

## Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) Policy Meeting Women, Peace and Security in EU Common Security and Defence Policy

Tuesday 21 June 2011

### Flash Recommendations

#### Introduction

This document presents key recommendations made by participants at the CSDN meeting on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and collated by the meeting rapporteur, [Antonia Potter](#). These recommendations do not necessarily represent the views of the organisers, nor can they be attributed to any individual participant or participating institution as the meeting was held under the Chatham House Rule.

#### General discussion points

- The peacemaking/building community needs to work more intensively to connect the five UN Security Council Resolutions (1325, 1829, 1888, 1889, and 1960) on WPS in a more holistic and integrated manner. This involves an intimate understanding of what they contain and how they were designed to interconnect.
- There is a perceived risk in the intense focus on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in international responses to WPS issues. While there was an unacceptable gap on the subject prior to UNSCR 1325, and 1820 in particular, some are concerned there is now the risk of inappropriate sexualisation of women's experiences. If women continue to be treated as mere victims of armed conflict, they remain excluded from being actors in key decision-making processes.
- Participation is a concept much bandied about, but much less easily understood and practiced. Women need both political and financial support to participate in peace and security initiatives. The EU needs to make participation of women a specific objective and condition of its actions in support of sustainable peace. Attention should also be paid to ensuring that participation is *meaningful*.
- There is ongoing frustration around the persistently low level of engagement of men in WPS issues. This is perhaps reflected in the ongoing, common confusion of the terms 'sex' and 'gender', and a concomitant tendency to presume that 'gender' in this discourse signifies women only. These concerns speak to a deeper tension between the need for women to identify and use their own 'spaces' to work on their own issues, but also for them to advocate and bring men along with them as partners in the joint enterprise of peacemaking/building.

#### Recommendations

##### To the European Union External Action Service (EEAS)

- **Reflect policy coherently in politics:** the perceived "seasonal approach" to WPS needs to be replaced with consistent messaging and action; policy with regards to specific countries or regions should demonstrate coherence on WPS;
- **Increase specific human and financial resources for work on WPS** within the EEAS; this includes:
- **Appoint an EUSR on women, peace and security issues** with appropriate resources at his/her command to coordinate, ensure consistency of policies and activities, monitor implementation of commitments and facilitate the exchange of good practices (but paying attention not to let this distract from broader gender mainstreaming efforts);

- **Strengthen coordination and cooperation between Brussels and CSDP missions/operations, and between CSDP missions/operations and EU Delegations on WPS;**
- **Consolidate the progress already made with the deployment of Gender Advisors** by stopping the practice of double-hatting, providing greater resources and support, and linking them directly to the Head of Mission (HoM) within the mission structure;
- **Continue current liaison of EU WPS Taskforce with civil society** at all levels;
- **Ensure a gender perspective in CSDP fact-finding and assessment missions;**
- **Provide solid gender training to EEAS staff** involved in CSDP to ensure a good understanding of gender issues;
- **Restore previous levels of external communications on EEAS activities on WPS;**
- **Continue to strengthen and standardise monitoring and reporting on WPS issues.** More attention needs to be paid to measuring impact – not just process and outputs. Fulfilment of UN indicators' reporting requirements on WPS must be diligently undertaken and linked to EU efforts. Reach out to strategic technical partners such as the European Institute for Gender Equality for support on this.

#### To EU Member States (MS):

- **Review the capacity of CSDP to deal with all relevant long term issues in peacebuilding:** other instruments and processes may be better suited to responding to certain issues, particularly given the timeframes required for impact. At minimum, CSDP missions and operations must be better linked to other EU tools and processes;
- **Ensure CSDP mandates, joint actions and operational plans concretely integrate WPS issues;**
- **Support EU advances on implementing gender in CSDP** by providing (more) Gender Advisers, gender training and gender balance in recruitment for CSDP missions and using the gender training module currently under development. National action plans (NAPs) or special strategies for implementation of WPS need to include clear objectives and actions linked to EU efforts;
- **Integrate EU and UN indicators in NAPs or strategies for implementation of WPS commitments** and respond optimally to EU requests for reporting against indicators to enable full and timely monitoring and evaluation which includes consulting with civil society;

#### To CSDP missions and operations:

- **Increase cooperation with EU Delegations** and where relevant other CSDP missions/operations on the ground, including with regard to WPS;
- **Ensure regular meetings with CSOs, including women's groups,** in the country/region of the CSDP mission or operations;
- **Consult women's groups not just on women's issues** but also on wider issues of peace and security;
- **Link gender advisors to senior staff including directly with HoMs.**

#### To Civil Society:

- **Increase civil society synergies for strengthened advocacy:** while civil society is highly diverse, joint platforms, clear, shared messages and well planned cumulative advocacy are effective ways of shifting key institutional attitudes and behaviours over time;
- **Continue to emphasize voices from the ground:** Brussels/internationally-based networks/NGOs must ensure that women's/women's organisations' voices are given priority in bringing issues to the attention key actors at institutional level;
- **Develop strategies and structures to channel institutional funds to smaller actors on the ground:** while some funding instruments may simply not be designed for smaller, local actors to access or handle, international organisations/networks can create consortia and partnerships to ensure a wider distribution of EU funds to local civil society organisations.