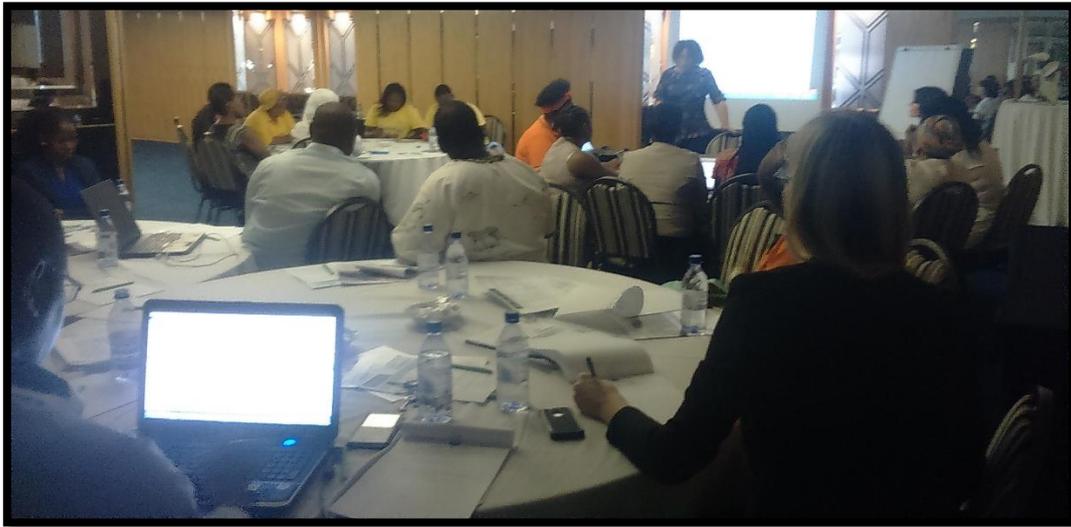




## **GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY**



**25 NOVEMBER 2015**

### **INTRODUCTION**

South Africa has done well since 1994 in terms of Gender equality and empowerment of women, in politics and areas of decision making. South Africa ranks top ten in the world on women in politics, with 40% women in parliament and 41% in cabinet respectively. There have also been improvements in education and capacity building but has had challenges somewhat in terms of implementation of regional and international protocols on women, peace and security including implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325). This is due to the fact that

There has been a gap in terms of the generational transfer of skills and knowledge in terms of the gender struggle. There is a need to for more awareness about some of these global processes and protocols. South Africa has done a lot post 1994 in terms of active engagements on gender, peace and security and reflecting a gender balance in terms of women in key political leadership positions. Mediation training is now taking place, which is an unique initiative in the continent. Other Tools mentioned include South Africa Defence Policy SADPA, the African Union Maputo Protocol on the rights of African women, and we can draw on these to advance the cause of women in peace processes. It is important to explore and implement measures that exist and popularise these issues until they are known and understood by all. It is important to also assess the African Union (AU) impact on levelling the continental landscape.

## ANALYSIS OF KEY ISSUES

### South African context in relation to UNSCR 1325 - Women, Peace and Security

South Africa's position is that prevention is key for peace and security and far more cost-effective. The government is aware that its peace-building model is not suitable for all conflicts as there are many regional dynamics to consider in current conflicts on the continent and that a continuous review of peace building models needed. The South African government recognises that greater coherence and coordination is required by all actors in peace and security. For South Africa the Gender, Peace and Security workshop is timely because of current conversations on developing a National Action Plan on implementation of UNSCR 1325. There is a growing understanding that understanding masculinities can address systemic causes of conflict and there is a nexus between development, peace and security. Currently, increasing women participation in peace and security is largely high level and political, often restricted to mediation.

South Africa has a good number of women trained as mediators, in peacekeeping forces, as well as appointments in important political position, but this has not translated into a better situation for all sector of women within the country especially the rural women and those in the lower social class. The word "grass roots" should not imply that 'you are under our feet'. Even though South Africa has an impressive "gender machinery" this has been affected by implementation challenges. There is a need to address the level of violence in South Africa as a whole, in particular the Gender Based Violence (GBV) which is a threat to women's security in South Africa. There needs to be a reinvigoration of the women's movement.

The South African government doesn't view Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 as mutually exclusive development frameworks. Peaceful societies should be the pre-requisite for both development frameworks. In terms of peace making, South Africa is possibly best placed to advance the two frameworks at a sub-regional level. Actions are necessary to change gender norms within the context of peace keeping and substantive transformative change is required. Culture plays a part in that traditional leadership spaces could be utilised to ensure inclusivity. For South Africa, the focus is also the National Development Plan (NDP), synthesising global instruments to the NDP. Data collection in relation to the development of indicators is important.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have a role to play in terms of ensuring that adequate and accurate data is captured, in particular action research. Creating and sustaining networks is also critical for building strong women's movements and for solidarity. There is a need to ponder on how we can deepen this discussion with our respective governments and various multilateral fora?

#### Concrete strategies that are required include the following:

- ❖ Policy alignment across the various stakeholders, ensuring that we own these processes;
- ❖ Funding our own initiatives will be critical in this regard;
- ❖ Accountability mechanisms within CSOs should be strengthened, to hold policy makers accountable to what they've already committed to;
- ❖ Deepen the understanding of the connection between peace, security and development
- ❖ SALO to look at the work of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa(Uganda) and other lessons in other regions.

The South African CSOs can challenge gender norms by engaging traditional Leaders as they are influential in their areas. Further linking the National Development Plan (NDP) prioritisation and overlap with agendas such as UN 2030 and AU Agenda 2063 is key.

Civil Society Organisations have a role to play in ensuring implementation of the UNSC 1325 by:

- ❖ Assisting government to prioritise security for women and children
- ❖ Open avenues for universal standards of monitoring and evaluation
- ❖ Creating a thread for collaboration between all actors
- ❖ Replicating all progressive initiatives at national, regional and international platforms (Agenda 2063/Agenda 2030/ SDGs)

## CONCLUSION

South Africa has the capacity to improve on reporting with regards to the implementation of the United Nations (UN) protocols and on all the gender-related instruments including UNSCR 1325, Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and previously the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and perhaps the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Generally South Africa has made inroads with regards to policies and that needs to be commended. South Africa has also done well when it comes to the fielding of women in structures of governance. More needs to be done with regards to consolidating implementation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- ❖ Work more on SDGs appropriately dealing with peacebuilding and gender;
- ❖ Strengthening women's movement
- ❖ Connecting fragmented CSOs
- ❖ Popularising regional and international instruments that deal with women, peace and security, such as AU Maputo protocol on the rights of African women etc.
- ❖ South Africa to consolidate on develop a NAP on implementation of UNSCR 1325 as a matter of urgency.

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*The analysis and recommendations included in this Policy Brief do not necessarily reflect the view of SALO or any of the donors or conference participants, but rather draw upon the major strands of discussion put forward at the event. Participants neither reviewed nor approved this document. The contents of the report are the sole responsibility of SALO, and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the donors who provided financial assistance for this policy dialogue session.*

### About the Southern African Liaison Office:



The Southern African Liaison Office (SALO) is a South African-based not-for-profit civil society organisation which, through advocacy, dialogue, policy consensus and in-depth research and analysis, influences the current thinking and debates on foreign policy especially regarding African crises and conflicts.

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