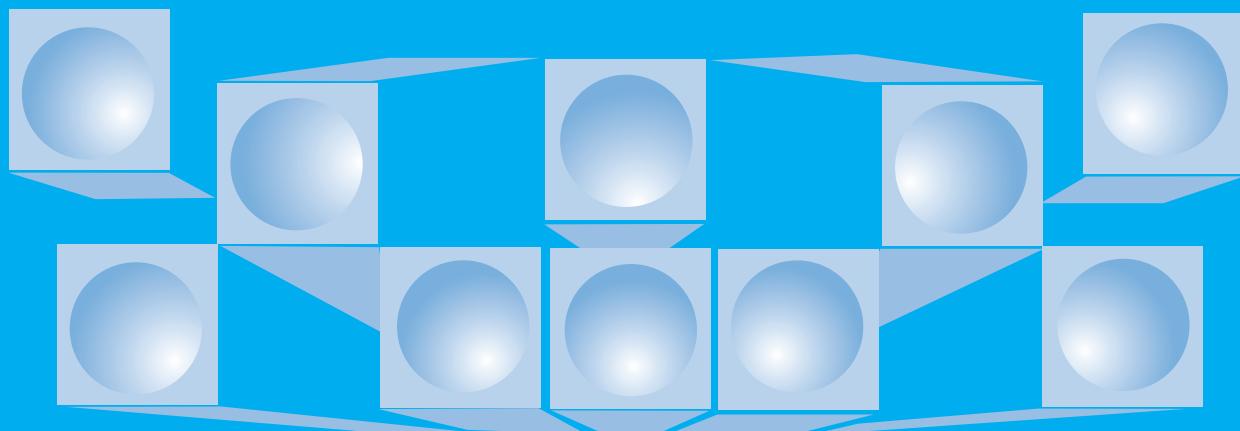


# Reassessing Institutional Support For Security Council Resolution 1325

Defining the UNFPA Role and Strengthening  
Support for Women Affected by Conflict



Consultative Meeting: Bucharest, Romania, 17-20 October 2005





**REASSESSING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT  
FOR  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325**

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**United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**



## FOREWORD

The impact of war on communities -- the extreme human suffering and the economic, social and political damage wrought -- has been well documented. Over the past 30 years, the nature of conflict has changed. War no longer takes place between armies on remote battlefields. It has entered our communities, our schools and our homes; civilians have increasingly become targets of warfare. In settings where civil strife and lawlessness are rife, women are at greater vulnerability for gender-based violence. In post-conflict and reconstruction efforts, women are often excluded from peace processes. The grass-roots activism of women's civil society groups and international women's organizations and networks has brought more attention to the multidimensional nature of women's roles in armed conflict, including their victimization as well as their efforts in conflict prevention, peace-building and peace processes.

In October 2000, acknowledging the disparate impact of armed conflict on women as well as the ways in which women contribute to peace and security, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This landmark resolution calls for action related to women's experiences in conflict settings, during times of transition to peace and in post-conflict settings, during reconstruction. It calls upon all parties to document the impact of war on women's lives, including gender-based violence, and calls for increased protection of women in conflict settings. The resolution also calls for increased representation of women in peace-building and peace processes, including peacekeeping missions. The resolution advocates that all parties facilitate women's involvement in post-conflict reconstruction efforts to ensure that their societies are founded on justice and inclusion.

Through its mission, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has traditionally recognized the distinct experiences of women in conflict settings. In collaboration with international partners and donors, and local women's organizations, UNFPA has responded to women's reproductive health needs and to gender-based violence. Furthermore, UNFPA has been a forerunner in implementing resolution 1325 and advocating that other parties act swiftly to move the resolution from rhetoric to reality. In 2000, UNFPA participated in the United Nations study on the impact of conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the dimensions of gender in conflict-resolution and peace processes. In 2001, UNFPA organized a consultative meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, to examine the impact of conflict on women and girls and to formulate strategies and tools to ensure that reproductive health programmes and women's empowerment interventions accurately respond to the needs of women. Since the passage of resolution 1325, UNFPA has organized several training sessions for women's civil society groups on leadership and negotiation.

This report of the UNFPA consultative meeting, *Reassessing Institutional Support for Security Council Resolution 1325: Defining the UNFPA Role and Strengthening Support for Women Affected by Conflict*, sets out UNFPA strategies for implementing resolution 1325, particularly with regard to preventing and responding to gender-based violence. The

meeting, held in Bucharest, Romania, 17-20 October 2005, was a forum for UNFPA staff, international experts and women from the front lines to share experiences and develop networks.

The Women, Peace and Security Initiative of the Technical Support Division of UNFPA organized the meeting, with overall coordination by Ms. Sahir Abdul-Hadi. The UNFPA country office in Romania hosted the meeting and was integral to its coordination. The UNFPA Division for Arab States, Europe and Central Asia (DASECA) provided administrative and financial support.

The momentum with which women have mobilized to formulate and implement Security Council resolution 1325 illustrates that change for women is possible. Yet much remains to be done to ensure that the resolution is implemented and materializes change for women worldwide. In moving forward, the international community must focus on fulfilling the unmet promises of resolution 1325, as identified by women on the ground. UNFPA is well positioned to lead this effort. Critical to its leadership in this arena, UNFPA is renewing and strengthening support for the international and civil society groups -- the architects of resolution 1325 -- that continue to press for its fulfilment as part of the international agenda.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CST	Country Technical Services Team
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
GBV	Gender-based violence
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
IASC	Inter-agency Standing Committee
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IDP	Internally displaced person
IEC	Information, education and communication
INGO	International non-governmental organization
INSTRAW	International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (United Nations)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OCHA	Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs
RTI	Respiratory tract infection
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
STI	Sexually transmitted infection
TNI	Indonesian National Military
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
VCT	Voluntary counselling and testing
WHO	World Health Organization



Meeting Participants



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