

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 are a prerequisite for sustainable peace, development and democracy

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

The resolution calls on the UN system and Member States to take concrete measures to:

- ❑ increase the participation of women in conflict prevention and peace support operations and support women's peace initiatives in conflict areas;
- ❑ ensure the participation of women in institutions and in decision-making in post-conflict situations and in transition processes from conflict to peace;
- ❑ strengthen the protection of the human rights and special needs of women and girls in connection with war and conflict
- ❑ incorporate a gender perspective in peace support, security-building and humanitarian operations.

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. Use is not made of their experience and knowledge in conflict prevention operations or in connection with the reconstruction of conflict-affected societies. Women are often under-represented in the institutions established through peace agreements and do not fully participate in decision-making on an equal footing with men. At the same time as women and girls may be involved in warfare as actors, often they are also particularly vulnerable during and after armed conflicts. It is not uncommon for gender-related violence, such as men's violence against women, to be 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, at the forefront of work to reverse this development. Women are actors who must participate in all stages of peace efforts, including prevention of armed conflicts. They must be included to define the problems, define the need for

protection, make analyses, present proposals and solutions, and negotiate and carry through decisions. In order to achieve the aims of the Resolution, increased direct participation by women is required in the first instance, but, in addition, all actors involved in work for peace and security must adopt a stronger gender and gender equality perspective.

The work of the Government on Resolution 1325 is based on a holistic view of security, development and human rights (HR), a perspective that is also at the core of the UN's ongoing reform work. The link between development, security and human rights (HR) is of central importance to Sweden's foreign and security policy and also to its policy for global development (PGD). A rights perspective must run through all of the policy for global development, at the same as gender equality and security are two of its particular main threads.

Implementation of Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is both an aim in its own right and a way of reaching the objectives of 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 contributes to democracy, increased respect for human rights and development. It contributes to the fight against poverty by, for instance, drawing on all the experience, knowledge and resources in our society within the framework of development cooperation. Implementation of UNSCR 1325 also contributes to increased acceptance of, and support for, our international endeavours. Measures to combat 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 the preparation, implementation and evaluation of peace-support operations help them to solve their tasks more efficiently. A distinct gender and gender equality perspective in which the situation and conditions of women and girls are given clear attention is also needed in humanitarian relief during and after conflicts.

Resolution 1325 focuses on situations before, during and after a conflict. It complements the broader work carried out at the international level for gender equality, development and the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls. Arenas where this work takes place include the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on the Status of Women, CSW, which follows up the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 as part of its work. Relevant work is also carried out 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 in 1994. Work at a general level 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 work on Resolution 1325 complements and is part of the Government's action to incorporate a gender equality perspective into all policy areas and

all activities carried out by the Government Offices. Alongside this, the Government has adopted 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 an action plan against prostitution and human trafficking, particularly women and children, for sexual purposes (2006). These commitments can strengthen implementation of Resolution 1325.

A Swedish action plan based on experience and broad commitment

Since the adoption of Resolution 1325, Sweden has actively advocated the necessity that commitments made result in concrete measures that change and improve the situation of women and girls in conflicts. The establishment in December 2004 of 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, Employment and Communications provided a mechanism for a more systematic, effective and coordinated implementation of Resolution 1325 in Sweden's national and international work.

The group has had two main tasks: to initiate a number of projects, seminars and other activities in order to immediately intensify the implementation of Resolution 1325 and, in parallel with this, to develop and gain acceptance and support a national plan of action. These two processes have been mutually reinforcing and experience from the specific actions taken has provided guidance for the development of the plan.

The scope of the Resolution is reflected in the broad range of measures taken by Sweden. For instance, in recent years:

- ❑ The Swedish Armed Forces has started a more conscious initiative to increase the number of women conscripts and officers able to participate in international operations. Projects like GenderForce develop concrete methods 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 of gender and peace support, in part to provide support for other government authorities.
- ❑ The Swedish Rescue Services Agency has drawn up guidelines for the implementation of the Resolution in its operations and, in particular, the humanitarian disaster and relief 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 initiatives to increase the proportion of women in the Swedish police contingents in peace support

operations, at the same time as training for personnel has been evaluated continuously.

- ❑ Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) has developed methods and policies for work on development and security, which also include gender equality issues.
- ❑ The Folke Bernadotte Academy has systematically incorporated Resolution 1325 in its planning and implementation of training courses and in special projects.
- ❑ An ethical network comprising Swedish organisations and authorities has developed a recommended code of conduct for personnel in international operations. The code provides a basis for the development by participating actors of their own ethical guidelines and codes of conduct.
- ❑ The Government has given financial grants to a range of Swedish and international NGOs for methods development, training, the expression of opinions 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; examples of this include launching the proposal for civilian observers and providing support to gender adviser functions.
- ❑ Sweden has played a proactive role for the establishment of a code of conduct and an action programme for implementation of Resolution 1325 in the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) including its concrete actions by, for instance, appointing a gender equality adviser. The appointment of a post as an adviser on gender issues in the EU operation in DR Congo is a concrete example.
- ❑ Sweden has initiated a process to strengthen the participation of women in conflict prevention and crisis management operations within the framework of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- ❑ Sweden has contributed to the implementation of the NATO/EAPC anti-trafficking policy by organising a seminar focusing on training.
- ❑ Special attention has been given to strengthening the participation, security and protection of women in the formulation of 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, whose aims included the development of practical methods based on previous experience. Together with

South Africa Sweden is co-chairing the global initiative “The Partners for Gender Justice in Conflict Affected Countries”.

- A special working group has been appointed under the International Humanitarian Law Delegation in the Government Offices to identify 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. This has been hard work, in part because the commitment to these issues varies in different countries. Most of the measures taken are starting points for processes that require continued commitment. They will therefore be priority areas for the Government’s future work. In many cases, new and reinforced actions are also needed. The activities laid down in the action plan therefore represent both a continuation of initiatives already underway in order to achieve greater impact and effect, and the launch of new initiatives.

The accelerated work in recent years to implement Resolution 1325 has also resulted in lessons that form the basis for future activities and have influenced the formulation of the national action plan. A number of challenges can be identified on the basis of this experience:

- The overall – and growing – support for Resolution 1325 must also result in agreement on the prioritisation of issues concerning its implementation in individual situations.
- Growing awareness of the Resolution must also be followed by deeper knowledge at all levels about its implementation.
- Overall strategies and programmes of action must be supplemented by concrete actions in specific situations, such as peace operations or a peace negotiation. Basic objectives must be formulated and given concrete expression to meet the challenges in the countries and regions concerned.
- The importance and value of action to strengthen women’s participation and security must be made clear and seen as an integral and necessary element if efforts to promote peace and development are to meet the goals set up.
- The mutual dependence of the national and international level must be made clear, as must the special responsibility that countries have in their capacity as members of international organisations, donors and contributors of troops and police. To achieve the aims of the Resolution, measures are required that affect the activities of government authorities and that call for long-term reform work in several cases.
- 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: government authorities, NGOs, research institutions, international organisations and other countries. Views 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 common 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, is 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. Increased participation by 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 operations and other peace support operations, security-building operations.

Sweden will continue to be at the forefront in terms of both national implementation and action to move developments forward at international level. Achieving this requires the development and reinforcement of ongoing activities and the taking of a number of new initiatives. They involve 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 the action plan, the Government will give priority to measures with the following aims:

- ❑ Women in conflict areas will participate fully and on an equal footing 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 will be supported.
- ❑ Protection of women and girls in connection with conflicts will be strengthened through actions that build on women's own analysis of the need for protection and that enhance security and create opportunities for participation without limiting the freedom of movement of women and girls.
- ❑ More women will take part in international peace support and security-building operations 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 cooperates.

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 action in the areas already initiated in combination with new initiatives to meet deficiencies identified. A major challenge in this phase is to ensure that the policy documents produced concerning Resolution 1325 also inform action in the field. It is necessary to move from words to action. It is important to have report-back requirements throughout the chain in order to achieve real effects. To reach results and improve the daily lives of women and girls around the world, commitment and action are required by a large number of stakeholders, at both national and international level. Sweden's action plan therefore contains activities for implementation at three levels:

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

The responsibility for implementing Resolution 1325 is shared. Representatives of civil society, including organisations and networks that bring together women and girls and/or work to promoting gender equality, are vital cooperation partners over and above official representatives. This also applies to information and analysis, training, and capacity enhancement. Cooperation with organisations and networks in actual or potential conflict areas is of particular importance. Work to implement Resolution 1325 must be much more of a shared common concern of all actors and also of both women and men.

Actions at different levels are mutually reinforcing and must be coordinated and take place in parallel. The participation of women in activities to support peace makes demands on the available resource base and is facilitated by an increased proportion of women in national defence forces, police services and other relevant authorities. A gender equality perspective in all phases of international undertaking also requires enhanced training activities at national level. Action at national level involves both taking measures so that the Government and Swedish authorities fulfil the undertakings in the Resolution in consultation with NGOs and being a reliable dialogue partner and actor for regional and global implementation. The EU and other regional organisations must live up to the requirements for UN action in the area of peace and security. In the longer term, regional actors should be able to develop a stricter framework of rules.

At national level, work to fully implement Resolution 1325 primarily involves all ministries in the Government Offices that are engaged in peace support and security-building activities, human rights and/or gender equality issues (Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Defence, Justice, and Industry, Employment and Communications) as well as the authorities that train and deploy personnel for 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 embassies and other representations play a special role, particularly in conflict and post-conflict areas, in vulnerable developing countries and regions. Cooperation with active NGOs help to strengthen Sweden's overall commitment at national and international levels.

National level

Improved forms for national cooperation, knowledge and methods development and resources

- ❑ Exchanges of information, knowledge 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. These exchanges must also include associations that represent women and girls and the research community. The Government will set up a resolution 1325-delegation to meet twice yearly under the leadership of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in order 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 drawn on and strengthened by identifying, compiling and contributing to the spread of relevant research and in other ways. Special emphasis should be placed on empirical analyses of forms for the participation of women in conflict prevention and peace support, in order to identify effective methods and lessons. The Folke Bernadotte Academy will be commissioned to form a platform for collaboration on these issues during the period in question together with the National Defence College and other bodies.
- ❑ The Government will continue to support and cooperate with Swedish NGOs in work to implement Resolution 1325, at the national level and together with international cooperation partners, primarily in conflict areas. Through a close dialogue with civil society, Sweden can help to spread 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 the use of the existing Ministry for Foreign Affairs appropriation for conflict management and peace support, special attention will be given to possibilities of carrying out targeted activities to increase women's participation in conflict prevention operations, crisis management and peace-building, and/or to strengthen the protection of women and girls who are particularly vulnerable in armed conflict situations.
- ❑ The assessment of other grant applications for peace-support and security-building activities received by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs will take account of the contribution of the particular project to the implementation of Resolution 1325 and the integration of gender equality and rights perspectives.

- The Government will use appropriation directions, instructions, dialogue, commissions and other agency and programme governance documents to place clearer demands on the relevant authorities to intensify efforts to implement Resolution 1325. A Resolution 1325 perspective must be reflected in the relevant appropriation directions by 2007.
- Practical instruments such as checklists, guidelines, instructions and supporting material for dialogues will be developed so as to incorporate a Resolution 1325 perspective in a firm and concrete way in the regular operations of the relevant ministries and authorities in relation to countries in or likely to be in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Active Swedish commitment to conflict prevention, conflict management and policy development

- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida will use the possibility of giving strategic financial contributions and other forms of support for capacity enhancement 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 initiative to achieve more active Swedish capacity for conflict management and resolution. When Swedish women and men are directly involved in peace processes and work for peace as, for example, mediators or in similar functions, special attention will be given to these issues.
- Swedish embassies and other Swedish actors in conflict areas will be involved to a greater extent. National and local women's organisations will be important cooperation partners.
- Implementation of the Resolution should also be given attention in various national consultation groups, such as within the EU, or in dialogues with other donors. The possibility of country-based support groups may be considered.
- When Swedish delegations visit conflict areas, the programme should include talks with women and representatives of women's organisations. The delegations should consist of both women and men. Talks with relevant representatives – men and women – of governments, parties to a conflict and international, regional and national organisations will also cover issues concerning women's participation, human rights and security, such as the 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, will be strengthened. The Folke Bernadotte Academy will continue through training and exercises, and in other ways, to reinforce the gender equality perspective in early warning, conflict prevention and action to bring about dialogue and mediation.

- ❑ Sida's work on conflict prevention will continue to take account of a gender equality perspective.
- ❑ The implementation of Resolution 1325 and the strengthening of women's participation and protection will 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 objective of contributing to equitable and sustainable global development, policy coherence will be strengthened in order to promote gender equality issues in conflict prevention and management. This requires in-depth analysis and practical methods.
- ❑ The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sida and other relevant ministries and authorities will continue to incorporate a gender equality perspective into action to promote development, including development cooperation in potential or current conflict areas, in order to help strengthen the participation of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights, power and influence.
- ❑ Cooperation strategies, multi-year programmes, 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 will include women, and women's organisations. Attention should be given to issues concerning education for women in conflict areas in order to strengthen their chances of self-determination and financial independence in this way.
- ❑ Work to strengthen women's enjoyment of their human rights and to integrate a clear gender equality perspective into efforts to support the strengthening of the judicial system in post-conflict countries will continue and 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 longer term, this may also help to prevent gender-related violence, such as men's violence against women and girls, in a broader perspective.
- ❑ As co-chair of "The Partners for Gender Justice in Conflict Affected Countries", the Government is assuming special responsibility through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for taking specific measures in a number of conflict-affected and post-conflict countries and also for developing 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 action 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 education, training and recruitment as well as broader issues of reform of the judicial system.
- ❑ The Swedish Rescue Services Agency will give attention to the special needs of girls and women in work 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 operations will increase. The proportion of women in international service will at least correspond to the proportion of women in the recruitment group. The relevant authorities will be instructed to review job descriptions, working environment issues and recruitment models and difficulties, as well as to compile relevant statistics and take additional measures.
- ❑ More women candidates will be identified and nominated for high positions in international operations.
- ❑ When mechanisms for the recruitment and training of personnel for civil crisis management operations are developed, priority will be given to the need for an increased share of women in international operations.
- ❑ The responsible authorities will 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 will have undergone training (or in special cases demonstrated knowledge in some other way) that includes Resolution 1325, conditions specific to the operation, the relevant legislation and ethical issues. During the period, the Folke Bernadotte Academy will be commissioned to develop, in close consultation with the relevant authorities, forms for cooperation on material for and the 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 in the planning, preparation, education and training, implementation and evaluation of and prior to peace support and humanitarian operations. One instrument of this type can be the design of a model mission or step-by-step checklist for 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 work to ensure that compliance with and the follow-up of codes of conduct and ethical guidelines for personnel in peace-keeping operations are strengthened; these codes and guidelines include the UN Secretary-General's bulletin on zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, the EU code of conduct for crisis management operations, the OSCE's code of conduct and decisions on conduct and responsibility for personnel in international operations as well as the bans on purchase of sexual services and purchase of sexual acts from children.
- Where necessary, the relevant authorities will formulate their own, supplementary codes of conduct and regularly survey regulatory frameworks and methods for application and follow-ups. Exchanges of experience should be sought between different authorities, and also between 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

European Union

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 the 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 in Member States

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

- In different institutions, committees and working groups, Sweden will continue to play a proactive role in making Resolution 1325 a natural part of the 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. To achieve this, concrete and practical methods need to be developed in both institutions and Member States. Sweden will also take an active part in exchanges of experience that have been initiated.
- 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 battle group 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 sex-disaggregated statistics and analysis of the causes of the current distribution of women and men in ESDP operations. Sweden should both set a good example and work for the deepening of statistical and analytical 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 programmes and activities, including the working programme for the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) and the EU Group on Training, and in mission-specific training 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 work to accelerate implementation of and compliance with the code of conduct for personnel in ESDP operations, through training and in other ways. The relevant authorities bear a special responsibility in this context.

- ❑ Activities will be encouraged to support in other ways implementation of, compliance with 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 work to implement Resolution 1325 in ESDP.

- ❑ Sweden will continue to work to ensure that the mandates of the EU's special representatives (EUSR) take account of 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 other holders of high posts should be encouraged, both internally in 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 existing leadership and management structures and must 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 management 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 will make efforts to ensure that overall objectives are transformed into concrete measures.

- The EU's political dialogue with other countries and organisations has to include issues concerning women's active participation, security and needs. When representatives of the EU institutions or presidency visit conflict areas, their programme has to contain talks with national and local women and women's organisations. Issues concerning women's participation and security have to 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 implementation of the EU's action plan for the 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 has to 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 work actively to implement Resolution 1325.

- The Government will continue to use the prevailing consensus in Nordic cooperation to press forward developments in international organisations. The exchange 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 the OSCE's peace support and security-building activities in all three dimensions (human, political-military, and economic/environment-related). Clear demands will be made in connection with the Secretary-General's annual reports on implementation of the OSCE's action plan to promote gender equality (2004), which has to give special attention to the implementation of Resolution 1325.
- Sweden will continue to be press forward 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

- the reports of participating states and OSCE institutions 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 affected. 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 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 accelerate endeavours 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 the 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 cooperation by various UN bodies 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 Office in their task of increasing the participation of women and integrating a gender equality perspective into their work in both concrete conflict areas and in special substantive 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 work for, and report on the measures they have taken for, the full involvement of women in the dialogue with the UN system in the field, as well as 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 the implementation of the goal of increasing the proportion of women at all levels in peace support operations and will, to this end, 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 UN missions are currently often only represented by military observers. Deploying civilian observers will improve possibilities of increasing the proportion of women in missions and will also contribute to strengthening the civilian component in today's multifunctional missions.
- ❑ Sweden will continue to support a development towards a situation in which implementation of Resolution 1325 becomes a clear and integral part of the mandate for UN peace support activities 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 work to develop, implement and follow up the UN strategy for the prevention and elimination of sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel on peace-keeping missions, including its ban on the purchase of sexual services as well as the purchase of sexual acts from children. Improved training is required along with 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 work to ensure that training and training material developed and supplied by the UN includes issues concerning the participation, security and vulnerability of women and girls. This is particularly important with regard to 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, such as DPKO, OCHA, UNDP (including BCPR), UNIFEM, UNHCR and UNAIDS, Sweden will work to ensure that, where relevant, these bodies give attention 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 work 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 the relevant 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 support group for Resolution 1325.

Implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the action plan

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

Priorities between different actions will be set continuously in order both to provide scope for strategic initiatives and to make use of 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 management processes.

The inter-ministry Resolution 1325 group will coordinate work in the Government Offices on implementing the action plan. The group will conduct a discussion about the application and further development of the plan. Each ministry affected is responsible for the concrete implementation in its own operations and in the operations of subordinate authorities. Regular reports will be made to the commissioning group of State Secretaries as well as in connection with meetings of the proposed Delegation for Monitoring Implementation of Resolution 1325.