

NATO Nations' Ways and Means of Promoting the Role of Women in Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control

Executive Summary upon the request from the United Nations

NATO is committed to the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and related Resolutions. NATO understands gender mainstreaming within a broader human security context as a multiplier of its work in all phases of the conflict cycle. It also strengthens NATO's efforts in non-conflict related activities, such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, combating Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), Mine Action (MA), and Arms Control (AC).

In 2010, NATO established an Action Plan for NATO and EAPC partner nations on Implementing gender mainstreaming. In the area of disarmament and AC, and in line with the Action Plan, the Arms Control and Coordination Section (ACCS) in Political Affairs and Security Policy Division (PASP) at NATO has initiated a process to mainstream gender in SALW-related activities in close cooperation with NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women Peace and security (WPS).

Based on the NATO/EAPC Action Plan on WPS, ACCS is currently establishing two sets of guidelines to integrate gender perspectives into its SALW and Arms Control related activities. To this end, ACCS has engaged member and partner nations to share lessons learned and best practices.

Current efforts involve consultations with NATO allied and partner nations aimed at identifying concrete measures for mainstreaming gender perspectives into NATO's operational SALW/MA and AC activities to be shared with nations and actors on the ground. This process includes discussions with other partner organizations such as the European External Action Service (EEAS), the Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of SALW (SEESAC), Small Arms Survey (SAS), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure consistency with international community's efforts.

Gender mainstreaming is already implemented in several projects implemented by the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA), in particular in Jordan (Explosive remnants of War Risk education and Security Sector Reform (SSR)) and in Mauritania (Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM)). Furthermore, NATO offers a separate module on gender mainstreaming in its yearly SALW/MA course at NATO School in Oberammergau.