



# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

## Gender Equality in Peacekeeping Operations

“ It’s a simple equation - women’s meaningful participation in conflict prevention and peacekeeping make our missions more effective and efficient. ”

USG DPKO, Jean-Pierre Lacroix

## ABOUT DPKO AND DFS

United Nations Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support is one of the key instruments available to the UN responsible for maintaining international peace and security. DPKO plans, prepares, administers and directs UN peacekeeping operations around the world and is Headquartered in New York.

DFS plans, mobilizes and sustains operations and heads the Global Service Center in Brindisi and Valencia, as well as the Shared Service Center in Entebbe.

## A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION CONSISTS OF MILITARY, POLICE AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, WHO WORK TO DELIVER SECURITY, POLITICAL AND EARLY PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT.

The departments are also mandated by the Security Council to implement the Women Peace and Security agenda. In line with agreed coordination frameworks, policies and guidelines, peacekeeper missions at country level coordinate the activities of various actors closely and ensure joint planning and programming with relevant UN partners in areas of mutual priorities.



## WHY WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY?

It is well known that violent conflict disproportionately effect women and girls and exacerbates pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination. They are also active agents of peace and participants in armed conflict. Yet their role as key players, change and agents of peace has been largely unrecognized. Since 2000, the UN Security Council has adopted eight resolutions to highlight the linkage between women's roles and experiences in conflict and peace and security and advance UN goals and mandates regarding gender equality, non-discrimination and respect for human rights of all.

Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the first time, recognised the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. It acknowledged the contributions women and girls make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and highlighted the importance of their equal and full participation, as active agents in peace and security.

## SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

- **Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)** Women, Peace and Security
- **Security Council resolution 1820 (2008)** Sexual Violence
- **Security Council resolution 1888 (2009)** Protecting women & girls from sexual violence
- **Security Council resolution 1889 (2009)** Improvement in Women's participation in peace processes

## WHERE ARE THE PEACEKEEPERS?

**MINURSO**, Western Sahara **15** Current missions  
**MINUSCA**, CAR **5** Continents  
**MINUSMA**, Mali **10** missions with a direct mandate to protect civilians, notably women and girls  
**MINUSTAH**, Haiti  
**MONUSCO**, D.R. of Congo  
**UNAMID**, Darfur  
**UNDOF**, Golan  
**UNFICYP**, Cyprus  
**UNIFIL**, Lebanon  
**UNISFA**, Abyei  
**UNMIK**, Kosovo  
**UNMIL**, Liberia  
**UNMISS**, South Sudan  
**UNMOGIP**, India & Pakistan  
**UNTSO**, Middle East

**95%** in mission with POC mandate  
**94,154** Uniformed personnel:  
**(79,175 troops, 11,527 police, 1,496 military observers, and 1,956 staff officers)**  
**4,888** International civilian personnel\*  
**9,943** Local civilian personnel\*  
**116** Troop and police contributing countries



(\*As of May 2017)

- **Security Council resolution 1960 (2010)** Reiterates call to end sexual violence
- **Security Council resolution 2106 (2013)** operationalizing current obligations
- **Security Council resolution 2122 (2013)** affirms an "integrated approach" to sustainable peace
- **Security Council resolution 2242 (2015)** strategies and resources regarding the implementation of the WPS Agenda



## HOW IS THE WPS AGENDA IMPLEMENTED?

**GENDER RESPONSIVE PEACEKEEPING:** The process of integrating gender requires assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislations, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is an approach for making the concerns and experiences of women and men an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The goal is to achieve gender equality. Each component of a peacekeeping mission must integrate a gender perspective in all its functions and tasks from start-up to draw-down.

**GENDER PARITY:** A gender balanced workforce demonstrates DPKO's core values and makes it a model for the communities it serves. It also ensures efficiency and productivity: The participation of women as peacekeepers for example contributes to overall success of the mission by enhancing effectiveness, improving the mission's image, access and credibility vis -a -vis the affected population, including by making UN peacekeepers more approachable to women.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES:** Inclusiveness, Non discrimination, Gender Parity and Efficiency

## WHAT IS THE WPS MANDATE FOR PKO?

UN peacekeepers are the main actors -among a range of actors across the UN system including Member States - in the implementation of the WPS mandates as established in the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

DPKO/DFS addresses three -of the four – pillars that support achieving the goals of SCR 1325: Participation, Prevention and Protection.

**PARTICIPATION:** DPKO/DFS facilitate women's' participation across all functions and components of peacekeeping operations. This includes enabling women as candidates and voters in political processes, in national governance and security sector structures, as oversight observers in ceasefire agreements and in conflict management and prevention and in peace processes.

**PREVENTION:** DPKO/DFS integrates a gender analysis using information about – and from – women on their priorities, gender norms and roles; vulnerabilities and risks to violence, distinct conflict impacts and their gendered root causes into all actions, frameworks and guidance that informs prevention for sustainable peace.

**PROTECTION:** DPKO/DFS strengthens efforts that address the specific protection of the rights and needs of women and girls, including reporting and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence and domestic implementation of regional and international laws. Protection of women and girls is one of the foundational principles of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and is further emphasised particularly in 1820, 1888, 1960 and 2106.



Women, in conflict, continue to be stereotyped as 'vulnerable victims' despite documented evidence of the critical role they play in peace and security. By incorporating a gender perspective within peacekeeping missions, DPKO continues to make progress in translating the promise of Resolution 1325 into concrete action.

**PEACEKEEPERS:** Strive to enhance accountability for the violation of women's human rights, establish mechanisms for prevention of all forms of violence including sexual and gender based violence, and assist host countries in fighting impunity and supporting redress for survivors through the:

- Provision of strategic advice and guidance to facilitate political commitment towards increasing women's meaningful participation across local, national and regional institutions mandated to achieve peace and security;
- Strengthening capacities of national and local level actors through training and awareness raising campaigns;
- Contribution to sub regional and regional stability processes by strengthening partnerships with women's civil society organisations and implementing targeted initiatives where appropriate and viable;
- Evidence based advocacy and sensitization with strategic partners at national and regional levels to ensure gender responsive, democratic and peaceful means of conflict management and peace building across the functions including rule of law, SSR, DDR and PoC priorities.

## DPKO MANDATE AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

### on Women, Peace and Security

**Legitimacy and experience** of peacekeeping missions make them well positioned to advance the elements of the WPS resolutions given their mandates, their often-extensive field presence, over seven decades of experience and the access of its senior leaders to national governments. DPKO has constantly restructured itself to address changes in the nature and scope of contemporary peacekeeping operations.

**Improved Institutional arrangements** include recruitment of gender advisers and women protection advisers in civilian components, gender advisers in uniformed forces; Efforts to increase the numbers of women in military and police; and the role of UN senior leadership in political engagement and advocacy at the highest levels both in the field and in the Security Council.

**Gender Affairs Unit and gender specialists** have improved mission's effectiveness in discharging their mandates. Senior Gender Advisers located in the Office of the SRSG offer strategic advice to the senior mission leadership on integrating gender perspectives into the mission activities; give technical programmatic guidance and coordinate trainings on gender and women, peace and security.

**Consensus building** is enhanced by the cross-cutting nature of peacekeeping operations and the WPS agenda offer DPKO a unique platform to forge stronger partnerships with the variety of actors - including women's groups, host governments, regional bodies and other UN entities - for synergy and increase advocacy for gender equality, women's empowerment, women's rights.



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