

The Swedish Government's action plan to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, peace and security

The participation of women and their enjoyment of human rights is a prerequisite for sustainable peace, development and democracy

Resolution 1325 on Women, peace and security was adopted unanimously by the United Nations (UN) Security Council in October 2000. The Council thereby established that a strengthening of women's participation and involvement in conflict prevention and conflict management is of central importance for the promotion of international peace, security, development and human rights.

The Resolution requests the UN system and its Member States to take concrete measures to:

- ❑ Increase women's participation in conflict prevention and peace operations and support women's peace initiatives in conflict areas,
- ❑ Secure the participation of women in institutions and in decision-making in post-conflict situations and transition processes from conflict to peace,
- ❑ Strengthen protection of the human rights of women and girls and their special needs in connection with war and conflict,
- ❑ Incorporate a gender perspective into activities to promote peace and security, and into humanitarian activities.

The starting-point for the Resolution is the fact that women can both influence and be affected by armed conflicts, that women are actors but may also be particularly vulnerable.

Today, women are often excluded from peace negotiations. Their experience and knowledge is not utilised in conflict prevention efforts or in connection with the reconstruction of conflict-torn societies. Women are often underrepresented at the institutions established through peace agreements and do not fully participate in decision-making on equal terms with men. At the same time as women and girls may be involved in conflicts as actors, often they are also particularly vulnerable during and after armed conflicts. Gender-related violence, such as men's violence against women, is frequently used as a strategy by the warring parties and in the transition between conflicts and a more sustainable development. Impunity for such violations is widespread.

Sweden is, and will continue to be, a leading country in efforts to reverse this development. Women are actors who must participate in all stages of peace work, including prevention of armed conflicts. They must be included to define problems and the need for protection, make analyses, present proposals and solutions, and negotiate and carry through decisions. In order to reach the Resolution's goal, increased direct participation by women is required in the first instance, but also all actors involved in efforts for peace and security must adopt a stronger gender perspective.

The Government's Resolution 1325 work is based on a holistic view of security, development and human rights (HR), a perspective, which is also at the core of the UN's ongoing reform work. The connection between development, security and HR is of central importance in Sweden's foreign and security policy and also in the policy for global development (PGD). This policy should be informed by a rights perspective at the same time as gender equality and security are two of its main policy factors.

The implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 is both a goal in itself and a way of reaching the objectives for security, development, defence and gender equality policies. The full and equal participation of women in conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution, peace-building and management of humanitarian disasters will contribute to democracy, increased respect for human rights and development. It will contribute to the fight against poverty, among other things by utilising all experience, knowledge and resources within the framework of development cooperation. Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 will also contribute to an increased acceptance of, and support for, our international operations. Measures to counter impunity will be strengthened if they include a gender power analysis and give particular attention to the social, financial, legal and political status and vulnerability of women and girls. Intensified efforts to incorporate a gender perspective into preparation, implementation and evaluation of peace-building efforts will contribute to increasing their efficiency. A clear gender and gender equality perspective in which the situation and conditions of women and girls are given full attention is also needed in humanitarian efforts during and after conflicts.

Resolution 1325 focuses on situations before, during and after a conflict. It complements the broader work carried on at the international level for gender equality, development and enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. This work takes place for example in the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on the Status of Women, CSW, which, *inter alia*, follows up the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995. Relevant work is also carried on in the UN Commission on Population and Development, CPD, which follows up the Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo 1994.

Overall work to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls takes place within the framework of fundamental conventions, including in the UN Human Rights Council. Gender equality issues are also an important part of the follow-up and implementation of the final document from the UN Summit in September 2005.

In the same way, Sweden's Resolution 1325 work complements and is part of the Government's efforts to incorporate a gender equality perspective into all policy areas and all activities carried on by the Government Offices. The Government has adopted in parallel a special plan of action to strengthen respect for human rights (2005) and a new policy for its international work for sexual and reproductive health and rights (2005). The Government intends to adopt a plan of action to counter prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes, particularly women and children (2006). These commitments can strengthen the implementation of Resolution 1325.

A Swedish action plan based on experience and broad commitment

Since the inception of Resolution 1325, Sweden has actively encouraged the transformation of commitments made into concrete efforts that change and improve the situation of women and girls in conflicts. By establishing a special working group under the leadership of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and with participants from the Prime Minister's office and the Ministries of Defence, Justice and Industry and Trade, a mechanism was created in December 2004 for a more systematic, effective and coordinated implementation of Resolution 1325 in Sweden's national and international work.

The group was assigned two main tasks: to initiate a number of projects, seminars and other activities in order to immediately intensify the implementation of Resolution 1325, and also to develop in parallel and firmly establish a national plan of action. These two processes were mutually reinforcing and experience from concrete efforts served as guidance for the development of the plan.

The scope of the Resolution is reflected in the broadness of the measures, which Sweden has taken. For example, in recent years:

- ❑ The Swedish Armed Forces initiated more conscious efforts to increase the number of women conscripts and officers who can participate in international operations. Within projects such as *GenderForce*, concrete measures are developed to incorporate a gender perspective into international operations. The requirement of previous experience of international operations has been removed for women military observers in order to increase the proportion of women in these posts.
- ❑ The National Defence College has carried out research in the area gender and peace operations, *inter alia* to support other public authorities.
- ❑ The Swedish Rescue Services Agency has drawn up guidelines for the implementation of the Resolution in its operations, above all the humanitarian disaster and assistance operations in which the Agency participates. The Rescue Services Agency also takes part in the above-mentioned *GenderForce* project.

- ❑ The National Police Board has implemented special efforts to increase the proportion of women in the Swedish contingencies in peace support operations, at the same time as training for personnel has been continuously evaluated.
- ❑ Sida (Swedish International Development cooperation Agency) has developed methods and policies for work on, for example, development and security, which also includes gender equality issues.
- ❑ The Folke Bernadotte Academy has systematically incorporated Resolution 1325 into planning and implementation of training courses and special projects.
- ❑ An ethical network comprising Swedish organisations and authorities has developed a recommended code of conduct for personnel involved in international operations. The code serves as a basis for the respective participating actor's own development of ethical guidelines and codes of conduct.
- ❑ The Government has given financial grants to several Swedish and international NGOs for methods development, training, opinion forming and studies of the participation, security and protection of women and girls.
- ❑ Sweden has given political and financial support to the implementation of Resolution 1325 in UN peace support operations, including through the launching of the proposal for civilian observers and support to gender adviser functions. The setting up of a post as adviser on gender issues in EU operations in DR Congo is a concrete example.
- ❑ Sweden has been proactive for the creation of a code of conduct and a programme of action for implementation of Resolution 1325 in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), including in concrete efforts by, for example, appointing a gender equality adviser.
- ❑ Sweden has initiated a process to strengthen the participation of women in conflict prevention and crisis management efforts within the framework of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- ❑ Sweden has contributed to the implementation of NATO/EAPC's anti-trafficking policy by organising a seminar focusing on training.
- ❑ Special attention has been given to strengthening the participation, security and protection of women when formulating Sweden's conflict management policy for Africa, both in individual countries, such as Sudan, and in overall strategies.
- ❑ Together with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the *International Legal Assistance Consortium* (ILAC) the Government has organised two international meetings on *gender justice*, among other things in order to develop

practical methods based on previous experience. Sweden is co-chairing with South Africa the global initiative *Partners for Gender Justice*.

- A special working group has been appointed under the Government Offices International Humanitarian Law Delegation to map out the need for a further development of the international discussion on gender aspects of international humanitarian law.

By initiating, developing, taking and evaluating these and other measures, Sweden has consciously and actively contributed to the implementation of Resolution 1325. It has been arduous work, *inter alia* because sympathy with these issues varies in different countries and the level of knowledge is often low. The majority of the measures taken are starting-points for processes that require continued commitment. They will therefore continue to be priority areas for the Government's future work. In many cases, there is also a need for new and strengthened efforts. The activities laid down in the action plan therefore concern both a continuation of initiatives already underway in order to achieve greater impact and effect, and the launch of new initiatives.

Recent years' accelerated work to implement Resolution 1325 has also resulted in lessons learnt which are the basis for future activities and have influenced the formulation of the national action plan. On the basis of this experience, several challenges can be identified:

- The overall – and growing – support for Resolution 1325 must also result in agreement on prioritising in individual situations issues concerning its implementation.
- Growing awareness of the Resolution must also be followed by deeper knowledge at all levels of its implementation.
- Overall strategies and programmes of action must be supplemented by concrete efforts in specific situations, such as peace operations or a peace negotiation. Basic objectives must be formulated and concretised to meet the challenges in the countries and regions concerned.
- The importance and value of efforts to strengthen women's participation and security must be clarified and seen as an integral and necessary element if efforts to promote peace and development are to meet the goals set.
- The mutual dependency between the national and international level must be clarified, as should countries' special responsibility in their capacity as members of international organisations, donors and contributors of troops and police. To reach the Resolution's goals, measures are required that affect the activities of government agencies and in several cases call for long-term reform work.
- Cooperation and coordination between different actors and at different levels needs to be further strengthened.

The design and contents of the action plan have therefore been guided by a dialogue with various interested parties: authorities, NGOs, research institutions, international organisations and other countries. Viewpoints and ideas have been formulated in a comparative study, at a seminar on international experience and at a consultative seminar with the participation of representatives of civil society and public authorities. This joint approach will also characterise the implementation of the action plan.

Objectives and focus of intensified Swedish action

The overall goal of the action plan, and the measures that it lays down are to make visible and strengthen women's participation, power, influence, importance, security and enjoyment of their human rights before, during and after conflicts. Resolution 1325 must be an integral and natural part of both regular and strategic work for peace and security in a broad sense. The increased participation of women and a gender equality perspective must be secured in the areas covered by the Resolution. Sweden and the international community must support and strengthen different national and local organisations, actors, measures and initiatives engaged in implementing Resolution 1325. In the long term, the plan aims to secure women's participation and enjoyment of human rights and also to incorporate a consistent gender equality perspective into conflict prevention, conflict management, and humanitarian and other peace and security building efforts.

Sweden will continue to be a leading nation, both regarding national implementation and in driving developments at the international level. To achieve this, the development and reinforcement of ongoing activities and a number of new initiatives are needed. It is a matter of both concrete measures and policy development. Special efforts will be made in conflict areas where Sweden contributes to and is involved in activities to promote international peace and security in a broad sense, including through development cooperation work.

Through its action plan, the Government will give priority to measures whose aim is that:

- Women in conflict areas participate fully and on equal terms with men at all levels in mechanisms and institutions for conflict prevention, crisis management, peace-building, humanitarian operations and other efforts during a post-conflict phase. National and local initiatives must be supported.
- Protection of women and girls in connection with conflicts be strengthened through efforts based on women's own analysis of the need for protection and which enhance security and create opportunities for participation without limiting the freedom of movement of women and girls.
- More women take part in international peace- and security-building efforts within the framework of the UN, the European Union (EU), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Euroatlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace (EAPC/PfP) and other regional organisations of which Sweden is a member or with which Sweden collaborates.

Joint work at three levels

With the adoption of a national action plan, Sweden's work on implementing Resolution 1325 enters a new phase characterised by continued endeavours in the areas already initiated in combination with new initiatives to meet identified deficiencies. A major challenge in this phase is to see to it that the policy documents produced concerning Resolution 1325 also inform efforts in the field. It is a question of moving from words to deeds. To have real effect, a requirement to report back at all levels is essential. To produce results and improve the daily lives of women and girls around the world, commitment is required and action by a large number of interested parties, at both national and international level. Sweden's action plan therefore contains activities for implementation at three levels:

- ❑ National,
- ❑ In the EU and other regional organisations such as OSCE, the Council of Europe, EAPC/PfP and Nordic cooperation, and also
- ❑ Globally, above all in the UN.

It is our joint responsibility to implement Resolution 1325. In addition to official representatives, representatives of civil society, including organisations and networks for women and girls and/or those, which are engaged in promoting gender equality, are vital cooperation partners. This also applies to information and analysis, education and capacity building. Cooperation with organisations and networks in actual or potential conflict areas is of particular importance. Efforts to implement Resolution 1325 must to a far greater extent be the common concern of all actors and also of both women and men.

Efforts at different levels are mutually reinforcing and must be coordinated and take place in parallel. The participation of women in international peace support operations makes demands on the available resource base and is facilitated by a large proportion of women in national defence forces, police systems and at other relevant authorities. A gender equality perspective in all phases of international operations implies the need for enhanced training activities at the national level also. At the national level, it is a question on the one hand of taking measures so that the Government and Swedish authorities in consultation with NGOs fulfil the Resolution's undertakings and, on the other, of being a reliable partner in dialogue and actor for regional and global implementation. The EU and other regional organisations must live up to the requirements made for UN action in the area of peace and security. In the long term, regional actors should be able to develop a stricter framework of rules.

At the national level, efforts to fully implement Resolution 1325 primarily involve the units and ministries in the Government Offices engaged in activities to promote international peace and security, human rights and/or gender equality issues (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Justice and Industry and Trade) as well as the authorities that train and deploy personnel to international operations or carry on the relevant research activities (primarily the Swedish Armed Forces, the National Police Board, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sida, the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and the National Defence College). Swedish foreign missions play a very important role,

particularly in vulnerable developing countries and regions and also at the international organisations. Active NGOs contribute to strengthening Sweden's total commitment at national and international levels.

National level

Improved forms of national collaboration, development of knowledge and methods and resources

- ❑ Exchanges of information, know-how and experience concerning the objectives, aims and implementation of Resolution 1325 will be intensified between the Government Offices, the relevant authorities and representatives of civil society. In these exchanges, associations that represent women and girls and the research community will also be included. The Government will set up a Delegation for Monitoring Implementation of Resolution 1325 to meet twice yearly under the leadership of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to exchange information, discuss special issues and follow up the action plan. The conclusions and concrete proposals of the Delegation will be an important contribution to Sweden's national and international action and to the continuing development of the action plan.
- ❑ Cooperation with research institutions will be utilised and strengthened, including by mapping out, assembling and contributing to the spread of relevant research. Special emphasis should be laid on empirical analyses of forms for the participation of women in conflict prevention and peace support, in order to identify effective methods and lessons. Together with, among others, the National Defence College, the Folke Bernadotte Academy will be requested to form a platform for collaboration on these issues during the period in question.
- ❑ The Government will continue to support and cooperate with Swedish NGOs in work to implement Resolution 1325, at the national level and in collaboration with international cooperation partners, especially in conflict areas. Through close dialogue with civil society, Sweden can contribute to spreading knowledge and information to a broader public, and also to corresponding groups in developing countries and countries where armed conflicts are ongoing or are in danger of breaking out.
- ❑ Within the framework of use of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs existing appropriation for conflict management and peace support, special attention must be given to possibilities of carrying out directed activities to increase women's participation in conflict prevention efforts, crisis management and peace-building, and/or to strengthen the protection of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable in armed conflict situations.
- ❑ In connection with the assessment of other applications for contributions to activities aimed at promoting peace and security received by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the project's contribution to the implementation of Resolution 1325 and the integration of gender equality and rights perspectives will be taken into consideration.

- By means of official appropriation documents, directions, dialogue, commissions and other control documents, the Government must place clearer demands on the authorities concerned to intensify efforts to implement Resolution 1325. A Resolution 1325 perspective shall be reflected in the relevant appropriation documents by 2007.
- Practical instruments such as check lists, guidelines, instructions and briefings for dialogue will be developed so as to incorporate in a firm and concrete way a Resolution 1325 perspective into the regular operations of the ministries and authorities concerned in relation to countries in or likely to be in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Active commitment on the part of Sweden to conflict prevention, conflict management and policy development

- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida should utilise opportunities to give strategic financial contributions and other forms of support for strengthening capacity in order, for example, to increase the proportion of women who participate in peace negotiations and the implementation of peace agreements.
- Strengthening women's participation and security is a priority area in the Government's special focus on achieving a more active Swedish capacity for conflict management and resolution. When Swedish women and men are directly involved in peace processes and work, for example as mediators or in similar functions, special attention must be given to these issues.
- Swedish foreign missions and other Swedish actors in conflict areas must be involved to a greater extent. National and local women's organisations shall be important collaboration partners.
- Implementation of the Resolution should also be given attention in different national consultative groups, such as among EU Member States or in dialogues with other donors. The possibility of country-based groups of friends may be considered.
- When Swedish delegations visit conflict areas, the programme should include talks with women and representatives of women's organisations. The delegations shall consist of both women and men. Talks with relevant representatives – men and women – of governments, parties to a conflict, international, regional and national organisations must also cover issues concerning women's participation, human rights and security, such as prevention of abuse and penal measures against perpetrators.
- The participation of women in the work of preventing armed conflicts, in particular by peaceful conflict management methods, must be strengthened. The Folke Bernadotte Academy will continue, *inter alia* through training and practice, to reinforce the gender equality perspective in early warning, conflict prevention and efforts to bring about dialogue and mediation.

- ❑ A gender equality perspective will also continue to be taken into consideration in Sida's conflict prevention work.
- ❑ The implementation of Resolution 1325 and the strengthening of women's participation and protection shall be reflected in international contacts with networks and organisations in the field of conflict prevention.
- ❑ In accordance with the policy for global development and its goal of contributing to a fair and sustainable global development, policy coherence shall be strengthened in order to promote gender equality issues in conflict prevention and management. In-depth analysis and practical methods are needed for this.
- ❑ The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida and other ministries and authorities concerned will continue to incorporate a gender equality perspective into efforts to promote development, including development cooperation in potential or actual conflict areas, in order to contribute to strengthening the participation of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights, power and influence.
- ❑ Cooperation strategies, programmes over several years, conflict analyses and other frameworks and activities to promote peace and security are essential instruments for integrating Resolution 1325 into development cooperation. In the development and implementation of cooperation strategies, consultations with national and local actors must include women, and women's organisations. Attention should be given to issues concerning education for women in conflict areas in order thereby to strengthen their chances of self-determination and financial independence.
- ❑ Work on strengthening women's enjoyment of their human rights and to integrate a clear gender equality perspective into efforts to strengthen the judicial system in post-conflict countries will continue to be intensified. This requires increased participation by women and respect for women's enjoyment of their human rights in issues concerning access to justice, reform of the judicial system, electoral systems, political participation and constitutions in post-conflict situations. In the long term, this may also contribute to preventing gender-related violence, such as men's violence against women and girls, in a broader perspective.
- ❑ As co-chairman of the Partners for Gender Justice Initiative, the Government is taking special responsibility through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to undertake specific efforts in a number of conflict-torn and post-conflict countries and also to develop practical methods.
- ❑ In the follow-up to the Stockholm Initiative for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), coordinated by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, attention will be given to issues concerning the social, economic, legal and political status and special situation of women and girls. The Resolution 1325 perspective must be reflected in concrete measures.

- ❑ In the development of efforts and strategies for security sector reform in post-conflict countries, attention will be given to the active participation of women and their security, roles and enjoyment of their human rights. Areas of interest include, *inter alia*, training and recruitment as well as broader issues concerning reform of the judicial system.
- ❑ The special needs of girls and women will be given attention in the work of the Swedish Rescue Services Agency on humanitarian mine-handling, including in potential and actual areas of conflict.

Peace support operations

- ❑ The number of women at all levels in Sweden's contribution to peace support efforts will increase. The proportion of women in international service must at least correspond to the proportion of women in the recruitment group. The authorities concerned are requested to review job descriptions, working environment issues and recruitment models and difficulties respectively, as well as compile relevant statistics and take additional measures.
- ❑ More women candidates must be identified and nominated for high positions in international operations.
- ❑ When mechanisms for recruitment and training of personnel for civil crisis management operations are developed, priority must be given to the need for an increased share of women in international operations.
- ❑ The authorities responsible shall evaluate and develop training for Swedish personnel who are to take part in international operations and peace assignments. Swedish personnel who take part in peace support and humanitarian operations must have undergone training (or in special cases shown knowledge in some other way) that covers Resolution 1325, conditions specific to the operation, the applicable legislation and ethical issues. During the period, the Folke Bernadotte Academy will be requested to develop in close consultation with the authorities concerned, forms for collaboration around material and implementation of training for peace support efforts.
- ❑ Concrete methods will be developed by the Government Offices and authorities to increase women's participation and incorporate a gender equality perspective into planning, preparations, training, implementation and evaluation of and prior to peace support and humanitarian operations. An instrument of this type may be the design of a model mission or step by step check list of how Resolution 1325 is being implemented in all phases of an operation. Ongoing projects such as *GenderForce*, which spans over authorities and organisations, are key contributions which should also be used in international contexts.
- ❑ Sweden will make efforts to ensure that observance and follow-up of codes of conduct and ethical guidelines for personnel in peace-keeping operations is strengthened, such

as the UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, the EU code of conduct for crisis management operations, OSCE's code of conduct and decision on conduct and responsibility for personnel in international operations as well as the ban on purchase of sexual services and purchase of sexual acts from children.

- Where necessary, the authorities concerned shall formulate their own, supplementary codes of conduct and regularly map out regulatory frameworks and methods for application and follow-up. Exchanges of experience should be sought between different authorities, and also between public authorities and civil society. The network for ethical rules and codes of conduct, which consists of several Swedish authorities and organisations, is an important contribution.

Regional level

EU

As a member of the EU, Sweden has a special and obvious interest in and responsibility for, the full implementation of Resolution 1325 in the Union's external relations. Special endeavours will be made within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including ESDP as well as in development cooperation, humanitarian operations and migration policy where relevant. To achieve results, efforts are needed both at EU level and within the member states.

Implementation of the EU action plan from 2005 to integrate Resolution 1325 into ESDP.

- In different institutions, committees and working groups, Sweden will continue to be proactive to make Resolution 1325 a natural part of planning, development, implementation and evaluation of the EU's civil and military crisis management operations, as well as of other conflict prevention and peace support activities. Here, concrete and practical methods need to be developed in both institutions and member states. Sweden will also take an active part in exchanges of lessons learned and best practices.
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence, in close consultation with primarily the Swedish Armed Forces, will incorporate a Resolution 1325 perspective into the development and use of the Nordic rapid reaction force during its standby period in the first six months of 2008. Sweden will also work for the integration of the Resolution 1325 perspective into all the EU's rapid reaction forces.
- The number of women in ESDP operations must increase, including in higher posts. This work should be based on statistics broken down by gender and analysis of the causes of the current distribution of women and men in ESDP operations. Sweden should both set a good example and aim for an intensification of statistics and analysis work.
- Sweden will also take action to ensure that a Resolution 1325 perspective and issues concerning the participation of women are reflected in different training projects,

including in the working programme for the *European Security and Defence College (ESDC)* and *EU Group on Training*, and in training for a specific mission before or during an operation. The Folke Bernadotte Academy and the National Defence College, which are the Swedish contact points for different training initiatives, will continue to play important roles.

- ❑ Sweden will be proactive in speeding up the implementation and observance of the code of conduct for personnel in ESDP operations, *inter alia* through training. Here, the relevant authorities bear special responsibility.
- ❑ Activities will be encouraged to support in other ways implementation, observance and further development of Resolution 1325 in ESDP operations and other field presence.

The EU's external relations

Intensified measures are needed if Resolution 1325 is to be integrated into the EU's external relations, including CFSP and development cooperation. Experience should be drawn from efforts to implement Resolution 1325 in ESDP.

- ❑ Sweden will continue to strive to ensure that the mandate for the EU's special representatives (EUSR) take into consideration Resolution 1325 and issues concerning the participation of women in peace processes and strengthened protection against, for example, gender-related violence such as men's violence against women. Exchanges of experience between special representatives and others who hold high posts should be encouraged, internally within the EU and between the EU and other organisations.
- ❑ Competence in gender and gender equality issues and other relevant issues must be available at EUSR offices, the European Commission's delegations and other field presence in conflict areas, as well as at the Council secretariat and the Commission. Responsibility for integrating a gender equality perspective rests with the existing leadership and management structures and should be implemented by all. However, as a complement, gender advisers and units with the necessary resources, authority and support should be set up as soon as possible.
- ❑ Issues that strengthen women's participation, influence and power in post-conflict situations must be an integral part of development cooperation with these countries. A gender equality perspective should be incorporated into country strategies and other relevant control and planning documents. The EU's recently adopted development assistance policy is a starting-point for this work.
- ❑ By participating in relevant working groups, institutions and implementation committees, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida shall make efforts to ensure that overall objectives are transformed into concrete measures.
- ❑ The EU's political dialogue with other countries and organisations must include issues concerning women's active participation, security and needs. When representatives of

the EU institutions or presidency visit conflict areas, their programme should contain talks with national and local women and women's organisations. Issues concerning women's participation and security should be discussed with both men and women.

- The EU's strategic cooperation with the UN, OSCE and AU in the area of peace and security should be extended to include the Resolution 1325 perspective, both in concrete operations and in the preparation of thematic strategies. In the implementation of the EU's action plan for ESDP and Africa, the strengthening of women's participation and security must be systematically given attention in the formulation of support and cooperation.
- The EU should act systematically in the UN and other multilateral forums to intensify the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Resolution 1325 shall be taken into consideration in negotiations with applicant and candidate countries with experience of conflict.

OSCE, NATO/PfP and other organisations and forms of cooperation

Within the framework of its membership of, and cooperation with, other regional and sub-regional organisations, Sweden will actively strive to implement Resolution 1325.

- The Government will continue to utilise the prevailing consensus in Nordic cooperation to force the pace of development in international organisations. Exchanges of experience between the Nordic countries should be intensified.
- The Government will follow up the Swedish initiatives taken in 2005 to implement Resolution 1325 in OSCE's peace- and security-building activities in all three dimensions (human, political-military, and economic/environment-related). Clear demands should be made in connection with the Secretary-General's annual reports on implementation of OSCE's action plan to promote gender equality (2004), in which special attention should be given to the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Sweden will continue to be proactive for implementation of the ministerial decision on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation (from 2005) with a special focus on four areas:
 - The development of forms for identifying and nominating women candidates, particularly to high posts and decision-making positions,
 - The development and adjustment of projects, strategies and initiatives so that they fulfil the undertakings in Resolution 1325 and OSCE's gender equality plan (from 2004).
 - Increased training activities, and

- Participating states and OSCE institutions' reports on the implementation of the ministerial decision, in connection with the annual Security Review Conference.
- Attention will be given to a gender equality perspective in the development and implementation of relevant Swedish strategies for cooperation with, support to, and dialogue with, regional and sub-regional organisations. The main responsibility rests with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida, although other ministries and authorities are also involved. The African Union and the sub-regional African organisations are of particular importance. In this context attention should be given both to the importance of the increased participation of women in local and regional institutions and processes, and to the need for strong protection of the security and human rights of women and girls in conflict situations.
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence will follow up efforts made during 2005 to implement NATO/EAPC anti-trafficking policy.

The global level: the UN system

As a committed member state and active participant in peace support activities, Sweden will support and hasten efforts to fully implement Resolution 1325. Priority will be given to a number of measures for which the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has the main responsibility but where work will be carried out in close consultation with other ministries and with the Swedish Delegation to the UN in New York.

- Sweden will support the implementation and follow-up of the UN system's joint Action Plan for Resolution 1325 adopted in 2005. Practical methods for implementation and feedback should be developed, and coordination within the UN system as well as between the UN and other actors should be strengthened. The need for people and functions with special responsibility should be investigated. Special attention should also be given to the forms for UN cooperation with, support for, and consultation with national and local women's organisations in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- Sweden will actively support the Peace-building Commission and its Support Offices in their task of increasing the participation of women and integrating a gender equality perspective into their work in both concrete conflict areas and on special factual issues.
- Sweden will continue to demand clear guidelines for the Secretary-General's special envoys and representatives, heads and commanders of peace support operations, mediators and other similar functions. These key representatives of the UN must pay attention to the situation and security of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights. They must also promote and report on the measures they have taken to fully involve women in the dialogue with the UN system in the field, and also what

they have done to encourage the participation of women in national and local institutions, legislative assemblies and decision-making processes.

- ❑ Sweden will work for implementation of the goal of increasing the proportion of women at all levels in peace support operations and to this end, among other things, will encourage increased exchanges of experience and methods between countries and organisations.
- ❑ The proposal for civilian observers in UN peace support missions must be further developed and more firmly established, including through special pilot projects. By introducing civilian observers, a mission can gain specific knowledge of, for example, human rights and the Rule of Law, humanitarian issues, elections and reconstruction at the local level, where at present UN missions are often only represented by military observers. This will improve chances of increasing the proportion of women in missions since the recruitment base will be broader, and will also contribute to strengthening the civilian component in today's multifunctional missions.
- ❑ Sweden will continue to support a development towards the implementation of Resolution 1325 becoming a clear and integral part of the mandate for UN peace support operations and political missions and offices. The gender equality perspective must be reflected in the procurement of information, planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation of multifunctional missions and activities.
- ❑ Sweden will support efforts to develop, implement and follow up the UN strategy for the prevention and elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel on peacekeeping missions, including its ban on the purchase of sexual services as well as purchase of sexual acts from children. Improved training is required and also clarification of the responsibility of heads of missions, the formulation of a policy for support of the victims of abuse (the majority of whom are women and girls) and clear additional protocols to the agreements the UN signs with the countries contributing troops.
- ❑ Sweden will make efforts to ensure that training and training material developed and supplied by the UN includes issues concerning the participation, security and vulnerability of women and children. This is particularly important regarding high officials. Competence in these areas should also be reflected in the profile and job requirements for service in international missions.
- ❑ As a major donor to the UN system, including the Secretariat, funds and programmes operating in the area of peace, security and humanitarian missions, *inter alia* DPKO, OCHA, UNDP (including BCPR), UNIFEM, UNHCR and UNAIDS, Sweden will work to ensure that these organs, where relevant, pay heed to and implement Resolution 1325 in their operations. Priority will be given to issues concerning support to, and consultations with, women and women's organisations.

- ❑ Sweden will aim for more systematic exchanges of knowledge, experience and information between international actors. Resolution 1325 should be one of the issues discussed at the regular meetings held between the UN and regional organisations.
- ❑ In international forums, Sweden will counter impunity for attacks against women and girls, for example in the form of gender-related violence.
- ❑ Sweden will continue to participate in the New York-based group of friends of Resolution 1325.

Implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the action plan

The action plan for implementation of Resolution 1325 covers a period of three year (from 2006 up to and including 2008). The plan is at the same time a living document which will be developed to meet new requirements as they are identified as well as utilise experience and lessons learned. There will be regular follow-up, including in the form of a half-time review. Public authorities will be requested to include feedback on efforts to implement Resolution 1325 in their annual reports or reports on special issues.

Order of priority between different efforts will be regularly drawn up in order both to allow scope for strategic ventures and to utilise the opportunities that arise in international organisations and contexts. The implementation of the plan will be financed within the framework of existing appropriations and funds and regular budget and other control processes.

The inter-ministerial Resolution 1325 group will coordinate work at the Government Offices to implement the action plan. The group will carry on a discussion about the application and further development of the plan. Each ministry involved is responsible for the concrete implementation in its own operations and in the operations of subordinate authorities.

Regular reports will be made to the instructing circle of State Secretaries as well as in connection with meetings of the proposed Delegation for Monitoring Implementation of Resolution 1325.