

## Key messages of the workshop

### “Connecting Resolution 1325 with SDG 5 and 16: A critical review on National Action Plans”

This workshop discussed current debates in the Women, Peace and Security agenda, 15 years after the adoption of the SCR 1325, and looked at the role of National Action Plans 1325 as an implementation tool. Key messages of the workshop were:

- Linking Resolution 1325 with SDG 5 and 16 is also about linking different security concepts, or, understand security in a comprehensive way as human security more broadly. The questions asked were: What kind of security do we promote with Resolution 1325? Do we invest in prevention of armed violence (physical protection), or in social infrastructure (social and economic security and rights)? Often the economic dimension is absent in security policies although the economic dimension is crucial to understand security for everyday life. For example, mobility is crucial to secure ones livelihood, in particular if husbands and men are absent and women take over responsibility as bread winners.
- Related to this is then the question which instrument is best suited in which context to address a concept of 'security for all'. As experiences from West Africa shows, in particular Mali that recently developed a National Action Plan 1325, the different women's human rights instrument such as CEDAW and Res 1325 should and can be used in a flexible manner depending on the context. When working with police to build awareness and capacities to provide protection of its citizen, both women and men, Res 1325 as a Security Council tool is often very helpful as an entry point and gives stronger legitimacy. When it comes to strengthening women's rights or women's livelihood in post-conflict situations, CEDAW may be better placed to promote gender equality.
- Findings of a shadow report of the Swiss NAP 1325 implementation by the Swiss civil society also recommend a stronger anchorage of Res 1325 in CEDAW to strengthen the women's human rights approach as against a 'protectionist' understanding of women's security and women's role in conflicts and fragility.
- Regarding participation of women in peace processes, a key aspect of Res 1325, it is important to critically reflect our understanding of participation and inclusion. We should not only 'count women', but 'make women count' (as the recently published study of the IPTI puts it). What matters is women's influence and women's strategic involvement in key policy areas. When promoting women's participation in peace processes, we therefore need to define the objectives more precise: is it about better representation of women, increase of women's influence, or consideration of gender aspects in specific policy areas?

In all cases it is crucial to have good analysis of the context, the existing experiences, strategies, stakeholders, different actors and the security systems/institutions and its accessibility... these are basic information in order to figure out the good combination of instrument and to identify the actors who have the respective ownership and knowledge, be aware that this needs a strong civil society network to make interventions transferable, sustainable, effective in terms of the comprehensive security situation of women.