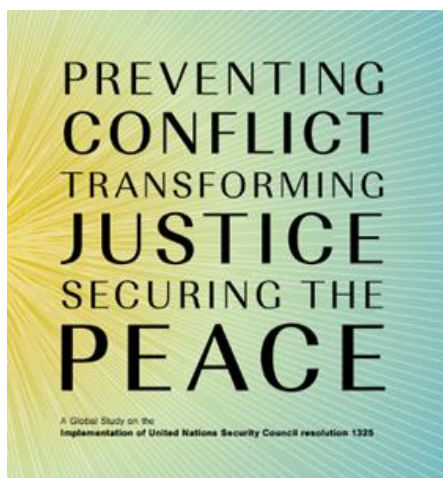


UN Women & SALO Launch of the Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325



31st March 2016, Pretoria

INTRODUCTION



On 31 March 2016, the Southern Africa Liaison Office (SALO) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women) South Africa Multi-Country Office co-hosted a lunch launch of the Global Report '*Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice Securing the Peace: Implementation of UNSCR1325*' in Pretoria. The lunch was an interactive panel discussion with a diverse range of speakers from policy makers to individuals with expertise and experience in gender, peace and security. The launch also looked at next steps for policy makers and engaging citizens on the issue – 15 years since adoption of UNSCR1325.

Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe the Representative of the UN Women South Africa did the opening remarks, Professor Cheryl Hendricks of University of

Johannesburg moderated the proceedings and Mr Themba Kalua the Deputy Representative for the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment was the Programme Director. The panellists included, Ms Jebbeh Foster the Regional advisor of the Gender, Peace and Security at ESARO, Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso the South African Ambassador to Romania, Ms Josina Machel the Daughter of Graca Machel and survivor of domestic violence, Ms Yasmin Sooka the Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights and Mr Pitso Montwedi the Chief Director: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs at DIRCO.

In attendance were government officials, members of the diplomatic community, UN agencies, a representative from the African Union and SADC Secretariat respectively, civil society organisations, eminent individuals and the citizens.

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe, UN Women South Africa

In her opening remarks Ms Anne Githuku-Shongwe stated UN Women had just come from the Commission on the Status of Women [CSW] and at the CSW, where issues of peace and security were taken up in a strong way. She explained that UN Women's role in Southern Africa on peace and security include:

- ❖ The fifteen-year review of Resolution 1325, as well as Resolution 2242, which seek to deepen the resolutions that are linked to women, peace and security and to emphasise the proven links between women's participation in peace-keeping efforts and sustainable peace and security.
- ❖ In partnership with DIRCO and the Department of Social Development, training local facilitators and holding dialogues in communities that were affected by violence, involving both South Africans (SA) and foreign nationals.
- ❖ Looking very closely at the participation of women leaders in local government and what their own role is in peace. They have Safer Cities Programme, which focuses on peace and gender violence in communities in and the goal is to expand it is across the all the countries of the MCO.
- ❖ Women and economic empowerment; there is a global initiative called the High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment, which examines where the UN is in terms of women's economic empowerment.
- ❖ Gender based violence
- ❖ Peace and Security
- ❖ Together with the Department of Women, is gender-responsive budgeting; the report shows that there is very poor financing of gender equality activities and peace in particular.



She concluded by stating that the UN women has a campaign that was launched two years ago [2014] by Executive Director Dr Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, which aims to assess how gender equality plays out in organisations at all levels, including in the value chain and in the relationships within organisations. The *Step-Up Campaign* aims at parity, fifty-fifty, by 2030, and the *HeForShe Campaign* aims to challenge heads of state to come out and disclose what their commitments and baselines are. The Campaign is working in partnership with the Nelson

Mandela Foundation, which is working with taxi associations to see if they can get taxi owners and taxi associations to start challenging patriarchy and get them to be part of this *HeForShe* Campaign.

Jebbeh Forster, UN Women Regional Advisor for Gender, Peace and Security, Nairobi, covering Eastern and Southern Africa



Ms Jebbeh's began her presentation by clarifying that the Global Study of Resolution 1325 was commissioned by the UN Secretary-General, and the purpose of the study was to identify gaps and challenges in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 over the last fifteen years, and to identify emerging trends and priorities for future actions. This was done as part of celebrating the fifteenth anniversary of Resolution 1325 and to see what progress had been made and identify what challenges women face with regards to peace and security.

The study was authored by the former Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and the UN Secretary-General's Special Rapporteur on Women and Children in Armed Conflict and it was a very consultative process and comprehensive process, she expressed.

The Global Report highlights progress, good practices, challenges, emerging trends and recommendations for future action. The conclusion was that the impact of Resolution 1325 is disproportionate to the provisions in the framework and to the commitment of regional bodies and country policies and legislations to implement it; there is a disconnect between the commitments made and the impact on the ground. The expected transformation has not happened, she argued. She encouraged participants to interrogate the findings of the study.

She mentioned that the reason for this regional launch was to create awareness of UN Security Resolution 1325, look at what it offers for women's peace and security and to also celebrate the successes because:

- ❖ There has been a lot of advancement in terms of women's representation, in peace negotiations and peace keeping missions
- ❖ There has been a lot of advancement in terms of policies for the protection of women and prevention of violence against women
- ❖ There are indicators that have been developed in areas of prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery that address the challenges that women face in peace and security

UN women also want to:

- ❖ Create an awareness of the situation of women and girls in various countries
- ❖ Learn from the good practices and the challenges of other countries
- ❖ Reflect on individual country context

She concluded by expressing that the Global Report is not necessarily reporting on the various countries, but the general recommendations and the findings offer a space for reflection on what is happening in an individual country and to look at what can be done going forward.

Dr Joseph Pitso, Head of the SADC Gender Unit, the SADC Secretariat

Dr Pitso indicated that he expected to answer the question of ‘*Where is SADC?*’ He expressed that collectively SADC is nowhere, but at individual country level it is only the DRC that has done something. He mentioned that women in the SADC are participating in regional, continental and UN Peace-Keeping in the police, military and civilian missions, and take part in the training for the SADC Standby Force. He indicated that his presentation would focus on:

1. The policy and legal framework that UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is anchored on
2. The progress on the Resolution’s implementation
3. The challenges, conclusions and the way forward.



The policy and legal framework that UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is anchored on

SADC is guided by policies and frameworks, which include the following:

- ❖ The Revised Edition on Strategic Indicative Plans for the Organs on Politics, Defence and Security and Objective 7 of that speaks to:
 - *Developing* ‘the peace-building capacity of national police service forces’
 - *Coordinating* ‘the participation of state parties in international and regional peacekeeping’
 - *Promoting* ‘gender equity in the deployment of peace support operations’
- ❖ The Protocol on Gender and Development, which has recently been revised to align with the SDG’s and the AU’s Agenda 2063, as well as to the Beijing Plus20 Review.
 - In Article 28, Part 8 it states that ‘*state parties shall endeavor to put in place measures to ensure that women have equal representation and participation in key decision-making positions and in conflict resolution and peace building processes by 2015.*’ In the revised version it says ‘*by 2030*’.
 - It also says that ‘*state parties shall, during times of armed and other forms of conflict, take such steps as are necessary to prevent and eliminate incidences of human rights abuses, especially of women and children, and ensure that perpetrators of such abuses are brought to justice before a court of competent jurisdiction.*’

Based on the African peace and security architecture structure, SADC has established the following:

- ❖ A regional early warning system;
- ❖ A SADC Stand-By Force with military, civilian and police components;
- ❖ Mediation structures.
- ❖ The SADC Regional Peace-Keeping Training Centre has been tasked with implementing gender-responsive training as a cross-cutting component for all its peace support operations (PSO) courses.

*“Recently the Centre conducted a ‘**prevention of sexual violence**’ needs assessment to identify training needs; to draft a model course on the subject of sexual violence and abuse; to develop ‘**preventing sexual violence training**’ of trainers; and to identify course materials on sexual violence and abuse for use in the courses to be coordinated by the SADC Regional Peace-Keeping Training Courses”*

The progress on the Resolution’s implementation

Dr Pitso indicated that in terms of implementation of Resolution 1325 at the national level:

- ❖ *Angola* established a peace-building committee of women focusing on strengthening women’s participation in peace-building, and committees coordinated by the Angola’s Women Network, provided a platform to bridge gender disparities in the process of national reconstruction.
- ❖ *DRC* has a National Action Plan on Peace and Security with emphasis on the implementation of this United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

The challenges, conclusions and the way forward.

Dr Pitso stated that in the SADC region there is no country that has close to fifty percent in terms of women participation, in individual forces, experts on missions and contingency troops. In terms of the way forward he expressed that there currently is a Comprehensive Draft SADC Regional Strategy and Framework for implementing Resolution 1325.

Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso, The South African Ambassador to Romania

Ambassador Mtintso stated that the main challenge facing the participation of women is in in decision-making. Therefore, there is need for strategies and tactics, negotiations and fighting, and sometimes a retreat with intent to come back with further steps than before. It is pivotal to have a survival kit, which includes training, empowerment not just on understanding the theory of gender, but also in understanding the world, she argued.

She expressed that it is unfortunate that women are sometimes used as agents for patriarchy and it is thus important to guard against being used as an agent for patriarchy. It is important to have a gender-friendly



constitution; have a legal framework and the policies that can empower women; have access to and independent institutions that have enforcement authority.

Josina Machel, Daughter of Graca Machel and survivor of domestic violence



Ms Machel indicated that when people look at the issue of peace and security they tend to ignore the context of community and domestic violence. People tend to equate peace and security with a militarised context and a context of war. She expressed that the issue of peace and security has two extremes: there is a context of war, where women's bodies are used as weapons of war, and there is the domestic one, which is usually forgotten. In order to address the domestic context, where women are insecure, there is a need to change the seeds of violence in people's minds and lives; there is need to look at communities ensure both women and men can feel safe, and can experience a peaceful and secure life.

Shannon Ebrahim, Foreign Editor for Independent Media

Ms Ebrahim talked about the role of the media. She began by commending UN Women for the work they have done through the years to ensure that the issue of women and peace and security remains high on the UN agenda as well as on national agendas. She expressed that there has been a significant improvement in the participation of women in peace and security processes:



- ❖ The number of senior women leaders is on the rise;
- ❖ Women's special envoys have been appointed;
- ❖ There is now the first female commander of a UN Peacekeeping Mission;
- ❖ The UN Security Council appointed a Special Representative on Sexual Violence

She indicated that research confirms that women's participation has a direct positive impact on negotiations and the sustainability of peace processes. The AU has also made great strides in this area:

- ❖ In 2014 the AU was the first continental organisation to appoint a special envoy on women and peace and security to ensure women's voices are heard
- ❖ The AU has advocated more participation by women in conflict resolution and peace-building and has hence increased the number of women involved in:
 - The AU Peace and Security Department
 - The AU Peace and Security Council
 - The Panel of the Wise

- ❖ The AU Commission has created a five-year gender, peace and security programme from 2015 to 2020 to develop strategies to increase women's participation in peace and security.
- ❖ The AU Commission has also started training programs within its member states to have more women peace mediators, election observers, gender advisors, peace-keepers and police.

The media is trying to put a spotlight on many of these issues, but a lot more still has to be done to show what is happening to women, she expressed. She stated that there are still a lot of difficulties and these include:

- ❖ Only three percent of the military officers in UN peacekeeping missions are women
- ❖ Only fifty-four percent of the countries have a national action plan for women and many without a budget to implement it

What can the media do to address this issue?

- ❖ The media needs to help prevent conflict; the media can look at being an early warning keeper and provide information on how countries are devolving into a civil war, hence address the root causes of these civil conflicts.
- ❖ The media can call for more women in peace-making, peace-building and peace-keeping, and also actual mediators and facilitators and leaders of peace processes to be women
- ❖ The media can call for those who commit crimes against women to be held accountable
- ❖ The media needs to ensure that there is no stereotyping of women and their communities by not depicting women as the victims, but rather show that women have agency in their everyday lives and that they have a role to play. The media has to highlight women's activism, and also empower the voices of civil society.

Yasmin Sooka, Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights



Ms Sooka expressed that it is important to understanding gender in politics and the link between patriarchy and power and why we are not really able to move many of these issues forward. There are eight resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Resolution 1325 addressed the importance of a gender perspective in UN peace-keeping and also called on parties in conflict to protect women from gender-based violence and it was premised on four pillars: the notion of prevention; the issue of protection; the participation of women; and peace-building. She indicated that there is a progression with the creation of an informal expert group on women, peace and security intended to advise Security Council Members on these issues in respect

of countries and topics on their agenda.

The key areas of the Global Study of are:

- ❖ Women's participation in peace-making;
- ❖ Protecting and promoting women's rights in humanitarian settings;
- ❖ The question of women's access to justice;
- ❖ The issue of peace-keeping.

The Global Report also deals with the question of who the key actors are:

- ❖ The role of the Security Council;
- ❖ What human rights mechanisms are there to promote this;
- ❖ The question of financing

She indicated that one of the findings of the Global Report is the notion of conflict in itself has changed; while conflicts are said to have been reduced, they have taken on new forms and what is seen in many countries is that these conflicts are protracted and they have become asymmetrical. This has a profound impact on the human rights of many people, particularly women and children and has led to is the biggest migration process since the end of WWII. The nature of the root causes of conflict has also change from economic strife or religious differences to religious extremism, ethnicity and of course identity politics.

It is important to have women's movement, which would allow women to get the foot in the door and have critical mass to advance a women's or feminist agenda. Empirical evidence has showed:

- ❖ When women are engaged in peace and security economic revitalization accelerates.
- ❖ When women are involved in humanitarian programmes the likelihood of the effectiveness and the success of those programmes increases.
- ❖ When women are targeted in post-conflict economic revitalization there tends to be faster and more equitable recovery

This is due to the fact that women always focus on spending that money on the family and they prioritise making sure that the family is well provided for. The Global Study also found that when women participated in the peace process there was a thirty-five percent increase in the probability of a peace agreement lasting for at least a period of fifteen years.

The Global Study also found that women believe that in order to counter violent extremism, women's rights should not be instrumentalised or securitised. The media world is driven by a particular stereotype of what is going on and therefore, in order to counter extremism, there needs to be a focus on how to create programmes for inclusiveness and look why many young people in western countries do not feel included, she argued. Other drivers of violence include:

- ❖ Climate change, which is driving new forms of poverty
- ❖ Lack of legal regime to deal with the behavior of trans-national corporations, many of which profiteer and exploit in our regions. There are no legal systems which actually holds corporates accountable,
- ❖ Lack of accountability and criminal accountability

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- ❖ It is important to work outside the state; working outside the patriarchal institutions would help strengthen community organisations, build and strengthen and create alliances *around* the state.

- ❖ What is being done to ensure that there are financing resources for peace-keeping mission programmes and other entrepreneurial skills that women require?
- ❖ How can the leadership of women be synergised to link AU Agenda 2063 to Agenda 2030 on Sustainable goals?
- ❖ How can AU Agenda 2062 and Agenda 2030 be realised as the day-to-day activity on the ground?
- ❖ SADC is still failing to have women leading mediation teams, yet there is a pool of women who are trained in this mediation?
- ❖ Discussions around peace and security have to include children, people with disabilities and the LGBTIQ community who continue to be marginalised by politics, the culture and some religious practices and beliefs specifically in Africa.
- ❖ Civil society organisations need to form better relationships and better networks between each other
- ❖ What role can the media and civil society play as partners in increasingly highlighting impunities against women?
- ❖ Information centres are needed in rural areas; these would act as a voice for the women and the communities that are under-developed and act as sources of information
- ❖ Plea to support school programmes that look at issues of subordinate masculinities and femininities
- ❖ There is a concern regarding the issue of food security; this has led to substandard food being imported by African countries. What is your view on this food that is coming to our countries or to Africa as a whole with different chemicals that are prone to cause disease or not good for our health? What is it that we are going to do about it?



RESPONSES FROM THE PANEL

Yasmin Sooka

Ms Sooka indicated transformative justice allows for women to occupy a space at the table and enjoy equality and human rights, which would enable them live their lives with dignity. Regarding the quality of food imported, she expressed that women need to be engaged, since they are activist consumers and governments have to be held accountable.

Shannon Ebrahim

Ms Ebrahim expressed that when people put together the international news pages they select articles from the news wires and primarily that would be from Reuters, AFP and AP, which are western-centric newswires and focus the news on what happens in Europe or North America. She indicated that Independent Media has started what we call the Africa News Agency [ANA] and they are trying to increase the number of people we have in Africa.

Jebbeh Forster

Ms Foster stated that there is an agenda for gender responsive peace-building and it speaks to visibility of women's issues and also a minimum allocation of at least fifteen percent of multi-donor task funds to address specific activities for women's empowerment. Often allocation of funding for women, when donors give money for humanitarian work tend to take least priority when resources are allocated. So if there is that call to donors, at least agencies would be forced to address issues of gender equality and women's empowerment, she argued. There is also a lack of political will when it comes to implementation; governments tend to be keen on coming up with all these policies and frameworks, when it comes to implementation there are all kinds of structural barriers and there are also the issues of attitude and patriarchy.

Dr Joseph Pitso

Dr Pitso expressed that the issue of peace-building is still essentially a male domain and it is as such construed preponderantly as a military-based thing and the issue of social security are not there. There is a lot of education that is needed in terms of the sensitizing, especially the Directorate on the Organ for Politics, Defence and Security. Regarding creating a synergy of the AU's Agenda 2063, the SDGs 2030, and the Beijing Platform, there is a group that is currently revising the gender protocol and have looked at elements that were there in the old protocol and aligned them with what is new in terms of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, as well as the Beijing Platform Plus20 review.

Ambassador Thenjiwe Mtintso

Ambassador Mtintso expressed that it is important to build better networks and rekindle the networks that have been there in South Africa and also in the region and the sub-region, and international networks and a gender-feminist-women's movement. There should be no space that women don't occupy. There is still insufficient tools, skill and education to do research, especially with issues of the theorizing and gendering the policy and budgeting, she argued.

CONCLUSION

It is essential to ensure that action is taken regarding the implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325, there is no space for excuses anymore. One of the excuses that come up is patriarchy. This Resolution gives women an

opportunity to move forward and claim the space for their peace and security. There is a need to develop clear strategies and carry out action collectively through all the networks that already exist. In order to overcome a lot of structural and institutional barriers, governments have to be committed, there should be effective advocacy from civil society organisations and gender activists, because government can pass a legislation and government has the authority to make that legislation effective irrespective of what culture and traditions. It was raised that ‘women’s transformation’ is a tricky term because its potential is anchored to privilege and perspective.

The analysis and recommendations included in this Policy Dialogue Report 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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