheers to the women of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders for their careful, detailed work. GNWP is also making a unique contribution working at localization. It's about time that some western based organization relied on local women to plan their own peacemaking program. Local women are planning their own strategies in peacebuilding and adapting UNSCR1325 to meet their needs." - Cora Weiss (former President, International Peace Bureau, now its UN representative, President, Hague Appeal for Peace)



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