



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

WOMEN IN THE SECURITY SECTOR A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE *A Collection of Thematic Papers*

Belgrade, 2011.



WOMEN IN THE SECURITY SECTOR
– A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE
A Collection of Thematic Papers

STRATEGIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
BELGRADE, 2011

STRATEGIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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ISBN 978-00-00000-00-0

Published with the support of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence

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Foreword

*"If we are facing in the right direction,
all we have to do is keep on walking"*

The idea for making a collection of thematic papers "Women in Security Sector – A Regional Perspective" came from the international conference "Women in Security Sector – UNSCR 1325" held on October 14th and 15th 2010 in Belgrade, organized by the Strategic Research Institute of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia with the financial support from the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Defence. The aim of the Conference was the exchange of regional and international experiences in the area of implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325), and acquaintance with activities taken within international organizations (United Nations, Council of Europe, European Union, NATO, OSCE) with the goal of affirmation of gender equality criteria in security sector. During the Conference, the ways for improvement of the regional cooperation in this area were considered. The Conference also represented the continuation of the Serbian Ministry of Defence in making of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325, and it was an opportunity for experts to share their experiences and exchange the information on role of women in the security sector ten years after its adoption.

During the Conference, the achievements and limitations regarding the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 were discussed, as well as the regional countries approaches to the implementation of the Resolution, and the role of women in armed conflicts, peacekeeping and peace building operations. The significant part of the Conference was related to concrete suggestions on how to improve the regional cooperation in the area of security and gender equality.

Some presentations and discussions announced some interesting approaches and opened new questions. The interest has been shown for a wider context indicating the existence of need for broadening the presentations and discussions because of broader actualization.

In the meantime, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on December 23rd 2010, and already is working on its implementation. From the moment of adoption of a general program document such as the National Action Plan, to the achievement of goals set by it, there is a long path to be

travelled. How fast is this going to be achieved, depends on objective obstacles which have to be managed, but also on the amount of enthusiasm carried along. It is understood that the enthusiasm is variable condition; it varies depending on perception of significance and perception of feasibility of goals that were set.

The Collection of papers is structured in four thematic parts: (1) Women and Security – Theoretical Aspects; (2) UNSCR 1325 – International Context; (3) National Action Plans for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Region; (4) Regional Cooperation in Implementation of UNSCR 1325. Additional part consists of articles with useful information on current events related to gender equality in security sector, as: the first experience of the commissioner for the protection of equality of gender-based discrimination; gender and security bulletin; gender and security sector reform toolkit (a review); gender equality glossary of terms from military encyclopedia.

Papers presented in the Collection of papers suggest, in detail, different answers to questions about what should be done on different levels – global, regional, and national, so that there would be fewer obstacles on path towards the higher standards of gender equality in security sector. However, as a whole, they show relatively high level of consent on key questions. Common denominators in these suggestions are: firstly, the commitment to build appropriate criteria for evaluation of achievements in various gender equality domains; secondly, determination of priorities in relation to which the future tasks should be projected so that the substance is set before the form (the common interest before the individual); thirdly, pointing out the cooperation significance, primarily on the regional level, as the precondition for maximal use of objective capabilities.

Dr Jovanka Šaranović

IV

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325

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Researchers at the Strategic Research Institute
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**PROPOSAL FOR PRACTICAL POLICY:
INITIATIVE FOR COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE UNSCR 1325 IN THE REGION OF SOUTHEAST EUROPE
(SEE 1325 CI)**

Abstract: Within this proposal of policy paper, the authors offer a scheme of the structure of Initiative for Cooperation in Implementation of The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, in the region of Southeast Europe. Besides proposing the institutional framework and a survey of possible jurisdiction, authors analyze ways of funding the Initiative, as well as recommendations for cooperation with other international organizations and initiatives. Authors also indicate multiple benefits of forming a regional initiative in Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325.

Key words: *policy paper, regional cooperation, SEE, UNSCR 1325, SEE 1325 CI.*

Introduction

During the International Conference "Women in the Security Sector" held in Belgrade from 13-15 October 2010, a proposal was made, among other things, to form an initiative which would gather the Southeast Europe countries round the issue of gender perspective and monitor the implementation of the UN SC Resolution 1325, ten years after its adoption. This article represents the authors' contribution to the development and concretisation of the subject idea aimed at its realisation according to their proposal of the structure and recommendations.

The basic objective for forming the Initiative would be exchange of experiences, monitoring of the implementation of the Resolution 1325 in the region and shaping the regional approach to the implementation of the Resolution 1325 which calls for the UN country members to ensure greater representation of women at all decision-making levels in the national, regional and international institutions, as well as in the mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and settlement.

Forming of the regional initiative could have multiple benefits for the countries in the region. Firstly, regional cooperation is one of the preconditions which the European Union sets before the countries interested in the membership in the organisation. In addition, since any cooperation has a long term impact on trust, security, safety and stability, the regional initiative of this kind would add to the achievement of the mentioned objectives, otherwise pleaded for by the countries of the region. Beside aforementioned, political advantages could be expected from the initiative as the countries of Southeast Europe would thus declare and show the world to be modern countries willing to cooperate and identify common interests. An additional argument in favour of the initiative is the fact that it would not be formed under the influence of external factors, as frequently happened in the near past, but the idea would arise from the very region, simultaneously proving the capacity of the states to create the policy towards achieving stability and promoting cooperation and understanding, independently and in mutual cooperation.

Structure of the Initiative – Bodies and competences

Membership in the Initiative for Cooperation 1325 in implementation of the UN SCR 1325 in the SEE region (SEE 1325 CI) would be open for all countries in the region of Southeast Europe.¹ The offer for participation in the Initiative (either in the full member status or as an observer) would be also sent to Slovenia and Hungary, as the countries from immediate neighbourhood which in the previous period actively contributed to exchange of experiences and were notable in the work of the international conference "Women in the Security Sector" held in Belgrade in October 2010.

Scheme No. 1 represents a structural proposal of the regional Initiative for cooperation 1325 UN SC in the SEE region. The main body would be the Management Board of the Initiative which would provide political guidelines and be accountable for financial negotiations related to the Initiative's activities and projects realisation. It would compose by the representatives of the two assembly committees from the member states' parliaments (Gender Equality Committee and Security and Defence Committee), representative from the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia,² as well as the representatives of the member sta-

¹ The term "region of the Southeast Europe" implies the territory of the following 10 countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey.

² The authors think that representative from Serbian MoD in the first Management Board should be the Director of the Institute for Strategic Studies, with respect to the fact that the Institute has monitored the issue of gender equality for years, performed scientific studies on the topic and that, as the result of such long standing work, education of girls at the Military Academy was introduced. Theoretical and practical knowledge would thus be available to the participants of the Initiative.

tes from other governmental structures responsible for gender perspective issues. The Management Board of the Initiative would form the Committee for Preparation and Realisation of Projects and Activities and Finance Committee. The task of these two committees would be rationalisation and concretisation of the determined objectives. Obligation of the Committee for Preparation and Realisation of the Activities and Projects would be to draft the annual activity plan of the Initiative and forward it to the Management Board of the Initiative for adoption. Obligation of the Committee for Preparation and Realisation would be to submit the report on realised activities and projects to the Management Board, which would be one of the oversight mechanisms. In the same manner, working groups would submit periodical reports on the activities realisation to the Committee for Preparation and Realisation of Projects and Activities.

The Management Board of the Initiative would work pursuant to the Statute which should be approved by all participant countries. The Standing Secretariat would be competent for drawing up the proposal of the statute and other necessary documents, defining of procedures for performance of oversight, control and assessment of the quality of realised activities, based on the guidelines given by the Management Board of the Initiative.

In order that the Initiative would be operative and the information timely forwarded to the competent structures it would be necessary to form the Standing Secretariat whose task would be technical servicing of the Committee for Preparation and Realisation of Projects and Activities. The seat of the Standing Secretariat could be in the Strategic Research Institute. It would be competent for multiplication of materials, correspondence, writing reports on the meetings and forwarding thereof to competent users. Through the Standing Secretariat, the Committee for Preparation and Realisation of Projects and Activities would send the requests and assign the tasks to the working groups formed within the scope of the Initiative. Working groups would deal with the issues for which the expert, specialised knowledge is needed. The formed working groups would be of standing or ad hoc character. The standing working groups would be:

1. Working group for analyses of statistical data and studies;
2. Working group for research in the field;
3. Working group for collection of learned lessons from peace missions and achievement of other countries, and
4. Working group for education on gender equality.

Apart to the standing, some expert groups in charge of specific issues (such as forming of the unique set of statistical data for monitoring of the gender equality implementation in the countries of the region) would be formed as need be. When necessary, ad hoc working groups for realisation of concrete activities would be formed.

Initiative financing

Bearing in mind the consequences of the economic crises that are still felt in the countries of the region, we start from the assumption that at the beginning forming of own funds for financing the Initiative's projects and work would not be possible. Hence, we propose that in the starting phase of establishing the regional initiative the summoned countries are surveyed through a form of a questionnaire about their interest in and possibilities to allocate a part of funds for its work and projects. In the second phase, the regional initiative (partially or in full) may apply for the financial assistance to one or more international organisations.³

The member countries could, on the basis of joint proposal of projects and activities, compete for the funds with the international financial institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and some other international organisations which support development and work of the initiatives and organisations on the basis of proposed projects. In a later phase, it would be possible that member countries of the Initiative finance, partially or in full, the activities of the Initiative and in that manner show even greater commitment to the realisation of the objectives of the Initiative, for whose sake it was founded.

Cooperation with other initiatives and organisations

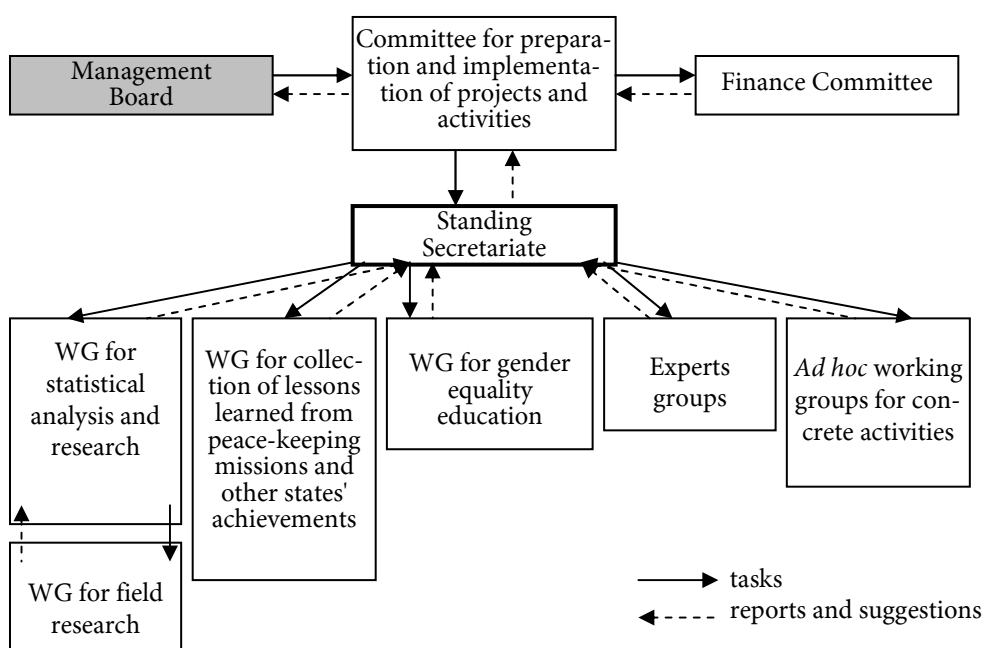
The Initiative for Cooperation 1325 should establish cooperation with other regional initiatives and get connected with the international organisations which, among other things, take care of gender dimensions (UN, UNIFEM, EU, NATO, OESC and other). One of the modalities of cooperation could be (occasionally or regularly) bilateral invitations and participation in the realisation of the other party's projects, with a possibility of introducing the observer or partner status.

The Republic of Serbia has explicitly declared its foreign policy commitment towards the accession to the European Union and even now strives to get involved, as the third country, in the EU missions, within the Common Security and Safety Policy. Having in mind the fact that all EU civil and military missions (except for Guinea Bissau) have gender equality advisers, it would be multi-advantageous if the regional initiative establis-

³ We think it is important and necessary and we avail of the opportunity to express our gratitude and give credit to the Kingdom of Norway and its institutions who rendered precious and unselfish assistance in the previous period at the projects dedicated to the promotion of the idea of gender equality in the region of Southeast Europe and advancement of the position of women in the security sector.

hed cooperation with the EU and/or its bodies in charge of mission and gender issue planning and realisation. NATO has also recognised the importance of incorporating gender perspective in the missions, both for achieving a more quality civil-military cooperation in the field and collecting the data or for more adequate treatment of the victims of armed conflicts. Aspiration of the Republic of Serbia to be an active participant in the "Partnership for Peace" Programme, which also has gender sensitive activities, is complementary with realisation of cooperation with NATO structures who take care of the gender perspective and who engage gender issue advisers in their missions.

Equally important is the question how the Initiative will exert influence on the decision-makers in the countries of the region and obtain the necessary funds. As possible methods of influence we suggest: recommendations to the member countries, printing publications and publishing results of the studies related to gender issues, monitoring the process of the implementation of the UN SC Resolution 1325 in the countries of the region and pointing to possible observed oversights or good practice.



Graph 1. SEE 1325 CI structure

Conclusion

The authors' opinion is that the formation of regional Initiative for implementation of UNSCR 1325 will be useful for Southeast countries in many ways. We hope that the suggested idea will be recognized in wider circle of implementation process participants as necessary, and that the result of such perception could be political will for implementing this idea in practice. Given model should not be observed as a form that could not be changed, but as a starting idea opened for public discussion, changes, amendments, and improvements. Every idea and suggestion that would lead towards the improvement of presented idea are more than welcome.

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**A COLLECTION OF THEMATIC PAPERS
WOMEN IN THE SECURITY SECTOR
– A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

Technical Editor
Ivan Dimitrijević

Proofreading
Milica Petrović

Translation
Biljana Rakić

Computer typesetting
Name Surname

Circulation
150 copies

ISBN 978-00-00000-00-0

Printed by
Vojna štamparija, Belgrade

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

351.86:305-055.2(082)

WOMEN in the Security Sector - a Regional
Perspective : a Collection of Thematic
Papers / [editor Jovanka Šaranović ;
translation Biljana Rakić]. - Belgrade :
Strategic Research Institute, 2012 (Belgrade
: Vojna štamparija). - 195 str. : graf.
prikazi, tabele ; 24 cm

Tiraž 150. - Str. 5-6: Foreword / Jovanka
Šaranović. - Napomene i bibliografske
reference uz tekst. - Bibliografija uz sve
radove.

ISBN 978-86-81121-11-5

a) Безбедносни сектор - Жене - Зборници b)
Родна равноправност - Безбедносни сектор -
Зборници

COBISS.SR-ID 189298700

