



# No Women – No Peace:

## UNSCR 1325 for Human Rights

How can the UNRSC 1325 be linked with  
the Human Rights Report of the UN Member States?

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# No Women – No Peace: UNSCR 1325 for Human Rights

## Background

Maren Haartje<sup>1</sup>

In October 2000, ten years ago the UN Security Council adopted the Resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace and Security”. The 3 Ps (Participation, Protection, Prevention) were significant milestones at the UN level: Demanding women’s participation in decision-making at all levels, the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence, and ensuring that women’s experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into the political, legal and social decisions that determine the achievement of just and lasting peace.

The political reality is still far away from internationally implementing UNSCR 1325: Women and girls are the most target groups during armed conflicts systematic rape is still a weapon of war. Women are seen as passive victims of violence and abuse and are still not recognized as equal participants in peace processes and decision making bodies. Only a few UN - countries have adopted a National Action Plan to implement UNSCR 1325.

The preamble of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights (1948) declares: “Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.”

In the workshop “No Women – No Peace. UNSCR 1325 for Human Rights” experts on Human Rights and peacebuilding discussed the question: “How could the UNSCR 1325 be linked with the Human Rights Report and monitoring instruments of the UN Member States?”

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<sup>1</sup> Program Manager PeaceWomen Across the Globe PWAG, International Secretariat in Bern, Switzerland

## Introduction

### Elisabeth Decrey Warner<sup>2</sup>

I would like to thank the UN Library for hosting our panel today, and for the welcoming words of the new director, Mr. David Chikvaidze.

I also would like to thank PWAG for taking the initiative and organizing the event. The exhibition “No Women – No Peace” makes the peace work of women visible world wide. Only few days earlier the organization Femmes Africa Solidarité FAS has gathered in the same location to discuss women’s rights and violence against women, therefore, this workshop can be seen as a thematic follow up.

While here are currently solid international instruments for women’s rights, we must work more on the political reality and the lacking implementation of instruments: Women are still suffering from violence and are considered as passive victims while they should be active agents. Only a few countries have implemented the resolution and there is still a lot of work to do. The question is, how can the countries implement the UNSCR 1325 in their work? Let us learn from the following presentations.

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<sup>2</sup> Moderator, PWAG PeaceWoman, member of the PWAG International Board, President of Geneva Call

## How does the Swiss NAP 1325 fit into the international context of Human Rights?

Carmela Bühler<sup>3</sup>

Thanks to Peace Women across the Globe for organising this panel and giving us a chance to add the State and Member of the “Group of Friends of 1325” perspective to today’s discussion on “Resolution 1325 and human rights”.

Today, we are trying to think out of the box, to see connections between concepts and frameworks that institutionally may be separated, but whose contents are strongly interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 means translating the very content of traditional human and women’s rights instruments such as CEDAW into peace and security policy. That is why implementation of 1325 always means a follow-up on our human rights commitments.

The link between human rights and the “Women, Peace and Security Resolutions” has been an issue of discussion during the drafting process of the Swiss National Action Plan 1325 last year. Our basic assumption is that the National Action Plan is not only a tool for the implementation of peace policy, but it is a tool to promote human rights and women’s rights. This is our second and revised plan and we have here tried to include the lessons learnt from the first implementation phase of 2007 to 2009. For example, in accordance with UNSCR 1889, we have developed indicators that should in the future help us to measure progress in implementation [of the main goals of Resolution 1325: increased participation by women in peace processes; the prevention of gender-based violence and the strengthening of the rights of women and girls; and the inclusion of a gender-based perspective in all peace promotion activities.]

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**Now: where specifically does the Swiss NAP 1325 link to the human rights framework?**

1. Equal participation is a challenge even for countries that are not in conflict or in a post-conflict situation such as Switzerland. High level female diplomats are still rare; identification of female candidates for high level international positions is sometimes difficult. That is why we included in the NAP explicit reference to our national gender equality policy and the framework to implement our HR commitments such as CEDAW.

a) For example, Switzerland has drafted an inter-departmental programme for the implementation of the CEDAW, including the recommendations of our 3. State report – among others it includes an explicit link to the NAP 1325.

b) Gender equality is an important issue to our Foreign Minister, Mrs Micheline Calmy-Rey. She has established a service for equality of opportunities which – among others – looks at issues of gender equality within the Department of Foreign Affairs. One of the key measures of the Strategy of this service is aiming at raising the traditionally low number of female diplomats. Given the still relatively small number of female high level diplomats in Switzerland this measure contributes directly to the implementation of 1325 – and it is a measure to promote equal job opportunities for women.

2. Multilateral activities: We consider the broad mainstreaming of the values of 1325 – outside the typical Women, Peace and Security fora - one of the important challenges of our daily work. You will therefore find a rather extensive reference to our multilateral activities in the NAP. And you will find an explicit reference to the Human Rights Council. A recent example of the mainstreaming of 1325 into the instruments of the HR Council is the resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences.

3. We included a focus on accountability mechanisms for gender-based violence and the fight against impunity. The reference has several levels:

a) Support for programmes to fight impunity for gender-based violence, for example in our dealing with the past programme.

b) Prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity including acts of sexual violence where Swiss jurisdiction exists.

c) Investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence when committed by our own peacekeepers.

4. HR aspects of our pre-deployment training courses for military peacekeepers [for civilian peacekeepers/ context specific briefing and training]. The pre-deployment package includes a gender component with reference to 1325 but also to general issues of gender equality as well as issues of code of conduct.

5. The NAP requests us to adopt a gender focus when developing and implementing all our peace promotion programmes. Our gender-responsive budgeting process also includes expenditure on our human rights programmes: The strengthening of women's rights in general is basic to a meaningful implementation of 1325. For example, equal access to resources such as land, equal access to education and access to full political rights are prerequisites for a meaningful participation by women in political processes. Women that are in possession of and aware of their rights are probably better protected from any violation of their rights including of their physical and psychological integrity, while lack of equality makes them vulnerable to abuse.

**Concluding remark:**

National gender equality programmes and the national policy to strengthen women's rights are intrinsically linked to a successful implementation of Resolution 1325 even in countries like mine that are not in a conflict or post-conflict situation. Equal participation by women in peace negotiations and mediation teams as well as in high level positions in international organisations remains a challenge that needs to be addressed with targeted measures at all levels.

## **The Application of the 1325 and 1820 Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council combined with the various mechanisms of Human Rights could contribute to an end of impunity for crimes**

**Colette Samoya<sup>4</sup>**

First of all allow me to greet the hosting of this seminar at a moment when we are approaching the closing of an exhibition which made a great impression to the environment of the Palace of Nations.

My contribution is aimed at confronting the theoretical content of the concerned resolutions with the field reality; to evoke some other instruments whose combined application would help fight effectively against impunity, a phenomenon that has become a plague for victims of the wars, women in this case. Rather than making a pure exposition, I will try to fix some ideas which will facilitate the debate.

The field chosen to illustrate my presentation is Burundi, not only for the subjective reason that it is my home country, but because it is a country in a post conflict situation. It seems to me particularly instructive to analyze some of the realities from before, during, and after the war. Let me note, in passing, that I have carried out academic research on the level of awareness and application of the 1325 resolution in Burundi; this was in 2005, five years after its adoption by the UNO Security Council.

My presentation contains three sections: In the first section, I will raise the question of whether violence against women is the fruit of chance, and which mechanisms of the Human Rights are the best indicators to fight against the disastrous effects of conflicts. The second section will be concerned with the relation between the nature of war and the challenges brought by the application of the 1325 and 1820 resolutions and the other instruments related to human rights.

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<sup>4</sup> PWAG PeaceWoman, Coordinator and Co-Founder BANGWE and DIALOGUE NGO on Women, Peace and Non violence in Great Lakes area of Africa

In the third section, I will try to indicate some factors explaining the persistence of violence and impunity.

### **1. The violence and crimes observed during the armed conflict**

If the clauses of the mechanisms of Human Rights recommending the equality and non-discrimination had been applied in times of peace, women would have been better equipped to face the skids occurring during the war. In other words, war reinforces the pre-existing discrimination and inequality. War makes women poorer and more vulnerable and generates human crises where the women are more numerous in refugees and internal displacement camps. It is because rape is a taboo crime during times of peace that it persists during the war. In the case of genocide, this crime becomes a weapon of destruction and extermination.

In the case of Burundi, let us note that the history of the fight for women's rights and gender equality had its achievements. Let us mention, in particular, a relatively modern legislation, the high rate of schooling of girls, a good representation in the political, parliamentary, academic, and judiciary institutions. Since the 1990s, the civil society has been very active and has benefited from the previous achievements. But the challenges are still serious: persistence of patriarchal mentalities justifying and leading to inequalities, like right to land access. On the cultural level, rape is a taboo crime, domestic violence is tolerated even if disapproved, and women in rural areas have a difficult socio-economic status.

It is here that one notices the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of all the Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW and the presentation of the periodic reports. But given the socio-economic conditions of women, especially in rural area, allow me to evoke the importance of another mechanism of human rights, which is the Pact for Socio-economic and Cultural Rights and the Right to Development, which should get more attention.

After this picture illustrating realities of war, let us talk about the need to combine the mechanisms at the international level with those at the national level in particular at the legislative level. For instance, the Burundian women gained an additional victory recently as

domestic violence has been recognized as such by the Penal Code, whereas before it had been criminalized only under the offence of bodily harm.

## **2. Relationship between the nature of conflict and the implementation of Resolution 1325, 1820 and other mechanisms**

There are several kinds of armed conflicts: two countries could dispute the border, a rebel group may take up arms against the ruling regime, that would in turn defend itself by all means at its disposal, including the security forces and the army. Those in power can use all the mechanisms and tools at their disposal to kill and exterminate some of its citizens, based on a given membership. This is genocide. Through the cyclical crises, the case of Burundi has always been a mixture of these two cases. Let us emphasize the long crisis between 1993 and 2004 that began with acts of genocide in October 1993 when a group of soldiers perpetrated political assassinations, and subsequently the ruling party took revenge on the people belonging to the same ethnic group as the perpetrators as well as against all those who opposed the collective massacres.

What does it mean that the war reinforces inequality? Force replaces law; human lives are destroyed, including those of women and children. The roles become "gendered" in that men are more necessary for war, including as children soldiers, and women are more likely to be widowed, populate camps of internally displaced and refugees. They are raped, maimed, pregnant with their abusers, and traumatized for life.

Which mechanisms should then be applied during the war? All. But emphasis should be put on some of them, such as:

- The Geneva Conventions on the protection of civilians
- The 1951 Convention on the Protection of Refugees
- Since the adoption of 1325 and 1820, the protection component goes without saying
- The Convention against torture, inhuman and degrading behavior should be applied in cases of rape and reported sexual crimes. Each sexual abuse is a case of torture.

### **3. Why are post conflict violence and impunity persistent in the case of Burundi?**

In this country, the punishment of the crimes committed during and after the periods of conflicts is missing and impunity pervades. The main reasons are: the amnesty imposed by the signing of the peace agreements; the installation of mechanisms of justice recommended through the aforementioned agreements is blocked since a number of those supposedly guilty are in positions of power.

The limits to power in place since 2005 in political administration and security were marked by political assassinations and violations against Human Rights too many times;. The disputed elections of 2010 aggravated the situation. Burundi is facing a situation of "neither war nor peace". The circulation of weapons remains significant in spite of attempts at disarmament. The Burundian women continue to be victims of violence of all kinds, including the sex crimes. A few examples: in 2009, a septuagenarian is raped by a boy of about twenty years of age. More recently in February 2011, a 9 year old young girl was raped by a neighbor. During the same month, the Center SERUKA which supports the rape victims helped 150 cases. Rape with the effect of mutilation is frequent. For such victims, it is as if the post war is just as the war. The isolation of victims is obvious. The war continues in their hearts following recognized frustrations and injustices neither acknowledged nor repaired.

In such situations, it is necessary to find suitable mechanisms to put an end to impunity. In my opinion, only the initiatives taken directly within the framework of the international Penal Court of Justice would be sufficiently powerful. The co-operation with other active actors in the support of victims of rape remains relevant. Let us mention in particular the private media, the Human Right institutions such as international Care, the Catholic Association Against Torture (ACAT Burundi), Lawyers without Borders, etc).

As far as the application of the 1325 resolution is concerned, the Burundian women have been very active in putting pressure on the political powers: While they plead for an inclusive justice post conflict, the gaps and inequalities generated by the long years of civil war are crucial obstacles and stumbling blocks.

### Some recommendations:

- a) Greater inclusion of the people in questions of justice, because the violence against women affects the whole society.
- b) The recognition of the historical fight of generations of women in order to make profitable their achievements; to use the initiatives, at the local, regional or national level.
- c) Greater consideration for those cultural values that proved reliable before the colonial domination with its negative consequences.
- d) The application of the 1325 and the 1820 in general requires a greater synergy between mechanisms, and a greater cooperation between the pact on the economic and cultural rights and the Convention against torture, in particular its additional protocol. In fact, punishment of the respective crimes must also fit in of all the others.
- e) The fight against impunity by the international jurisdictions where IPC must privilege the interest of the victims.

As conclusion, I referred to a unique context where one distinguishes the periods of absence of conflict, the periods of conflict, and periods after conflict. I based my presentation on the realities of a country which I know best, Burundi, while not being unaware of similar situation elsewhere. The application of the instruments which protect and help women develop, in their exclusive content or combined with the mechanisms of Human Rights, are topics for pleading, since by nature the resolutions of UNO are not coercing. It is necessary to set pressure on the responsibility of the actors, primarily on states. On the other hand, the punitive competence recognized to IPC is not yet put to action in proportion to the gravity of the actions, in particular to the level of sexual violence and crimes towards women. It is important to keep in mind the universal and indivisible character of the Human Rights mechanisms of which Women's rights are integral part (ref. the Conference of Vienna of 1993). Therefore, the fight against violence and crimes towards women must be regarded on the universal level, and not only as matters concerning women alone.

## How can the resolutions 1325 and 1820 be taken into consideration in the work of the HCHR and of the Council on Human Rights

Isha L. Dyfan<sup>5</sup>

I appreciate the opportunity to address the theme from the perspective of the first “P” of the UNSCR 1325: Participation. The talk can be seen as a follow up to the meeting held by “Femmes Africa Solidarité” FAS with its focus on the aspect of protection.

In my view, the content of UNSCR 1325 can be summarised with three P's: participation, protection and prevention. The resolutions 1325 and 1820 were adopted to be effected. They underline the fact that women are often the main victims of conflicts, but at the same time, important actors in conflict resolution. Until now, women's knowledge has been excluded from official peace negotiations. UNSCR 1325 recognises different ways of conflict resolution of men and women and its main goal is clear: Women must be included in conflict negotiations.

I argue that the question how to ensure women's participation and how to prevent violence against women is addressed by the HRC: Important conventions like CEDAW and monitoring tools like UPR have been developed. As an example: general advisors in the field can provide technical assistance in organising the reports. I like to mention the aspect of transitional justice and its problems related to gender inequality: It is crucial that women must participate in this context, to protect and restore the dignity of persons whose rights have been violated. The HRC represents a forum of good practices, organizing annual discussions on the theme and several special side events (for example on sexual violence or transitional justice). The UNSCR 1325 does not set new standards but reminds the states to see their obligation in issues on women, peace and security. I consider the advocacy of NGOs a crucial aspect and encourage NGOs to make more use of HRC reports.

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<sup>5</sup> Chief, Women's Human Rights and Gender Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

## The Women, Peace and Security agenda is inextricably linked with women's human rights and empowerment

Maha Muna<sup>6</sup>

I like to join my colleagues and thank for the event – the 1000 women truly deserved the nomination. It is important that the government of Switzerland and all other countries are taking interest and participating in women's rights. I see the issues around protection as very important and want to discuss the questions, whether there is a way to more fully integrate UNSCR 1325 in the HRC, not only to promote the resolution and trying to integrate it as a "new idea".

Women's peace movements are not new and they have existed since the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Security Council took note early to think about the impact of women and role they can play in prevention and peace. The question is: How do we push this further? There are four ways to go:

- a) The resolutions Women, Peace, Security and Protection of Civilians
- b) Special Rapporteurs
- c) Support Regional Mechanisms
- d) Strengthen protection through UPR processes

First we have to look at the protection of civilians within a global aspect in humanitarian programs and how these programs are addressing women's peace and security in their work. Therefore I encourage thinking beyond Geneva; more and more is done on local level, but how can we bring it to the HRC? Moreover, how can protection be promoted?

Protection of civilians needs a very specific concept and I like to step back and look at the issue within International Humanitarian Law. UNSCR 1325 contains specific notions having to do

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<sup>6</sup> Humanitarian Specialist, United Nations Population Fund

with protection. In this context, I like to point out the civilian nature of IDP camps and emphasize the importance of women's meaningful participation in decision-making. Women's role in post-conflict recovery strategies should be highlighted and their participation in camp ruling and allocation of goods should be guaranteed. This expands beyond the ideas of General Assembly and HRC. How much further have the ideas been articulated?

Sexual violence is mentioned in several papers of the Security Council as a security issue. There are six pillars defining this:

1. Crime of concern to the international community as a whole
2. Command responsibility – security profile of perpetrators
3. Civilians targeted – protected profile of victims
4. Climate of impunity
5. Cross-border implications/ impact on regional stability
6. Ceasefire violation

Let me also mention the Universal Periodic Review UPR process, especially the recent report.

The role of women in organizations offers some ideas how to advance the issues in protection in UNSCR 1325 in HRC. Once it was drafted women tended as a “shadow committee” and presented legal mechanisms (special court in violence against women, specific implementation policies), justice and delivery procedures and service delivery for survivors.

I like to encourage, however, to look beyond the resolutions 1325 and 1820 and think how to operationalize them. In 1888 there is a paragraph presenting reproductive rights in special areas. How are we carrying this out in HRC? There are annually many women dying after birth, what we are seeing is that member states are referring to this resolution in their reports. Therefore, it is carried out in the work of HRC. Let us ask, how do we avoid mainstreaming peace, women and security in our work so they won't become merely part of it and the events not only ad hoc events we attend every year? We should network with large women's organizations working towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 like UN Women, PeaceWomen, and Friends of 1325 and adds these organizations should be present when discussing these matters.

## **Integrating Early Warning mechanisms in Human Rights instruments would be promoting the 3 Ps of Resolution 1325: Participation, Protection, and Prevention**

**Mary Balikungeri<sup>7</sup>**

Many years of extensive work at the grassroots level on issues of Gender, Peace and Security through Integrated Development Approach have exposed me to the anguish and pain of women as victims of war, rape and other forms of genderbased violence but at the same time as active actors of peace.

This experience reminds me, that the 3Ps enshrined in the Resolution 1325 are interwoven with responses to GBV. Therefore the principle of Prevention of all forms of Violence Against Women VAW should ensure Integration of Early Warning mechanisms at different levels of Implementation. Such integration should be seen to be a space for data collection, analysis, reporting and action, also such a space should serve as a hub for Women's Empowerment and promotion of Gender Equality of which are important ingredients to VAW Prevention.

Since the adoption of Resolution 1325 in October 2000, activities relating to the resolution have taken place by different actors, examples are intergovernmental, governments, NGOs and women's organizations. At this point I would like to concentrate on what grassroots women's organizations say, since this is where I know best. "Driven by the daily challenges of family, and communities they live in, they trust it is in the interest of local communities and the development partners, to expand their participation and leadership in community development work on the issues that affect their daily lives". Participation in local, regional to

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<sup>7</sup> PWAG PeaceWoman, Director and Founder Rwanda Women's Network

global decision-making is a reliable route to achieving gender equitable, pro-poor policies and first hand information on violence committed against them.

Early Warning integration in the Human Rights instruments not only responds to alerts, but should be proactive and concentrates on all aspects of security in particular human rights related to promoting basic rights of the individuals, and grounded in the community development since this where women's violations occur and would only be effective with meaningful participation of women.

To simplify the 3Ps of Resolution 1325, women's grassrootswork understands Protection, Participation and Prevention:

- a) to give women opportunity to connect, engage and seek solutions to their daily problems, this process allows women to bond, and women's solidarity is a powerful tool to GBV response and recovery.
- b) to increase legal/health assistance services to GBV survivors;
- c) to increase community spaces for GBV psychosocial and economic support;
- d) to document, analyze and act in close collaboration with other actors on sexual abuses;
- e) to promote structured community conversations with participation of local authorities, to engage and seek solutions on issues affecting women and their communities;
- f) to encourage community to community networking to exchange information and learn from each other's experience;
- g) to promote private sector, women's groups and local authorities to support the work of women working towards elimination of Gender Based Violence and to interest them on issues affecting women;
- h) advocacy and networking at national, regional and global levels for actions against GBV and Early Warning Alerts;
- i) to strengthen the capacity of community animators, women community facilitators to become effective and active community watch agents against VAW.

### **At National Level:**

Civil Society, women's organizations, governmental and international partners should work together to develop a National Early Warning Structure – where it does not exist. Such structure should be:

- a) independent, and should tap in the active engagement of women involved in peace activities and in particular women at the grassroots level for reliable information on Violence Against Women;
- b) this structure should engage policy makers, analysis policies relating to defence, homeland securities and make necessary recommendations;
- c) organization of awareness trainings on all gender-specific peace resolutions (1325 , 1820, 1888, and 1889 and 1960 of Dec. 16, 2010 which strengthens commitment and political will to prevent sexual violence, combat impunity and enforce accountability, requests the Secretary General to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on sexual violence, and yearly publication of a list of armed groups that target women for sexual abuse) for soldiers, police, women's organizations and women leaders;
- d) an inventory of discriminatory practices and take necessary actions which will lead to national, regional and global advocacy actions;
- e) link regional and global mechanisms for Early Warning Alerts and action.

### **At Regional and Global Level:**

- (a) proactive engagement of regional, sub-regional and international mechanisms to respond to alerts;
- (b) regional and global women's networks to actively work in close cooperation with women's organizations and grassroots partners;
- (c) for effective Early Warning, global and regional women's organizations proactively engage with regional and international Human Rights mechanisms to bring issues of GBV survivors through panels and hearing discussions;

- (d) to encourage programs of global to local for monitoring and implementation strategy on resolutions of Women, Peace, Security and other international instruments. Such programs help to create legitimate space for national and grassroots women's organizations to directly engage in international processes, then bring international standards back home to be implemented;
- (e) such programs would enable women to monitor their government performance during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), while building the capacity of women's organizations to approach women's issues according to international Human Rights standards that should be claimed and fulfilled at the national level.

To conclude, as an active and committed member of Peace Woman Across the Globe, my concern after this conversation, I would wish to make an appeal to all actors in this struggle of women liberation, in whatever action you choose to take, to do so, with consistency, determination until we see total liberation of women in this world.

## Conclusions

**Elisabeth Decrey Warner:** Let us conclude saying that it is a long process: Societies change and women too get the opportunity to participate: Men stand up early, but wake up late. The key note speakers clearly showed us that we have progressed in the field of UNSCR 1325: we have good mechanism, resolutions, and special rapporteurs, monitoring tools and committed NGO's. Why are things not changing in the field? The reality is far from being perfect.

**Mary Balikungeri:** We hear a lot about resolutions but we miss to see the implementation mechanism. Every time a good resolution has been passed, why is there no clear idea on who is going to do what, when and where? Analysis is also missing: Is the resolution going to give concrete results?

**Isha L. Dyfan:** We are slow in coming up with the mechanisms. That is a question of money. It is easier to make first the statements and then coming up with mechanisms. In my view, the bigger agenda is disarmament. The agenda should go more in this direction. If small arms are not available, everything is different.

**Colette Samoya:** Les personnes qui votent pour la résolution font part des gouvernements. En fait, les personnes vraiment concerné avec le contenu de la résolution, ne peuvent pas arriver a l'ONU.

**Carmela Bühler:** It is necessary to translate the meaning of the resolutions. In the field, nobody is interested in reading resolutions. We have a progress, but it is about continuing.

**Maha Muna:** The Women, Peace and Security agenda is inextricably linked with women's human rights and empowerment. 1325 references 'international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians.' One of the founding pillars of the WPS agenda is women's participation, recognizing the critical role women play through decision making in refugee and IDP camps, or at the post-conflict peace table. There is much more that we can do in Geneva, through the Human Rights Council to realize the spirit of SC resolution 1325.