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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
On: 22 November 2017  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Third Report on the EU Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security

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Delegations will find attached the Third Report on the EU Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security, as endorsed by the Political and Security Committee on 22 November 2017.

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## 1. Executive Summary

### 1.1. Developments over the reporting period

Throughout the reporting period of January 2013 – December 2015, the EU has continued to promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, in its internal and external action, in line with the *Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 & 1820 on WPS<sup>1</sup> (Comprehensive Approach)*.

- By the end of the reporting period, 17 Member States adopted and/or are implementing a National Action Plan on WPS and a number of Member States have pledged to or are contemplating the adoption of a National Action Plan.
- The EU and its Member States have been actively seeking to improve the gender balance in decision-making positions in their institutions.

The overall rate of Member States' female diplomatic Heads of Mission kept on slowly growing during the reporting period. The number of female EU Heads of Delegation increased as compared to the previous reporting period, albeit by a small amount.

- The previous iteration of this report<sup>2</sup> set out the mainstreaming of gender and WPS into Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions' and operations' mandates and other strategic documents as a challenge ahead. There have been considerable advancements in this regard during this reporting period.

Since the adoption of the new *Crisis Management Procedures for CSDP Missions and Operations<sup>3</sup>* in 2013, all strategic planning documents include a paragraph on the commitment to integrating human rights and gender and upholding international law. Operational documents emphasise the importance of integrating human rights and gender across all operational lines and many include specific tasks or activities in specific operational lines. While gender is an integral part of CSDP missions' and operations' mandates, planning and reporting documents, there is room for deeper integration into all these frameworks.

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<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 on WPS, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 15671/1/08, 1 December 2008

<sup>2</sup> Second report on the EU-indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 on WPS, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 6219/14, 6 February 2014

<sup>3</sup> Suggestions for crisis management procedures for CSDP crisis management operations, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 7660/2/13, 18 June 2013

All current CSDP missions and operations, as well as CSDP Headquarters, have human rights and/or gender advisers and/or focal points. Moreover, a Gender Focal Point System is being adopted in the majority of civilian CSDP missions, which will speed up gender mainstreaming in all mission activities.

- The EU maintained a close, strategic partnership with UN Women, which was renewed in 2016 and continues 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. Moreover, the EU remains a proponent of a stronger UN institutional architecture and a stronger UN leadership to foster the effective implementation of WPS resolutions<sup>4</sup> in the field.
- WPS and gender continued to figure in bi- and multilateral dialogues and exchanges with regional and international organisations, including: the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the African Union, the Association of East Asian Nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States and the League of Arab States.
- Bilateral human rights dialogues had an important role to play in the inception and implementation of third country National Action Plans on WPS, such as those of Afghanistan and Ukraine. This was one of the objectives set out in the previous edition of this report.
- The EU also continued to fund WPS action both at home and abroad. An approximate annual EUR 6.5 billion were spent on promoting gender equality in general during the reporting period. Some EUR 200 million of this sum was WPS-related.
- In the area of monitoring and evaluation, the EU completed a process which led to the 2016 update of the indicators used to monitor and evaluate the implementation of EU commitments under the *Comprehensive Approach*.

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<sup>4</sup> UNSCRs 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015)

## 1.2 Challenges encountered during the reporting period

- The proportion of female EU Heads of Delegation largely stagnated over the reporting period. A new approach is currently under elaboration to help achieve a more balanced female representation, including to encourage female candidates to apply for EU Heads of Delegation posts, including from Member States. This is considered to represent the primary challenge.
- There remains a continued lack of engagement with international financial institutions on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- An important challenge is related to proper monitoring and evaluation. Previous reports pointed out that the varying quantity and quality of responses made the compilation of the reports challenging, and results were indicative at best. Despite the 2016 update of the indicators, the preparation of the Third Report was affected by similar problems. For instance, while the EU supports a number of peace processes, data obtained in preparation for this report does not allow for a substantial evaluation of the degree of follow-up and of whether and how this support translates into strengthened provisions on the rights and protection of women in the process design and outcome document. It should be noted that further improvements to monitoring and evaluation have the potential to improve the whole WPS cycle.

## 1.3 Way forward

- The EU and its Member States continue implementing their commitments on the WPS agenda, in accordance with the *Comprehensive Approach* and their priorities defined ahead of the *High-Level Review of UNSCR 1325 in October 2015*<sup>5</sup>.
- The European External Action Service (EEAS) concludes on the informal review of the *Comprehensive Approach* and presents its results to the Political and Security Committee in due course.

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<sup>5</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Global Review of the UNSCR on WPS: Commitment of the EU and its Member States, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 12904/15, 12 October 2015

- In view of the specific monitoring and evaluation challenges encountered in preparing this report, the EEAS further rationalises the reporting procedure on the implementation of the *Comprehensive Approach*, including through streamlining and synchronisation with reporting on the *EU Gender Action Plan 2016-2020*<sup>6</sup> and with reporting<sup>7</sup> on the implementation of the *Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level*<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 annexed to the Council Conclusions on Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 13201/15, 26 October 2015

<sup>7</sup> In 2017, the present report will be presented to the Political and Security Committee together with the Progress report on the implementation of the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level' in the period July 2016 – June 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Political and Security Committee meeting document MD 155/14, 25 November 2014

## 2. Introduction

The *Comprehensive Approach* defines the basic principles of the EU's policy on WPS, its overall objective, common definitions as well as a common EU approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 & 1820, in order to ensure full coherence between and within different EU external action instruments and proper continuity in EU action from crisis management to reconstruction to development. The *Comprehensive Approach* provides comprehensive guidance to ensure that the EU's external actions are shaped to protect women from violence and contribute to increased equality between women and men during and after armed conflict and in situations of fragility.

The present document is the third iteration of the report on the *EU indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 on WPS*. It reports on the EU's and its Member States' fulfilment of the commitments in the *Comprehensive Approach* in the period between January 2013 and December 2015, measured against an updated set of indicators. On few indicators, data from beyond December 2015 was also factored into reporting. Where relevant, this was intended to compensate for the unavailability of specific data from the reporting period.

### **How did we prepare the report?**

Continuing the methodology of the previous report, the Third Report was prepared based on questionnaires sent to Member States, Commission services, EU Delegations and Representation Offices (EUDEL), EU Special Representatives (EUSR) and CSDP missions and operations.

The questionnaires were customised to only include questions of relevance for the different stakeholders. The questions were based on the *Revised indicators for the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on WPS*, adopted by the Council in 2016<sup>9</sup>. The development of the updated indicators was substantially informed by an inclusive consultation process in the framework of the informal EU Task Force on WPS. The revision served to clarify the indicators, eliciting more and better quality responses, while preserving the continuity of reporting and comparability of results.

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<sup>9</sup> Revised indicators for the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 on WPS, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 12525/16, 22 September 2016



The revised indicators were created by splitting, breaking down and regrouping the original 17 indicators. Two new indicators and one sub-indicator were also added to account for developments in the global WPS agenda since the EU adopted its original indicators. The resulting 21 indicators also sought to elicit narrative responses that could nuance the interpretation of numbers reported.

The rate of response for the Third Report was as follows:

- 23 of the 28 Member States responded (82%),
- 60 of 139 EUDELs responded (43%),
- 4 of the 9 EUSRs responded (44%)
- and all CSDP missions and operations responded (100%).
- The EEAS and relevant services of the Commission also contributed.

The rate of response for all three reporting periods is summarised in the table below:

**Type and number of interlocutors whom the questionnaire was sent to/responded and the ratio of responses for each reporting period**

Type of respondent	First Report (2008-2010)			Second Report (2010-2012)			Third Report (2013-2015)		
	Sent	Responded	%	Sent	Responded	%	Sent	Responded	%
Member States	27	24	89%	28	16	57%	28	23	82%
EUDEL	36 <sup>10</sup>	23	64%	139	74	53%	139	59 <sup>11</sup>	42%
EUSR	11	6	55%	11	9	81%	9	4	44%
CSDP	15	15	100%	10	10	100%	16	16	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>53%</b>

<sup>10</sup> The questionnaire for the First Report was sent to a selection of 36 EUDELs in fragile, conflict or post-conflict countries (as per OECD/DAC/INCAF criteria), while the previous and present iteration of the report widened the scope of inquiry to all EUDELs.

<sup>11</sup> 24 of them from fragile countries

## Structured input from civil society

In the course of finalising the report, structured input from civil society organisations was obtained through the European Peacebuilding Support Office. The report was generally well-received by the civil society organisations providing input, although some shortfalls were perceived in various areas. For instance, the report was seen to have a strong focus on protection and participation, while somewhat neglecting the preventive dimension of WPS. The assessment on EU support to transitional justice processes was welcomed, yet it was emphasised that a gender aspect to transitional justice went well beyond addressing sexual and gender-based violence. It was flagged up that references to men and boy victims of sexual and gender-based violence were absent from the report. The most consequential findings and recommendations from civil society organisations' input are described below:

- The elaboration of the internal dimension of the WPS agenda (e.g. women in senior positions, protection of female asylum seekers in the EU, preventing/countering violent extremism) was broadly welcomed, although more active efforts were expected by the EEAS in particular on improving female representation internally.
- It was widely argued that the analytical output of monitoring and evaluation should be strengthened. This should entail impact assessment, including assessing the preventive impact of EU action, assessment on the return on investment as well as measuring change and transformation over time. It was suggested that the most suitable tools for these purposes would be case studies into concrete EU engagement, either with a regional or thematic focus. It was pointed out that case studies could look into aspects that the EU indicators do not necessarily address, such as the role of men and boys; the role and plurality of civil society organisations/women's movements and organisations on the ground and their relationships with donors/international agencies; the interplay between conflict and the plurality of gender roles and identities. Finally, it was underlined that civil society organisations' input would be critical to in-depth impact assessment, and a good practice from an EU Member State was referred to whereby independent civil society organisations have been commissioned to produce such case studies.

### 3. Indicators

#### 3.1 National Action Plans and other strategic documents in EU Member States

The drafting, adoption and implementation of National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions remains the prerogative of Member States, but the EU has been actively encouraging its Member States to adopt whole-of-government strategies on the implementation of the WPS agenda. Of the 28 EU Member States, 17 have adopted and/or implemented a National Action Plan on WPS during the reporting period, which in comparison with the previous reporting period presents a laudable growth in the number of National Action Plans within the EU<sup>12</sup>. Two respondent Member States reported to have action plans on WPS, albeit only in a specific area of policy.<sup>13</sup> The majority of documents reported on by our respondents are second or third iterations, which highlights the continued relevance of the issues addressed by UNSCR 1325, and also serves as a testament to the resolve of the EU and its Member States on implementing the WPS agenda. Most Member States maintain a chiefly outward looking approach to WPS and the implementation of the WPS agenda is usually intertwined with their development cooperation strategies.

All responding Member States acknowledged the important role of civil society organisations and most of them also emphasised the active involvement of civil society organisations throughout the National Action Plan cycle (development, adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and revision). For example in Croatia, civil society organisations were directly responsible for the inception of their National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> The Czech Republic has since adopted a National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in 2017, which is not accounted for in the number above by reason of being adopted outside the reporting period. A number of Member States have also signalled at the High-Level Strategic Session of the informal EU Task Force on WPS (held on 30 March 2017) that they were considering the adoption of a National Action Plan on WPS.

<sup>13</sup> i.e. the action plans adopted by the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of National Defence of Romania.

<sup>14</sup> According to the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, the impetus for the development of the Croatian National Action Plan came from Croatia's Centre for Women studies in Zagreb.

### **Best practice: Geographically focused National Action Plans**

Some Member States focus their National Action Plans on a specific group of partner countries, including Belgium<sup>15</sup>, the Netherlands and Sweden<sup>16</sup>, this practice was reported as beneficial to the efficiency of the implementation of their WPS agenda.

The Netherlands went a step further. While the country-specific cooperation between government bodies and civil society organisations proved successful, it also presented a new challenge: the country groups mainly focused on the activities and division of funds, and far less on strategic cooperation, reducing cooperation to donor-implementer relationships. Thus, while country groups will remain a key platform for cooperation and collaboration in the Netherlands' third National Action Plan, cooperation will be strengthened by developing and implementing joint country strategies, including not only joint projects, but also information-sharing and advocacy.

## **3.2 Women in senior positions in diplomatic and crisis management missions**

### **EU Heads of Delegations and Senior Managers**

Regarding female EU Heads of Delegation and Senior Managers in the EEAS, relevant data shows their proportions to be largely stagnant throughout the reporting period. There was a slight increase in the number of female EU Heads of Delegation as compared to the previous reporting period (from 24 to 26), but their proportion continued to hover around 20% as the total number of positions increased as well.

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<sup>15</sup> Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali

<sup>16</sup> Sweden is engaged in supporting the furtherance of the WPS-agenda in all post-conflict and conflict countries where it is present, but this work is intensified for twelve focus countries. The twelve focus countries are: Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Palestine\* (\*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue), Somalia, Syria and Ukraine.

**Number of Senior Manager and EU Heads of Delegation, and number and ratio of female Senior Managers and EU Heads of Delegation throughout the reporting period<sup>17</sup>**

Position	2013			2014			2015		
	Total	Female	%	Total	Female	%	Total	Female	%
EU Heads of Delegation	123	28	22.8%	131	29	22.1%	133	26	19.5%
Senior Manager	29	4	13.8%	30	3	10,0%	22	3	13,6%

If the proportion of female EU Heads of Delegation were to be doubled to 40% in the coming years, the EU would have to have 56 women EU Heads of Delegation<sup>18</sup>. According to the EEAS, the opportunity to achieve this goal is present, as a high number of male EU Heads of Delegation are set to vacate their post in the near future.<sup>19</sup> The challenge is to encourage female candidates, including from Member States, to apply for the function of EU Head of Delegation. In the EEAS rotation procedure of 2017, 21% of the applications put in for EU Heads of Delegation positions originated from female candidates. This is a slight improvement compared to the rotation procedure of 2016 (18%). Nevertheless, the low percentage of female applicants is a serious impediment to substantially raising the proportion of women in EU Heads of Delegation positions.

<sup>17</sup> Numbers based on data collected September each year.

<sup>18</sup> Calculating with the current number of 140 Delegations, including the Chargé post for Syria.

<sup>19</sup> EU Heads of Delegation to leave their post by gender (2017-2019):

2017 (43 posts): 34 M / 9 F

2018 (29 posts): 24 M / 5 F

2019 (39 posts): 32 M / 7 F

### **The Principal Adviser on Gender and on UNSCR 1325**

The position of the EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 (EEAS PAG) was created in [summer 2015](#). The EEAS PAG's role is to ensure exchanges and coordination of the EU with other international, regional and national actors on policy and action related to gender and UNSCR 1325. Her work contributes to the EU's internal coordination on gender and UNSCR 1325 matters, to enhancing their visibility and to their prioritisation in the EU's external action.

### **EU CSDP Missions and Operations**

In 2015, two female Heads of Mission (HoM) were appointed in civilian CSDP missions. Head of the EUPOL Afghanistan was appointed in February 2015, having been Deputy Head of Mission since June 2014. Head of EUBAM Rafah was appointed in July 2015.

Furthermore, for the period 2013–2015, there have been women in 56 senior management posts across civilian missions. Amongst them were seven Deputy HoMs, three Heads of Mission Support, three Chiefs of Human Resources, one Chief of Procurement and one Spokesperson. As of 2016, five out of 10 civilian missions are headed by women (50%).

### **Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability efforts for gender balance in CSDP**

The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) promotes the need for gender balance and inclusiveness at all levels of the organisation, including senior management positions, including through engaging all missions on this matter during staff seminars and mission support meetings in Brussels. The Director of CPCC is also actively requesting Member States to put forward suitable female candidates, in particular for leadership positions. A standard reference is also made to the EU's commitment to gender balance in CSDP missions and operations, in compliance with UNSCR 1325. CPCC encourages Member States and European Institutions to take this into account when offering contributions.

## Member States' Diplomatic Missions

As regards Heads of Member States' diplomatic missions, based on the responses received, we estimate an average female representation of 22%. When compared with the proportions assessed in the first (18%) and second (21%) reports, this implies a steady, albeit gradual, rise on a European scale.

### Encouraging prospects in Member States' diplomatic services

While the gender gap remains prevalent in higher ranking diplomatic positions in many Member States, the situation appears much more balanced with regards to the whole of the diplomatic services.

Austria's diplomatic service has a dedicated women's promotion plan, providing *inter alia* for gender mainstreaming and the use of gender-sensitive language, prioritising women's promotion in case of equal qualifications etc. The proportion of women in the diplomatic service of Austria accounts for 35.6% and is gradually increasing.

Finland increased the number of female HoMs by 5% to 46% since the last reporting period. The overall representation of women in the country's diplomatic service reached ca. 50%, with a reported 2/3 of newly recruited staff in the diplomatic service being female.

In Croatia's Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, women hold more than 50% of the decision-making positions, and women now outnumber men in all staff categories, except for the two highest ranks.

Sweden's ratio of female HoMs stands at ca. 42%. With regards to the whole of the diplomatic service, between 1996 and 2017, the ratio of women has risen from 17% to 43%.

### 3.3 Support of the EU and its Member States to partner countries on developing, implementing and evaluating WPS policies

The EU in its external action has been actively promoting and supporting the adoption of National Action Plans by third countries, and advocating in favour of a strong WPS agenda. According to the EU input to the Global Study conducted by the UN on the implementation of UNSCR 1325<sup>20</sup>, the EU is active on the issue of WPS in more than 70 countries across the world. Member States are also active at their own initiative in more than 90 countries worldwide<sup>21</sup>.

The EU and its Member States assumed an active role in the international community's common remarks to Afghanistan's draft National Action Plan. EU contribution played an important part in the 2015 launch of the National Action Plan in Afghanistan, and the launch and implementation of the National Action Plan has been an indicator in the ongoing EU-Afghanistan Human Rights Dialogue. The EU also supported the National Action Plan implementation with EUR 2,7 million through the Instrument for Stability<sup>22</sup> (IFS).

Through EUDEL El Salvador, the EU lent political support to the UN Women-led initiative "Group of friends of the UNSCR 1325", which advocated the adoption of a National Action Plan to the Salvadoran Government.

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<sup>20</sup> European Union input to the Global Study on WPS, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 7595/15, 27 March 2015

<sup>21</sup> From among the overall number of countries referenced in the European Union input to the Global Study on WPS, responses received in preparation for this report indicated EU and /or EU Member States' activities in the field of WPS in the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh; Belarus, Benin; Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon; Georgia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo\* (\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence), Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

According to the European Union input to the Global Study on WPS, Afghanistan was the most supported country overall as of 2015.

<sup>22</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1717/2006 of the Parliament and of the Council of 12 November 2006 establishing an Instrument for Stability



EUDEL/EUSR Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) reported on providing political support to the host country's Gender Action Plan (2013–2017) and National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (2014–2107). This is the second iteration of BiH's National Action Plan. According to the assessment of the EUDEL, the National Action Plan is in many respects a global model.

EUDEL India reported on extensive funding activities in both India and Bangladesh. Through the IfS, the EU funded the project "Empowering Women for Peace and Development in South Asia". The project has supported implementing partners to liaise with their respective national authorities and provide inputs/drafts for the formulation of the National Action Plans.

EUDEL Iraq reported on political supports for WPS and the implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan (adopted in 2014). The EUDEL attended the latest high level conference on the National Action Plan in Baghdad on 27 October 2016, and signalled through appropriate channels the high-level importance the EU attaches to the successful implementation of the Iraqi National Action Plan, to achieve the goals set by UNSCR1325 & 1820.

EUDEL Ukraine encouraged the adoption of Ukraine's National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Through the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace<sup>23</sup> (IcSP), the EU also supports civil society initiatives aiming to inform and support the design, adoption and implementation of National Action Plans and the strengthening of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, Niger and Burkina Faso.

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<sup>23</sup> Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace

### 3.4 Addressing WPS issues raised by local civil society in partner countries

Implementing UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions requires the involvement of civil society organisations. Only an approach from society as a whole, at all levels, will bring about the long-term changes that will be needed to fully implement the WPS agenda. Responses indicated that Member States have been working in close cooperation with civil society organisations, whether home or abroad. Local civil society organisations are key partners in raising awareness on issues which would otherwise go unnoticed. The most often reported type of issue was sexual and gender-based violence, but human trafficking, women's rights, women's participation in decision-making and politics and socioeconomic empowerment were all among the issues addressed in partnership with civil society organisations.

As for Member States, six Member States reported on cases where civil society organisations drew attention to the necessity of action: Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

## **Actions taken by the Czech Republic in response to issues raised by civil society organisations**

The Czech Republic provided some of the most elaborate examples, drawn from Bangladesh, Nepal, Palestine<sup>24</sup> and Zimbabwe:

In Zimbabwe in 2015, the Female Students Network Trust, in partnership with the Embassy of the Czech Republic, engaged in raising awareness and sought out relevant authorities to combat sexual and gender-based violence as an issue in tertiary education institutions.

In Palestine in 2015, the Tubas Charitable Society, in partnership with the Representative Office of the Czech Republic, addressed the low awareness of the community on sexual and other forms of violence.

In 2014, the Czech Republic responded to the issues raised by the Bangladeshi civil society organisations' News Network. The Czech Republic funded a sensitization programme for journalists to combat gender-based violence.

In 2014, the Nepalese civil society organisations' Conscious Media Forum's project "*In-depth Reporting and Issue Sensitization Training to Emerging Women*" was funded by the Czech Republic. The project facilitated the understanding of women journalists of gender, social discrimination, conflict, patriarchy, human rights, globalisation, market and the issues of marginalisation.

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<sup>24</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

The EU reached out to civil society organisations actors through calls for proposals under various funding instruments. EUDELS generally reported on active engagement in addressing WPS-related issues raised by civil society organisations. For instance, EUDEL Venezuela reported on EU funding to four projects proposed by civil society organisations, with the goal of raising the socioeconomic status of women in the country. These projects are based on the exchange of knowledge among women and civil society organisations working on women's empowerment for economic reinsertion.

### **3.5 Bilateral and regional dialogues of the EU and its Member States that include specific attention to WPS**

While nearly all respondents indicated to have been active on the issue of WPS in bilateral and regional exchanges at all levels (political, technical, financial), few reported on including WPS aspects in institutionalised dialogues. EU dialogues frequently touched upon gender in general and sometimes also on WPS specifically.

#### **EU – African Union (AU)**

The 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue convened during the reporting period (Brussels, 2013; Kigali, 2015). The conclusion of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting welcomed the organisation of two meetings on WPS, as well as on children in armed conflict. The EU reiterated its commitment to sharing its training modules for peacekeeping operations on gender, human rights and child protection. The conclusion of the 11<sup>th</sup> iteration of the dialogue saw the announcement of the '2016: Africa Year of Human Rights, with Particular Focus on the Rights of Women'.

## **EU - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**

While not directly linked to WPS, issues related to the situation of women featured high on the agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> EU-ASEAN Policy Dialogue on Human Rights, which took place in Brussels in October 2015. In addition to ASEAN's body for Human Rights (the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights), the Policy Dialogue was also attended by the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion of the Rights of Children and Women and the ASEAN Committee on Women.

## **EU - Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**

The 7<sup>th</sup> point of the action plan adopted at the Second EU-CELAC Summit (Brussels, 2015) deals with gender. The main objective set by the action plan is to prioritise gender issues in the context of bi-regional relations and underscore the political will in both regions to guarantee gender equality and the protection, exercise and promotion of women's rights, including i) Political participation of women; ii) Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence; and iii) Economic empowerment of women and their participation in the world of work and in all decision making.

## **EU - G5 Sahel**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-G5 experts meeting addressed the matter of WPS and explicitly mentioned UNSCR 1325 in the joint EU-G5 roadmap<sup>25</sup>.

## **EU - League of Arab States (LAS)**

The second EU-LAS Foreign Ministers meeting concluded with the 2014 Athens Declaration<sup>26</sup>, which promotes women's political, social and economic empowerment, and welcomes steps towards the implementation of the regional programme *Economic and Political Empowerment of Women*.

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<sup>25</sup> Adopted during the Ndjamená Summit of the Heads of State of the 'Sahel G5' countries on 20 November 2015

<sup>26</sup> Declaration adopted at the Third EU-LAS Foreign Affairs Ministerial Meeting, 10-11 June 2014

## **EU- Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)**

The EEAS PAG met OSCE interlocutors in the margins of the OSCE Security Days Event on WPS in Vienna on 13 November 2015. The parties discussed the EU and the OSCE stance on gender and WPS, and examined possible areas of EU-OSCE cooperation. There was a keen interest in deepening cooperation both in the field between EUDELs and the OSCE's network of field presences in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, as well as at strategic level.

### **Bilateral dialogues**

The launching of Afghanistan's National Action Plan on WPS was an agreed indicator for the EU-Afghanistan Human Rights Dialogue on 15 June 2015. The EU follows up on each indicator in a follow-up meeting held every 6 months after the dialogue. This keeps the government engaged on the implementation of the National Action Plan.

Gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes was a focal topic of the EU-Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue. The EU and Ukraine agreed on the need to promote gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes. The EUDEL also called on the government of Ukraine to ratify the *Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)*, and urged the government to strengthen the criminal code on gender-based violence in the country. The Human Rights Dialogue has also facilitated Ukraine's adoption of its National Action Plan on WPS.

### **3.6 WPS in the EU Special Representatives' activities**

Among the 12 EUSRs whose mandates overlapped with the reporting period, four provided input<sup>27</sup>. EU Head of Delegation/EUSR Afghanistan reported on continued involvement in the development and implementation of the host country's National Action Plan. The EU Head of Delegation/EUSR in BiH reported on providing similar support to the Gender Action Plan (2013–2017) and National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (2014–2107) of the host country.

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<sup>27</sup> It was not possible to garner input from the EUSRs whose mandate was discontinued between the end of the reporting period and the start of data collection.

The EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, throughout his contacts and activities, has regularly included references in support of women's contribution to confidence-building between the conflicting parties. The EUSR is in regular touch with female representatives of civil societies. Noting the significant potential offered by communication between women's associations across the conflict divide, the EUSR constantly underlines the EU's continued support for their cause and activities toward peace, and encourages them to maintain their involvement in confidence-building.

The EUSR for the Middle East Peace Process reported on his main policy objective for his mandate: to relaunch and support a political process towards a comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the course of his activities, the EUSR reached out to prominent female political actors on both sides, even to ones not as of yet formally involved in the efforts to relaunch a peace process.

### **3.7 Financing instruments and budget allocations that the EU and its Member States use to support WPS in partner countries**

The data received proved insufficient to provide a comprehensive and accurate picture on Member States' financing of the WPS agenda. Few of the Member States that replied have a dedicated WPS budget. Respondents also cited the cross-cutting nature of WPS and pointed to gender mainstreaming, which made the clear delimitation of WPS-related spending challenging.

WPS-related expenses in general were covered by regular budgets of the various state organs, typically by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (or its equivalent). Development cooperation funds figure most heavily in WPS funding as they were considered a valuable tool to help partners implement the WPS agenda.

EU funds allocated to WPS-exclusive goals proved equally hard to identify: the EU mainstreams a gender equality approach in its policies and activities, especially in the context of crisis management and in its development cooperation. The EU also supports specific strategic actions. The EU allocates an approximate annual EUR 6.5 billion<sup>28</sup> to gender equality. Some EUR 200 million of this sum is WPS-related financial support<sup>29</sup>. WPS funds were channelled through various financing instruments, such as the IfS and its successor, the IcSP<sup>30</sup>, the Development Cooperation Instrument<sup>31</sup> (DCI), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights<sup>32</sup> (EIDHR), the European Development Fund<sup>33</sup> and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance<sup>34</sup>. Examples of utilising the above instruments include:

- Altogether 22 projects addressing human rights issues and the development of civil society organisations and local authorities in Afghanistan. Gender was a main (10) or significant (12) objective of all projects. The project funding amounted to about EUR 15 million of which some EUR 12.5 million was gender- or WPS-related spending. The instruments mainly utilised were the IcSP<sup>35</sup>, EIDHR<sup>36</sup> and DCI.

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<sup>28</sup> 2016 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's instruments for financing external actions in 2015 (Brussels, COM(2016) 810 final, 19 December 2016)

<sup>29</sup> European Union input to the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security, Council of the European Union (Brussels, 7595/15, 27 March 2015)

<sup>30</sup> According to the European Union input to the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security, between 2010 and 2014 the IcSP contributed EUR 21 million to support WPS projects in 26 countries around the world. As regards WPS-related activities starting in 2014-2015, a further EUR 8 million was devoted to projects implemented by civil society organisations and international organisations in Mali and Burkina Faso ("FORCE" project, 2015-2016), Niger ("Initiative Paix et Diversité au Sahel" project, 2014-2017), Nepal ("Empowering Women for Peace" project, 2015-2018), El Salvador (3 projects between 2015-2017), Kyrgyzstan ("Women building peace" project, 2014-2015), Kosovo, Colombia and the Philippines ("Gender sensitive transitional justice" project, 2015 – 2018).

<sup>31</sup> Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020

<sup>32</sup> Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide

<sup>33</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 215/2008 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund

Council Decision 2013/759/EU of 12 December 2013 regarding transitional EDF management measures from 1 January 2014 until the entry into force of the 11th European Development Fund

<sup>34</sup> Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

<sup>35</sup> Four grants were launched under IcSP with a total EU contribution of €2.7 million. These programmes work directly with civil society organisations to enhance the understanding of the peace and reconciliation process from a WPS perspective.

<sup>36</sup> Under EIDHR, the EU launched several programmes that use multipliers to enhance the general population's understanding of women's rights issues. This includes a project on investigative journalism and a project training mullahs and community leaders on women's rights.



- IcSP funds supported the European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh (EPNK). In the framework of the EPNK, long-term support has been provided to partners in the region to sustain a resilient network of women's organisations and dialogue across the conflict divide. The amount allocated to organisations and actors working in this field was EUR 570.000 in 2012-2015 and will be increased to EUR 680.000 for 2016-2018.
- A total of some EUR 2.83 million to WPS-related projects were supported throughout the reporting period in BiH.
- In Brazil, 4 projects under the IcSP received funding. The main objective of the projects was to support non-state actors in developing initiatives for WPS in Brazil. Total amount funded by the EU was EUR 1.175 million.
- In Georgia, some EUR 6.5 million worth of WPS-related projects were financed during the reporting period using IfS/IcSP funds. Although the focal point of most projects was not WPS, WPS-focused projects amounted to approximately EUR 1 million in terms of financing.

### **3.8 Integration of WPS in projects and/or programmes of the EU and its Member States in the sector of security and justice in fragile, conflict and post conflict countries**

Altogether, 22 EUDELs<sup>37</sup> reported on EU funding to fragile<sup>38</sup> countries during 2013-2015 to be used in:

- security and justice sector reform;
- disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration;
- good governance, human rights;
- civil society organisations and local authorities in development.

<sup>37</sup> EUDELs Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Botswana and South African Development Community, BiH, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Georgia, Guinée Conarky, Iraq, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nepal, Niger, Pacific, Pakistan, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

<sup>38</sup> The report defined the set of fragile states in the period 2013-2015 with the help of the OECD's States of Fragility Report 2015 (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/states-of-fragility-2015-9789264227699-en.htm>)

These EUDELs reported on an approximate EUR 266.4 million spent on the security and justice sectors, of which some EUR 4.5 million (somewhere over 1,7%) was spent on gender- or WPS-related activities. Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration funds amounted to EUR 25.8 million in total, of which none was labelled as gender- or WPS-related. Support for good governance valued around EUR 392.6 million, with 5.1% or EUR 20 million spent on WPS and gender equality in general. Human rights funds amounted to EUR 101 million, and gender was an important component in the supported projects (near 22% or EUR 22 million spending was gender- or WPS-related). Gender aspects also figured relatively heavily in civil society organisations and local authorities in development, where close to 15% (EUR 23 million) of EUR 156 million was supporting gender- and WPS related- goals.

The above numbers do not incorporate the funds for Botswana, the South African Development Community, Bangladesh, Cameroon and Georgia, where no disaggregated data was available. The EU granted EUR 18 million to regional democratisation, conflict prevention/mediation, disaster risk reduction and combating trafficking in persons in Botswana. Specific attention to WPS is given in the components of democratisation and conflict prevention/mediation, which constitute some 44% (EUR 8 million) of the grants. EUDEL Bangladesh reported on 16 project funded by the EU during the reporting period relating to either human rights or good governance. These projects were funded for EUR 35 million. Two of them had a clear focus on women, and their funding in total amounted to EUR 24 million (69%). EUDEL Cameroon reported on implementing 6 projects for a total of EUR 9 million. All projects were connected to combating gender-based violence. EUDEL Georgia reported on EUR 5,7 million aggregate spending on the sectors in question, out of which EUR 800 000 supported gender equality and WPS.

## The EU's gender approach to humanitarian aid

The EU has adopted a gender approach to humanitarian aid<sup>39</sup>, which recognises integrating gender as part of effective quality programming that helps to ensure that its humanitarian assistance reaches and responds effectively to the differentiated needs of women, girls, boys, men and elderly women and men. The Commission's *Staff Working Document on Gender in Humanitarian Assistance: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance*<sup>40</sup>, discussed on 22 July 2013, outlines the EU's approach to gender and gender-based violence in humanitarian aid. The policy outlines a broad understanding of gender, which does not only focus on women and girls but also takes into account the different needs of men and boys.

The EU strives to ensure that gender is always mainstreamed in EU-funded humanitarian operations. To support policy implementation and coherence, the Commission has introduced a Gender-Age marker, which applies to all EU-funded humanitarian projects since January 2014. The Gender-Age Marker is an accountability tool that uses four quality criteria to measure how strongly all EU-funded humanitarian actions integrate gender and age at proposal-, monitoring- and final report stage. One of the criteria is adequate participation, that looks at the participatory approach involving women, girls, boys and men of different ages in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the action. According to the Gender-Age Marker, 89 % of all EU funded humanitarian actions strongly or to certain extent integrated gender and age (mark 2 or 1) in 2015.

The EU also supports targeted actions aimed at reaching the needs of specific vulnerable groups. For instance, in 2015, it is estimated that the EU allocated over EUR 13 million in humanitarian aid to prevent gender-based violence and to develop comprehensive services to survivors.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>39</sup> For further information on the EU's approach to gender and humanitarian aid, please see: [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/gender-sensitive-aid_en)

<sup>40</sup> COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Gender in Humanitarian Aid: Different Needs, Adapted Assistance, SWD(2013) 290 final, Brussels, 22.7.2013, available at [http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/Gender\\_SWD\\_2013.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/Gender_SWD_2013.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> This is an estimate of 19 July 2017. All calculations concern the financial year of the contract, rather than the contract year. The final amount will only be known once all final reports of funded projects are finalised.

In 2015, the EU also continued implementing its commitments under the global partnership Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies, including making available funding and promoting the 2013 Gender policy.

### **3.9 Joint initiatives and programmes of the EU and its Member States at global, regional and national levels with the UN agencies and other international and regional organisations, such as NATO, OSCE and the African Union; or the World Bank and other international financial institutions on WPS.**

Maintaining the issue of WPS high on the international agenda is of high priority to the EU and its Member States. Joint efforts with international organisations, institutions and other multilateral partners are key to the efficient implementation of the WPS agenda. The reporting period saw continued cooperation with international and multilateral organisations, forums and initiatives (i.e. the UN<sup>42</sup> and its entities, NATO, the OSCE, the International Criminal Court, the G7 and the Equal Futures Partnership). However, similarly to the previous reporting period, it appears that there remains ample potential for enhanced engagement with international financial institutions.

#### **EU – UN**

Member States and EUDELS reported on continued financial support to and practical collaboration with the UN system<sup>43</sup> on the issue of WPS. UN Women was the partner most frequently referenced by respondents. Concrete joint efforts include two projects funded by the EU and implemented by UN Women: *Enhancing Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Planning* in Liberia, Timor-Leste and Kosovo<sup>44</sup> and a global project on *Gender-sensitive Transitional Justice*, aiming to support efforts to ensure transitional justice processes become more gender-sensitive.

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<sup>42</sup> The EU frequently engages inter alia with UN Women, NATO and the OSCE through its informal Task Force on WPS, with regular meetings organised by the EEAS.

<sup>43</sup> The IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNGEI, UNICEF, UNRWA and UN Women were referenced in the questionnaires.

<sup>44</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

## **Strategic partnership with UN Women**

The strategic partnership and close and multifaceted cooperation between the EU and UN Women is based on a Memorandum of Understanding<sup>45</sup> (MoU) from April 2012. The MoU envisages cooperation in three main areas: policy dialogue, joint advocacy and joint programming. The MoU has been reconfirmed in a joint statement<sup>46</sup> in June 2016, envisioning further strengthened collaboration, also recognizing emerging issues and new global challenges as areas of further cooperation.

## **EU – NATO**

The EU and its Member States strongly support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 within the NATO context. Member States aim to maintain WPS on NATO's agenda, push for discussions on WPS in formal settings (NATO Committees, the Council), organise exchanges of views and experiences between participating countries and NATO bodies to take stock of the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

For instance, Member States partook in and supported the revision of the NATO/Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Policy and Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS and Related Resolutions in 2014. The revision saw the integration of gender perspectives throughout NATO's three essential core tasks (i.e. collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security).

WPS was also increasingly integrated into/elaborated upon in NATO education and training: the UNSCR 1325 Reload project, initiated by the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme in partnership with Spain's Rey Juan Carlos University and the Australian Human Rights Commission, has been the main tool to analyse the status of women within the Armed Forces of NATO Member States and provide recommendations for the future.

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<sup>45</sup> Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Brussels, 16 April 2012

<sup>46</sup> Statement on the Memorandum of Understanding between the European Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Brussels, 15 June 2016

Member States have also been actively participating in NATO projects and initiatives, such as the capacity building projects to increase female participation in the Armed Forces of Jordan (NATO Jordan III Trust Fund)<sup>47</sup> over the period 2013-2015 and the Afghan National Security Forces (NATO ANA Trust Fund)<sup>48</sup> starting 2015.

## **EU – OSCE**

Towards the end of the reporting period, IcSP provided support to the OSCE to undertake a *Survey on the Well-being and Security of Women in the OSCE region* (EUR 2 million, 2015-2018). The survey will include a conflict dimension in order to examine the prevalence of violence against women in conflict-affected contexts and deepen the understanding of how violence against women is related to conflict.

## **EU – LAS**

In 2015, a letter of commitment on launching phase two of the project *Strengthening Crisis Response Capacities of the LAS and Member Countries* was signed between the EU and the League of Arab States. The project strengthens the capabilities of the LAS and its Member States to provide early warning and effective responses to impending regional crises, conflicts and post conflict situations. The project is a continuation of the "Phase I" EU-LAS pioneer project of early warning and crisis management which was implemented between 2011 and 2014. The initiative is co-funded by the EU (for EUR 2.5 million through the IcSP), the LAS and the UNDP, which will implement the project. The project will address gender, peace and security in line with the *Comprehensive Approach*.

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<sup>47</sup> EU participants include: the Czech Republic (which leads the project alongside Norway), Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy and Luxemburg.

<sup>48</sup> Italy, Finland and the Netherlands support the initiative.

### **3.10 Coordination of work on WPS by the EU and its Member States in partner countries among themselves and/or with other donors**

EU and Member States' coordination on the WPS agenda proved to be the strongest regarding the Middle East (Jordan, Palestine, Syria etc.) and Afghanistan. Apart from intra-EU coordination, the most often indicated non-EU partners to coordinate and collaborate with were UN Women, the OSCE, NATO and various civil society organisations.

The number of WPS-specific coordination groups in partner countries reported upon was regrettably low. The only EUDEL to make reference to such a group was EUDEL Cambodia. There is a Technical Working Group concerned with WPS, chaired by the Cambodian government, and a sub-level working group concerned with gender-based violence led by Germany. In comparison, the Second Report talks of five such groups.

Some respondent EUDELS did report on gender- or human rights-themed coordination groups, where WPS could be discussed. For instance, EUDEL Mozambique and Member States formed an EU Gender Group. In 2015, the Group's efforts were focused on the elaboration of the gender country profile for Mozambique and the selection of objectives and indicators for the implementation of the Gender Action Plan II, rather than WPS questions specifically. EUDEL Benin reported on coordination on gender at HoM-level, in the EU Working Group on Human Rights as well as in an EU ad-hoc Task Force on Gender, but coordination is more often related to gender matters in general than WPS in particular.

While EUDEL Nepal did not report on its UNSCR 1325-specific coordination group from the previous reporting period, it did state that it coordinated with Norway, Switzerland and Member States' agencies on the ground on drafting the *EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for Nepal 2016-2020*, which has included some components of WPS.

### 3.11 Political support to women's participation in peace processes

Respondents reported on declaring support for women's participation in peace processes and the WPS agenda in bilateral talks and in one or more of the following venues: various fora of United Nations organs (UNSC, General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women, Human Rights Council), the G7, NATO, various EU fora, the OSCE, etc.

#### In the UN

In the UN Security Council (UNSC), the EU and its Member States persistently and consistently promoted the WPS agenda, both in thematic discussions and in country-specific deliberations. Over the reporting period, two UNSCRs were adopted on WPS: UNSCR 2122 of 18 October 2013, co-sponsored by 24 Member States of the EU; and UNSCR 2242 of 13 October 2015, under the Spanish Presidency of the UNSC and co-sponsored by 27 Member States of the EU. Respondent Member States underlined that UNSCR 2242 provided a clear roadmap for the further implementation of the WPS framework. Member States commended the work of the UNSC Informal Group of Experts on WPS established by UNSCR 2242, and affirmed that its establishment would contribute to further enhancing coordination for gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions.

In the reporting period, the EU delivered nine WPS-related statements in UNSC open debates<sup>49</sup>, and several EU Member States have delivered statements on these occasions as well. EU Member States sitting on the UNSC have regularly invoked WPS during deliberations on thematic and country-specific issues.

The EU contributed structured input to the *Global Study on the implementation of Resolution 1325*, conducted by the UN in 2015.

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<sup>49</sup> This included a statement in the UNSC Open Debate on WPS on 13 October 2015, on the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Global Review of UNSCR 1325, setting out the commitments of the EU and its Member States on the implementation of the WPS agenda.



The EU and Member States also regularly stated their commitments regarding women's participation in peace processes and delivered high-level statements on the importance of women's participation and the WPS agenda in the UN General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, and ICC-related debates and discussions. Member States have also discussed the topic of women's rights and gender equality in the Universal Periodic Reviews of human rights country reports.

The EU and Member States advocated for the integration of a strong gender dimension into the UN reviews of peace operations and of the peacebuilding architecture, conducted during the reporting period, in order to make the UN peace and security architecture more effective and realise the UN commitment to increase women's participation. EU Member States on the UNSC reported on conscious efforts to ensure that provisions on WPS were included in geographical UNSCRs, in particular ones creating or renewing peacekeeping operations' mandates. Examples provided for the reporting period are UNSCR 2098 (2013) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNSCR 2100 (2013) on Mali, UNSCRs 2127 (2013) and 2149 (2014) on the Central African Republic and UNSCR 2112 (2013) on Cote d'Ivoire.

### **In the G7**

During Germany's G7 Presidency in 2015, a statement was made within the framework of the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Lübeck, in which the G7 Foreign Ministers and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy explicitly reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In the final report of the German government on the G7 Presidency in 2015, the G7 confirmed its commitment to support its partners in developing countries as well as in the G7 countries to combat discrimination, sexual violence against women and girls, and to overcome cultural, social, economic and legal barriers to the economic participation of women.

## EU Delegations

EU Head of Delegation/EUSR Afghanistan highlights that there has been strong advocacy from the EU for women to be included in the peace process. The EU Head of Delegation/EUSR has called on the government to fully include women in all peace processes in media statements, TV interviews, on social media and in meetings with high level government officials, including the President.

EUDEL Ukraine reports that women's participation in the peace process has been raised numerous times with the conflicting parties. Particular emphasis has been laid on the fact that in Ukraine women are disproportionately affected by the conflict due to persistent gender inequality and discrimination, as well as the further entrenchment of gender stereotypes.

While there is no comparable data in the former iterations of the report on political support for women's participation in peace processes or WPS in general, it is important to mention that without a well-defined system of data collection and attribution, it is difficult to capture all of the statements and commitments made by Member States or the EU on this issue. This will render comparison with future iterations problematic.

### **3.12 Participation of women in current peace processes where the EU and its Member States take an active role (through leadership or political, financial and/or technical support)**

The EU and Member States made direct and indirect political, financial or technical contributions to a number of ongoing peace processes including in: Afghanistan, Columbia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, Mali, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

The EU and its Member States actively participate in the Afghanistan peace process, EU Head of Delegation/EUSR Afghanistan reported in particular on the EU's support to Dr Habiba Sarobi, a reformer of the post-Taliban reconstruction of Afghanistan and the first Afghan woman to become a provincial governor in the country<sup>50</sup>. Dr Sarobi was a negotiator of the Hizbe-Islami peace agreement. She was a full participant of all meetings leading up to the agreement. The EU has held many meetings with her participation in support of her work.

The EU and its Member States have been active supporters of women's participation in the Syrian peace process and have been closely working together and supporting the Syrian Women's Advisory Board (WAB) of UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura.

### **The Syrian Women's Advisory Board (WAB)**

The WAB was established at the beginning of the intra-Syrian talks in January 2016 to ensure that women's perspectives and ideas are considered throughout the political process and at key junctures, including when peace talks are convened in Geneva.

The WAB includes 12 Syrian women delegates from across the political spectrum. It brings a gender perspective to bear on substantive topics, illuminating the specific impact of the Syrian conflict on women and girls, and proposing ideas to the UN and the broader international community on how to address these challenges.

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<sup>50</sup> The EU has sponsored Dr Sarobi with a tailored training program in Belfast, focused specifically on women in peace negotiations. Dr Sarobi was sent to Belfast to meet with the former IRA and Government figures involved in peace negotiations, as well as key leaders of other former paramilitary groups, security forces and former prisoners.

An example from an informal setting was provided by Austria: the Darfur Child Protection Focal Point Conference organized by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, in coordination with the AU-UN Mission in Darfur. Then Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Dr Leila Zerrougui, also participated. The meeting was attended by the leaders of the three Justice and Equality Movement groups and two splinter factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement. The conference had eight female participants (about 27% of the attendants) as negotiators, facilitators/coordinators, technical experts and administrative support staff.

Sweden highlighted its long-standing commitment towards Colombia, supporting the government and specifically Colombian women in the peace process. Through support to UN Women's program *Women's citizenship for peace, justice and development*, Sweden has contributed to increasing women's participation and to positioning women's agenda in the peace process between the government of Colombia and the FARC. Two women were plenipotentiary members of the government team in Havana, representing 40% of the negotiation team.

The EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia, together with his fellow Co-Chairs from UN and OSCE, has consistently and openly supported the work of female participants in the context of the Geneva International Discussions to address the consequences of the 2008 conflict in Georgia. The number of female participants in these talks is stable, around 12-15<sup>51</sup>, amounting to 20-25% of the total number of participants.

EUDEL Uganda reported that since the 2016 elections, the EU has actively engaged with the Women Situation Room (WSR), an early warning and rapid response mechanism set up in Uganda against violence arising before, during and after elections.

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<sup>51</sup> Usually there is a full and regular participation of 12 women, and the majority of them is delegated by Georgia. The three co-chairing organisations regularly include 2-3 women in their respective lists of participants. At the same time, there is an ad-hoc participation by an average of 3-4 women in different delegations.

## Women Situation Room

Fear of real or perceived elections-related violence is a major deterrent to women's political participation in African countries. The WSR is a platform for women to demonstrate that they are not just passive victims, but determined and active stakeholders in ensuring peaceful political transitions in their countries. WSR is a successful and proven model that has already been used in various African countries, including Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and Liberia.

In Uganda, the WSR has trained more than 500 women observers who have been deployed to 15 districts considered to be hotspots during the elections. The observers were expected to call the WSR's 24-hour hotline to report any incidents that could have disrupted peace during the elections and after polling. The reports were analysed by a technical team and passed on for appropriate response to a group of female leaders<sup>52</sup> who had the influence to prevent tensions from escalating further.

After the elections, WSR has also been actively seeking to find an agenda for dialogue and appeasement in Uganda. WSR urged the EU to continue to engage with both the governing National Resistance Movement and the biggest opposition party, the Forum for Democratic Change, to promote the dialogue. The EU has made efforts to convey the message of the WSR: to consider starting dialogue with confidence-building agenda items, where the government and the opposition may find common ground, such as improved service delivery, combatting corruption or constitutional and electoral reforms.

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<sup>52</sup> In this group were ten eminent women from Uganda and nine women (among them four were elders) from African countries where WSR has already been successfully implemented. These women brought influence, knowledge and experience to the WSR and conducted dialogue with key stakeholders to ensure a peaceful transition.

### **3.13 Support of the EU and its Member States to peace processes resulting in strengthened provisions on the rights and protection of women being integrated in the process design and outcome document**

While the EU supports a number of peace processes, data obtained in preparation for this report does not allow for a substantial evaluation of the degree of follow-up and of whether and how this support translates into strengthened provisions on the rights and protection of women in the process design and outcome document. Only one case was reported where EU and Member States' contribution had tangible results with regards to women's rights and the protection of women: the Columbian Peace Process. Sweden reported on the Gender Sub-commission created in 2014. Its role was to ensure the inclusion of a gender perspective in the agreements, offering a unique opportunity for women's participation in the peace process and to highlight women's demands on the different issues of the agenda. Between December 2014 and September 2015, 28 gender experts, representing women's organisations, participated in a direct dialogue with the Sub-commission, submitting concrete proposals to improve the gender perspective and to increase women's rights and demands in the peace talks. Through technical assistance, the coalition of women's organisations (created through the National Summit on Women and Peace held in 2013 and supported by Sweden), has qualified their proposals to the negotiation table and to the gender Sub-commission. The results of the dialogue and women's advocacy include:

- The Truth Commission approved by the negotiation parties in June 2015 includes a differentiated and gendered approach with special attention to women victims.
- The Agreement on Victims approved by the negotiation parties in December 2015 includes a differentiated approach on victim's needs, with a particular focus on women's rights. It also includes sexual violence as a grave crime and rejects amnesty for this type of crimes.

### **3.14 Support to empower women and to enable their meaningful participation and the integration of gender and WPS issues in peace building and transitional justice processes**

In 2015, the Council adopted *Conclusions and a Policy Framework on EU Support to Transitional Justice*<sup>53</sup>. This policy framework emphasises the need for any transitional justice process to be locally and nationally owned, inclusive, gender sensitive and respect states' obligations under international law. It supports women's leadership and role in conflict resolution and peace-building, one of its guiding principles being the integration of the gender dimension throughout transitional justice mechanisms and processes, from their design through to the implementation of recommendations. The document reinforces the EU's commitment to fight against impunity for violations of human rights, including sexual and gender-based violence. It highlights the strong role of transitional justice in ending sexual and gender-based violence, in both conflict and post-conflict situations, by bringing perpetrators to account, preventing further violence and supporting survivors to overcome violations.

Throughout the reporting period, the EU and its Member States actively supported transitional justice processes in post-conflict scenarios, in the above spirit, including in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Kosovo, etc. For instance in Kosovo, EULEX Kosovo partook in a working group focusing on access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence related to the conflict. The working group was led by the Kosovo Ministry of Justice and included UN Women and local civil society organisations. It produced an action plan which included the activity to identify cases of sexual and gender-based violence among the cases of war crimes. The list of cases identified was handed over to relevant authorities in 2015. In addition, the action plan also included capacity building for law enforcement and justice agencies (police, investigators, prosecutors and judges) of Kosovo on the investigation of sexual and gender-based violence cases related to conflict. The trainings were carried out in 2016.

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<sup>53</sup> Council conclusions on EU's support to transitional justice and its annex, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 13576/15, 16 November 2015

The EU has also been engaged in global cooperation with the UN on transitional justice: starting 2015, the EU has been funding, through IcSP, the initiative *Gender Sensitive Transitional Justice*, implemented by UN Women. In the first six months of the initiative, UN Women identified four pilot projects. Activities have been implemented in Kenya, Kosovo, Colombia and the Philippines.

Funds from IcSP were also provided to a civil society-led initiative (EUR 1 million, 2015-2017) to prepare for a democratic transition in Syria, with the aim to ensure that a wide constitution-building process, inclusive of women's rights and gender equality, will take place.

Another example is the IcSP-funded *Insider Mediation* project (implemented by UNDP, EUR 3 million, 2015-2018), which aims to strengthen the ability of national stakeholders (including civil society) to implement and support internal dialogue and negotiation initiatives. It has been critical in strengthening the participation of women's groups in such processes throughout the eight pilot countries: BiH, Bolivia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Togo and Timor-Leste.

There EU also strived to strengthen women's participation in fragile environments all around the world. Awareness raising, capacity building and support for women's engagement in societal/political contexts was financed by the EU, accompanied by programmes of economic empowerment, and where necessary, action to improve women's access to health care, education and other services.

### **3.15 Training on gender equality and WPS**

Sixteen respondent Member States provided data on their respective trainings for civilian, military and diplomatic staff deployed to UN or EU CSDP missions. The data provided was of uneven quality, but it can be deduced that over 90% of deployed staff receives gender-related training. On average, Member States organised some 30 training activities on gender and WPS annually.

Most of the Member States' defence forces introduced an integrated gender mainstreaming approach to all training and operations. Personnel are trained and briefed on the gender perspective, and it is also mandatory to receive briefings on sexual exploitation and abuse and training related to gender-based violence, prior to deployment overseas.



Several Member States also perform mandatory lectures on UNSCR 1325, subsequent UNSCRs and other national and international documents related to gender, including conflict-related sexual violence. In most cases, lectures are part of pre-deployment training for international operations and missions, for both military and civilian personnel. The lectures focus on the understanding of UNSCR 1325 and follow-up UNSCRs, and include practical information on how to implement them during deployment. Most respondents also reported on providing training on cultural and gender-related specificities in the countries of deployment.

### **3.16 Inclusion of gender/WPS issues in mandates, planning and reporting documents of CSDP missions and operations**

There are currently 16 CSDP missions and operations deployed by the EU in crisis and conflict situations. Although all missions and operations in some way engage on the issues of gender, or sometimes specifically women's participation, these are not dominant components of any CSDP mandate. Still, the EU strives to ensure that strategic and operational planning documents for CSDP missions and operations include references to gender or UNSCR 1325 and subsequent UNSCRs. The revised *Crisis Management Procedures for CSDP Missions and Operations*, adopted in 2013, include specific headings for human rights and gender. Since its adoption, all strategic planning documents include a paragraph on the commitment to integrating human rights and gender and upholding international law. Operational documents emphasise the importance of integrating human rights and gender across all operational lines and many include specific tasks or activities in specific operational lines.

Six-monthly reports by CSDP missions make references to human rights and gender activities, however, they tend not to include systematic analysis on how the missions have integrated human rights and gender into their operations. Occasional special reports on gender are also provided by missions. Strategic reviews on CSDP deployments make general statements on the importance of integrating human rights and gender into missions and operations, but do not systematically analyse how missions and operations have acted on this. Overall, while gender is an integral part of CSDP missions' and operations' mandates, planning and reporting documents, there is definitely room for deeper integration into all these frameworks.

### **3.17 Inclusion of gender expertise in CSDP missions and operations staffing**

All CSDP civilian missions have full-time gender advisers or double-hatted gender advisers. Half of CSDP military operations have a full-time or double-hatted gender adviser, while half of them only have gender focal points. EUTM Mali also has a gender focal point at Headquarters in addition to a team of two trainers focused on international humanitarian law, human rights and gender at the military training camp. The overall situation as of March 2017 is as follows<sup>54</sup>:

#### CSDP civilian missions:

4/9 (44%) missions have a full time gender advisor

3/9 (33%) have a double-hatted gender advisor

2/9 (22%) have gender focal point(s)

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<sup>54</sup> There was no retrospective data available on the period 2013-2015.

CSDP military operations:

3/6 (50%) have a full-time or double-hatted gender advisor

3/6 (50%) have gender focal point(s).

In recent years, two missions (EUMM Georgia and EULEX Kosovo) have also adopted Gender Focal Point Systems (GFPS) through which gender is mainstreamed across all mission activities.

**Best practice: Gender Focal Point Systems (GFPS)**

The GFPS initiated by EULEX Kosovo was identified as one of the three key lessons in the 2016 Lessons Learnt report. The GFPS consists of Gender Focal Points<sup>55</sup> identified in all mission departments. Their activity is supported/coordinated by the missions' Gender Advisors.

A GFPS is also in place in EUMM Georgia, and other civilian CSDP Missions are rolling out the concept at their own initiative, with full support from HQ structures. Concrete steps have been undertaken by EUPOL COPPS, EUCAP Sahel Mali, EUCAP Sahel Niger and EUAM Ukraine. For the latter, the focal point system will also be extended to Human Rights aspects.

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<sup>55</sup> EULEX Kosovo reported 20 Gender Focal Points, while EUMM Georgia has 13 Gender Focal Points.

### 3.18 Cases of sexual harassment and gender-based discrimination, abuse or violence by CSDP staff investigated and acted upon<sup>56</sup>

During the reporting period, no aggregated statistics regarding civilian CSDP missions were available at the level of the relevant EEAS structure, the CPCC. According to the *Baseline Study on integrating Human Rights and Gender into CSDP missions and operations*<sup>57</sup>, no gender-related complaints (including complaints of gender discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual abuse) were reported by CSDP missions in 2015. However, based on data provided by Member States and CSDP missions, there were two registered cases of sexual and gender-based violations by seconded and contracted CSDP staff throughout the reporting period. One case of sexual harassment by a seconded staff member resulted in the termination of the secondment. The investigation of the other reported case of harassment is still pending. As for military operations, the relevant EEAS structure, the EU Military Staff, does not have a database on allegations and violations.

As of 2016, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted a new *Code of Conduct and Discipline for civilian CSDP missions*<sup>58</sup> that contains provisions related to reporting the abovementioned cases to the CPCC. The CPCC and the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate of the EEAS offer a course on the new Code of Conduct. The course is available on a monthly basis and is part of the regular pre-deployment trainings coordinated by the European Security and Defence College. There are an approximate 10 to 20 participants per course. The EU Military Staff is also working on record keeping.

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<sup>56</sup> In terms of EU gender equality legislation, there exists a very clear EU legal framework on equal treatment between men and women (to be implemented by Member States), including to ensure protection against discrimination and sexual harassment (Ref. [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/law/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/law/index_en.htm)). The principles of the Union's external action are set out in Article 21(1) of the Treaty on European Union. All forms of gender-based discrimination, abuse or violence are contrary to these principles, and are also in contravention of the United Nations Charter and international human rights and humanitarian law. Moreover, the EU and all Member States are signatories to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

<sup>57</sup> Report on the Baseline Study on Integrating Human Rights and Gender into the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 15726/16, 20 December 2016

<sup>58</sup> Code of Conduct and Discipline for EU Civilian CSDP Missions, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 12076/16, 9 September 2016

### **3.19 Support of the EU and its Member States to peace building and peace keeping activities addressing the issue of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations**

The results and impact of EU and Member States' activities on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence remain hard to assess, because few interlocutors could elaborate on these specific aspects. However, every respondent emphasised its commitment to combat sexual and gender-based violence and reported on a significant amount of efforts in: Afghanistan, BiH, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Kosovo, Mali, Nepal, Niger, the Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Ukraine, Zimbabwe, etc. In general, respondents strived to address sexual and gender-based violence in a comprehensive manner, encompassing every component from raising awareness through prevention and protection to response.

Croatia highlighted its unique position as the only Member States with recent war and post-conflict management experience. The country has been committed to disseminate its experiences and lessons learnt on WPS - in particular about dealing with sexual violence in war and conflict. Croatia reported on organising two regional conferences during the reporting period:

- *Women in Peace Building: Access to Justice of Women in Post-Conflict Countries*, organised by the Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in South-eastern Europe with the support of Croatia's Office for Gender Equality (Zagreb, October 2013), and
- *The Regional Conference on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts: Delivering Justice for the Past, Preventing Abuse in the Future* was jointly organised by the Croatian Ministry of Veterans' Affairs and the UNDP (Zagreb, May 2014). The main purpose of the conference was to share lessons learnt in addressing the rights of victims of sexual violence in Croatia and in other countries of former Yugoslavia and to disseminate these lessons globally through UN and other systems.

Member States also reported on contributing to EU CSDP missions and UN peace operations which have addressed sexual and gender-based violence, in particular EULEX Kosovo, EUMM Georgia, MINUSMA, UNMISS, EUCAP Sahel and EUPOL COPPS.

In 2014, EULEX Kosovo organised a series of workshops in northern Kosovo to address the prevalent issue of unreported domestic violence, bringing together EULEX judges, prosecutors and police with local civil society activists and Kosovo police. The seminars were used to address the gaps in prosecuting domestic violence. At the end of the seminars, EULEX, in cooperation with the Centre for Peace and Tolerance, produced a video calling for victims to come forward and report domestic violence. A Hotline number was provided. Influential local and civil society women leaders, together with Kosovo Police, called for the victims to come forward under the slogan: “Stop the Silence. Report Violence”. The video, produced in Serbian language, was aired in northern Kosovo.

Even though EUMM Georgia's mandate is centred on monitoring, the mission has reported on a number of small-scale, but engaging, impactful and significant activities concerning sexual and gender-based violence. EUMM's Confidence Building Facility has funded three small WPS-focused confidence building projects. Two projects were specifically about violence against women and girls with cross-administrative boundary line components.

EUMM was also very active during the annual international *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* campaigns. The Mission acted as a driving force behind the international community's involvement in these campaigns in Georgia, which facilitated high level participation and was very well received by both national and international stakeholders. The mission's activities during the campaign mainly aimed at raising awareness on gender-based violence.

## **EUMM Georgia activities during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in 2015**

During the 16 Days of Activism campaign, the mission's monitors distributed information on domestic violence hotlines, to make people aware that access to justice and further support is available, if they fall victim to gender-based violence. They also partook in experience sharing meetings with police associations, including discussions about police response to gender-based violence.

Throughout the 16 days of the campaign, EUMM monitors also reached out to communities, security actors, NGO workers and even to commuters across the administrative boundary lines, during daily patrolling activities, to engage them in dialogue about the significance of the campaign's visual identifier, the White Ribbon<sup>59</sup>.

The mission also engaged with school-aged children through presentations in schools near the administrative boundary lines, as well as through a drawing contest and a football tournament. The campaign reached approximately 1800 people.

EUMM also planned, coordinated and realised the setting on stage of a documentary theatre piece entitled SEVEN. The piece was performed on stage by senior diplomats (including the Head of Mission of EUMM). It tells the true story of seven women activists from seven countries, who fought for the rights of women, children and families around the world.

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<sup>59</sup> The White Ribbon is a pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

### **IcSP support to civil society initiatives in Nepal and Burundi**

In Nepal, the IcSP (Article 4) supports civil society initiatives (EUR 485,000 in the period 2015-2018), aiming to address past conflict-related sexual and other forms of gender-based violence. The project involves strengthening the capacity of women's and community-based organisations to implement the Nepalese National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and 1825, training officials to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and providing investigative journalism training for media professionals to cover sexual violence issues.

In Burundi, as part of a bigger effort to address the issues of Internally Displaced Persons and returnees, the IcSP is supporting civil society initiatives (EUR 2 million in the period 2015-2016) to provide specific protection measures for women and to establish a prevention system against gender-based violence.

### **3.20 Protection of female asylum seekers in the EU**

Few Member States responded to the question regarding the number of asylum seekers receiving favourable ruling in the EU, but based on data available through EUROSTAT, the highest number of asylum seekers who applied for the international protection of EU countries in the reporting period came from: Afghanistan, Albania, Eritrea, Iraq, Kosovo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Serbia, and Syria. Asylum seekers in these cases accounted for over 66% percent of the total of 2.380.875 applicants throughout 2013-2015. Of all applicants, 695.430 people were female (approximately 29.2%). Of the 2.380.875 asylum seekers, 582.535 applicants (approximately 24.5%) received favourable ruling. Of all applicants receiving a positive first time decision, 181.405 (31.1%) were female, while of those 157.705 asylum seekers granted subsidiary protection, 49.100 (31.1%) were girls and women.



**Number of all/female applicants receiving positive first instance decision and number of all/female applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection by country 2013-2015**

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Number of applicants receiving positive first instance decision</b>	<b>female applicants receiving positive first instance decision</b>	<b>applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection</b>	<b>female applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection</b>
Syria	263,365	77,535	79,690	28,010
Eritrea	47,830	13,700	13,535	4,120
Afghanistan	37,345	9,145	15,355	1,860
Iraq	34,995	13,290	5,525	1,355
Somalia	18,820	7,125	9,635	2,460
Iran	16,780	6,640	660	230
Pakistan	12,575	2,155	3,320	110
Russia	10,720	5,490	1,605	810
Nigeria	9,030	3,115	2,145	650
Mali	7,310	845	2,170	60
Sudan	7,200	945	700	100
Guinea	5,525	2,870	550	265
Gambia	5,290	390	325	10
Sri Lanka	4,930	1,955	320	150

Country of Origin	Number of			
	applicants receiving positive first instance decision	female applicants receiving positive first instance decision	applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection	female applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection
DRC	4,865	2,490	390	205
Ukraine	3,460	1,890	1,510	855
China <sup>60</sup>	3,440	1,500	145	65
Senegal	3,280	335	300	25
Bangladesh	3,140	380	250	35
Côte d'Ivoire	2,880	780	700	150
Egypt	2,800	895	240	80
Albania	2,770	1,135	1,100	565
Turkey	2,745	795	375	80
Libya	2,585	800	960	220
Ethiopia	2,265	880	310	115
Kosovo <sup>61</sup>	2,180	1,080	555	290
Ghana	1,835	155	125	10
Palestine <sup>62</sup>	1,825	565	275	65

<sup>60</sup> including Hong Kong SAR

<sup>61</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

<sup>62</sup> This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

Country of Origin	Number of applicants receiving positive first instance decision	female applicants receiving positive first instance decision	applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection	female applicants benefiting from subsidiary protection
Armenia	1,335	660	285	150
CAR	1,295	580	765	375
Azerbaijan	1,155	565	80	35
Serbia	1,150	580	125	75
Uganda	1,125	550	45	30
Cameroon	1,100	415	110	40
... <sup>63</sup>	...	...	...	...
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>582,535</b>	<b>181,405</b>	<b>157,705</b>	<b>49,100</b>

Most respondent Member States reported on stepping up measures to ensure the protection of female refugees and asylum seekers.

For example, Greece gave female refugees top priority in the process of designing and planning its National Programme for Substantive Gender Equality (2016-2020). In this context, the country has provided additional protection to female refugees belonging to vulnerable groups, such as a) women who have been victims of gender-based violence and/or women exposed to serious risk of gender-based violence and b) single women with their children.

<sup>63</sup> For reasons of space, the table only indicates countries of origin with above 1000 positive first instance decisions, but these account for more than 90% percent of total positive first instance decisions.

Greece provides separate safe accommodation in 21 shelters, operating almost all across the country's regions, as well as psychosocial support and legal counselling regarding issues such as asylum procedures, relocation etc. Moreover, 40 counselling centres are open to female refugees and asylum seekers. The counselling centres and shelters for women victims of gender-based violence operate with staff trained on cultural differences and sensitised on issues of gender and sexuality. A working group has been set up within Greece's General Secretariat for Gender Equality for the monitoring of these sheltering and counselling services.

### **Gender related persecution and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the Belgian asylum procedure**

In the Belgian asylum procedure, the concept of 'gender' relates to persecution resulting from a person's sex. Women are the principal victims of this type of persecution. Some examples of gender-related persecution are: forced marriage, honour-related violence, domestic violence, rape, forced prostitution. FGM is also included as an act of persecution in the Belgian Act of December 1980 regarding the access to the territory, residence, settlement and removal of foreigners.

The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons in Belgium (CGRS) has distinguished between

- a women or a girl claiming to be at risk of undergoing FGM,
- a parent claiming their daughter under 18 is at risk of undergoing FGM.

When an applicant claims that she, or her daughter, is at risk of FGM, the CGRS can grant refugee status, in the latter case to the daughter and the parents.

Refugee status does not necessarily offer absolute protection against FGM. There is also a risk of undergoing FGM in Europe, often by family members. For this reason, the CGRS has set up a monitoring procedure to ensure that a girl will not undergo FGM after being granted refugee status.

The parent(s) are to be summoned to the CGRS before the decision to grant refugee status is taken. During this interview, the CGRS will inform the parents

- about parental responsibilities with respect to their daughter,
- that FGM is banned in Belgium and punished by law.

The parent(s) then have to sign a 'declaration on honor', by means of which they commit themselves to send once a year to the CGRS a medical certificate stating that their daughter has not undergone any form of FGM.

If the Commissioner General is made aware that the circumstances justifying refugee status no longer exist (i.e. the daughter has undergone FGM), he has the authority to review the refugee status of the parents and their daughter and to withdraw or cancel their refugee status.

If the minor has undergone FGM since her arrival in Belgium, the Commissioner General will inform the Public Prosecutor.

### **3.21 Gender-sensitive policies countering violent extremism**

Two Member States indicated to have addressed the issue of preventing/countering violent extremism and/or counter-terrorism in their National Action Plans on WPS: the Netherlands and Sweden. Finland signalled that the latest edition of their National Action Plan will incorporate the issues of preventing/countering violent extremism, while Spain's new National Action Plan will include preventing/countering violent extremism and counter-terrorism. The number highlights the slowly raising awareness concerning the importance of the gender perspective in effectively dealing with these issues.

## **Countering Violent Extremism and Counter Terrorism in the context of Women, Peace and Security**

In the Dutch National Action Plan, radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism are identified among the current challenges facing women and their role in peace and security. As such, the Dutch National Action Plan has agreed to ensure that measures and policies against violent extremism and terrorism are developed in ways that avoid undermining gender equality and women's organisations in focus countries. Co-signatories of the Dutch National Action Plan will also showcase successful and effective local non-violent strategies for and approaches to counter-terrorism and preventing/countering violent extremism.

### **Gender in the context of Countering Violent Extremism and Counter-terrorism**

Three Member States (Germany, the Netherlands and Spain) provided examples of incorporating the gender perspective into their fight against violent extremism and terrorism.

Germany's *Live Democracy! Active against right-wing extremism, violence and hate* programme supports specific measures and approaches, which address the gender dimension to extremism. Germany also funded projects of primary and secondary prevention, which engage with problematic attitudes regarding gender roles and/or address the gender dimension within processes of radicalisation.

While the Netherlands Counter-terrorism Action Plan does not address gender specific issues, it does focus on local initiatives that involve families, often aimed at the role of the mother in preventing violent extremism. Additionally, the Netherlands' trimonthly threat assessment published by the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism dedicates a paragraph to women. Further, the Netherlands also has preventing/countering violent extremism programmes that specifically target women.

Spain reported on its National Strategic Plan to Combat Violent Radicalisation (in effect since January 2015), which addresses the phenomenon and process of radicalisation in an integrated and comprehensive manner. The plan adopted a multidisciplinary approach, not limited to the viewpoint of security.

### **Spain's National Strategic Plan to Combat Violent Radicalisation**

The Spanish plan outlines possible actions involving gender in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism:

- a) Development of communication campaigns about the risks of violent radicalisation and its processes among women belonging to the Muslim community in Spain.
- b) Specific information campaigns among groups of women, who are at a greater risk or more vulnerable to radical messages.
- c) Training seminars on radicalisation processes and their risks, specially designed for women, so that they may have enough tools for early detection of the presence of this phenomenon among their family or friends, as well as to increase their resilience to radical messages.
- d) Drafting a national counter-narrative that may debunk the message disseminated by terrorist organisations operating in conflict zones, in order to counter and/or minimise the impact of the radical message among women and girls in Spain, to prevent the radicalisation, indoctrination and recruitment of women and girls and their flight to conflict zones.

Under the long-term component of the IcSP, the programme *Strengthening Resilience Towards Violence and Extremism in the Horn of Africa* (STRIVE HoA) from 2014 to 2017 (EUR 2 million) puts a special emphasis on the role of women as one of the four result areas, through capacity building of women's organisations in Somalia. More specifically, activities under the programme focused on identifying and addressing violent extremism, facilitating the exchange of approaches and good practices and securing the participation of women's organisations in locally driven de-radicalisation initiatives.



## Annexes

### List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CGRS	The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons in Belgium
CPCC	Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
DCI	Development Cooperation Instrument
EEAS	European External Action Service
EEAS PAG	EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights
EPNK	European Partnership for the Peaceful Settlement of the Conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh
EUAM Ukraine	European Union Advisory Mission to Ukraine
EUBAM Lybia/Moldova and Ukraine/Rafah	European Union Border Assistance Mission to Lybia/Moldova and Ukraine/Rafah
EUCAP Sahel Mali/Sahel Niger/Somalia	European Union Capacity Building Mission to Mali/Niger/Somalia

EUDEL	European Union Delegations and Representation Offices
EUFOR	European Force
EULEX Kosovo	European Union Rule of Law Mission to Kosovo
EUMM Georgia	European Union Monitoring Mission to Georgia
EUMember States	European Union Military Staff
EU NAVFOR	European Union Naval Force
EUPOL COPPS Palestinian Territories	European Police Mission to the Palestinian Territories
EUSR	European Union Special Representative
EUTM Mali/RCA/Somalia	European Union Training Mission to Mali/ the Central African Republic/Somalia
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GFPS	Gender Focal Point Systems
HoM	Head of Mission
HR/VP	EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
IfS	Instrument for Stability
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
LAS	League of Arab States
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
UN	United Nations
UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WAB	Women's Advisory Board
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WSR	Women Situation Room

## List of Respondents

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Type</b>
Austria	
Belgium	
Croatia	
Cyprus	
Czech Republic	
Denmark	
Estonia	
Finland	
France	
Germany	<b>Member States</b>
Greece	
Ireland	
Italy	
Latvia	
Poland	
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	

Spain

Sweden

The Netherlands

United Kingdom

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EU Delegation to Afghanistan

EU Delegation to Armenia

EU Delegation to Australia

EU Delegation to Azerbaijan

EU Delegation to Bangladesh

EU Delegation to Benin

EU Delegation to Bolivia

EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina

EU Delegation to Botswana and South African Development Community **EU Delegations**

EU Delegation to Brazil

EU Delegation to Burkina Faso

EU Delegation to Cambodia

EU Delegation to Cameroon

EU Delegation to Cape Verde

EU Delegation to Colombia

EU Delegation to Democratic Republic of the Congo

EU Delegation to Ecuador

EU Delegation to El Salvador

EU Delegation to Georgia

EU Delegation to Guinea Conakry

EU Delegation to Haiti

EU Delegation to Iceland

EU Delegation to India and Bhutan

EU Delegation to Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam

EU Delegation to Iraq

EU Delegation to Lebanon

EU Delegation to Lesotho

EU Delegation to Liberia

EU Delegation to Madagascar

EU Delegation to Malawi

EU Delegation to Mali

EU Delegation to Moldova

EU Delegation to Montenegro

EU Delegation to Morocco

EU Delegation to Mozambique

EU Delegation to Namibia

EU Delegation to Nepal

EU Delegation to Nicaragua and Panama

EU Delegation to Niger

EU Delegation to Norway

EU Delegation for the Pacific

EU Delegation to Pakistan

EU Delegation to Papua New Guinea

EU Delegation to Paraguay

EU Delegation to the Philippines

EU Delegation to Senegal

EU Delegation to Singapore

EU Delegation to the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

EU Delegation to Sri Lanka and the Maldives

EU Delegation to Timor-Leste

EU Delegation to Togo

EU Delegation to Trinidad and Tobago

EU Delegation to Uganda

EU Delegation to Ukraine

EU Delegation to United States of America

EU Delegation to Uruguay

EU Delegation to Uzbekistan

EU Delegation to Venezuela

EU Delegation to Zimbabwe

<p>EU NAVFOR Somalia (Operation Atlanta)</p> <p>EUAM Ukraine</p> <p>EUBAM Libya</p> <p>EUBAM Moldova and Ukraine</p> <p>EUBAM Rafah</p> <p>EUCAP Sahel Mali</p> <p>EUCAP Sahel Niger</p> <p>EUCAP Somalia</p> <p>EUFOR Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>EULEX Kosovo</p> <p>EUMM Georgia</p> <p>EU NAVFOR MED Operation Sophia</p> <p>EUPOL COPPS Palestinian Territories</p> <p>EUTM Mali</p> <p>EUTM RCA</p> <p>EUTM Somalia</p>	<p><b>EU CSDP</b></p> <p><b>Missions/Operations</b></p>
<p>EUSR for Afghanistan</p> <p>EUSR for Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>EUSR for the Middle East Peace Process</p> <p>EUSR for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia</p>	<p><b>EU Special</b></p> <p><b>Representatives</b></p>