
**Estonia's Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution
1325
on Women, Peace and Security
in Estonia, 2010-2014**

Final Implementation Report

Introduction

1. In October 2000, UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 (hereinafter UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security, which paid particular attention to the fact that wars and conflicts have a disproportionately harmful impact on women and children.
2. In order to promote this issue in Estonia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia was noted the document "Estonia's Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Estonia 2010–2014" at the cabinet meeting in October 2010. The Action Plan stipulated national and international activities for different areas and the authority responsible for each area.
3. The Final report contains a summary of the implementation of the Action Plan during the whole period of 2010–2014.

Summary

4. Execution of the Action Plan 2010–2014 for implementing UNSCR 1325 can be considered successful. Estonia has actively spoken on UNSCR 1325 subjects on the international arena and has increased domestic awareness. When meeting the goals of UNSCR 1325, a close cooperation on international level, between various administrative agencies and civic society is extremely important and it has functioned well during the past five years. Although progress was made during those five years, it is important to continue working towards achieving UNSCR 1325 goals, including increasing awareness in the areas of administration of various institutions and in the society at large, as well as improve the exchange of information between the parties. A good cooperation is a prerequisite for drafting a new Action Plan.
5. When implementing UNSCR 1325, the indicators for evaluating the results of activities deserve attention. Estonia's Action Plan links specific activities with indicators; implementation reports, which have been submitted over the years, demonstrate that due to the indicators and the reporting obligation set by the Action Plan, it is possible to prepare a systemic overview primarily of the achievements of the government, but also of the achievements of the NGOs and the cooperation between the parties. However, this topic is difficult to assess due to the complexity of using statistical data to describe the development of areas under discussion because:
 - a) only financial allocations for development and humanitarian aid are clearly measurable;
 - b) it is difficult to establish a term for the implementation of qualitative measures and ensure budgetary resources for the implementation of the set objectives;
 - c) it is difficult to assess the success of informing the public.

Therefore, the report is qualitative rather than quantitative when assessing most of the activities.

I. Political and diplomatic activities in international organizations

A. At the level of international organizations

6. Estonia has been politically and diplomatically active in international organizations during the entire period. Estonia has informed the EU, OSCE, UN and NATO about its activities and has forwarded overviews of its activities to be included in the reports of the aforementioned organizations. Estonia has also submitted its positions (including on areas that are important to Estonia, such as education, IT and communication) to the bodies of these organizations, e.g. the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Estonia has introduced its UNSCR 1325 related activity in Estonia's development and humanitarian aid cooperation partner countries through the international organisations.
7. During the years, Estonia has introduced the procedure for preparing its Action Plan and its lessons to the states who are still developing it; Estonia has participated actively in meetings and seminars, looking for better ways of reaching the goals of the resolution.
8. In addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Social Affairs also contributed actively to Estonia's international activities regarding UNSCR 1325.

B. At national level

9. In foreign communication, Estonia has introduced the Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 to military attachés accredited to Estonia and to the diplomatic corps residing in Tallinn.

II. Bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, and humanitarian assistance to improve the conditions of women in post-conflict situations

A. At the level of international organizations

10. Estonia has supported international organizations, whose activity is aimed mainly at the goals of UNSCR 1325: the UN Development Programme, the UN Population Fund, the UN Women, the UN Girls' Education Initiative and the UN Children's Fund.
11. When providing humanitarian aid, gender aspect has always been taken into account if possible; supporting the alleviation of the situation of women and children forms the majority of the allocated finances. An overview of voluntary donations to international development cooperation and humanitarian aid organizations is available at <http://www.vm.ee/en/taxonomy/term/55>.

B. At national level

12. Throughout the whole duration of the Action Plan, Estonia has supported development cooperation projects on international and national levels that are aimed completely or

partly at the situation of women and children and gender equality. Additionally, it must be taken into account that an increase in women's awareness, self-help skills and other knowledge is the side effect of most development cooperation projects. Several projects are long-term, which is important because the goals of UNSCR 1325 cannot be reached quickly and the new values, skills, etc. must take root in the society. Information on development cooperation (including amounts, project descriptions) is available in the database of Estonian development cooperation at <https://rakendused.vm.ee/akta/index.php?language=eng>.

III. Increasing the number of experts on gender issues and the provision of training for them, as well as increasing general awareness of women, peace and security in institutions dealing with peace and security

A. At the level of international organizations

13. The Action Plan of the Coordination Bureau of the Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) includes an introduction of UNSCR 1325 principles to the officials¹ of the PBGB who are sent on international civilian missions, serve in international organizations or are on a long-term assignment abroad. The pre-mission training that is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also includes a section on gender-specific knowledge. The content of the training depends on the nature of the mission and on local situation.
14. The Ministry of Defence has been quite modest in regard to the principles of UNSCR 1325 in the context of international operations; therefore, this issue has been discussed only briefly at the meetings. The importance of gender aspect is increasing in the operations of the EU and NATO, including at the managerial level, and increasing the awareness must be supported. Estonian experts participate in respective discussions.

B. At national level

15. Increasing the number of and training experts on gender is not a separate activity; rather, it intertwines closely with the main activities of administrative agencies. Increasing awareness of women, peace and security issues is a clear and comprehensive priority in Estonia. For example, these issues are included in the activities of the PBGB, the Ministry of Defence, as well as agencies in its administrative field. The activities and responsibilities of these agencies are clearly defined, and as a result, quite specific, primarily in aspects that concern international civilian and military missions and operations.
16. It is important that the topics of UNSCR 1325 and gender equality are discussed on all levels of Estonian school system. When promoting educational aspects in basic and upper secondary schools, the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research has been actively involved. The goals of UNSCR 1325 and introducing activities on the Estonian and international level is a part of the courses taught at the Baltic Defence College; the subject

¹ As at 31 December 2013, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs employed 18 civilian experts: NATO Training Mission Afghanistan (NTM-A) employed four PBGB employees (50% females), EUPOL Afghanistan mission employed two Rescue Board and PBGB experts (one woman), EUMM Georgia mission employed four PBGB experts, and EULEX Kosovo mission employed five PBGB experts. In addition, one expert (female) served in the EU Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability. Additionally, two liaison officers served in Europol and one Interpol liaison officer served also in Europol.

is also discussed at the Estonian National Defence Course, which is organized by the Ministry of Defence. In the course of the consistent UNSCR 1325 education, a strong core group of teachers has formed; in cooperation with them, it is possible to conduct successful teacher-to-teacher trainings. Estonia is prepared to share its experience in this area with other countries.

17. The Ministry of Justice has adopted a 2010–2014 development plan for reducing violence; in this framework, several NGOs organized specialist trainings on domestic violence and human trafficking that also discussed gender aspects. In addition, the Ministry of Social Affairs has promoted gender equality and tackling violence against women on a daily basis.
18. NGOs have played an important part in increasing awareness and including women. Trainings, roundtables and other activities have been actively organized by MTÜ Mondo, Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre and the Women's Voluntary Defence Organization. According to the assessment of the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, the Action Plan has increased awareness of women's situation during conflicts and of various areas of the defence policy. Compared to the period before the Action Plan, the number of events and projects on this subject has increased significantly. Based on the participants of the event organized by the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, it can be deduced that this subject mostly interests women. Therefore, further information work is necessary for reaching the male target group.

IV. Expansion of women's opportunities to participate in international military and civil operations and increasing the representation of women in international positions related to the maintenance of peace and security

A. At the level of international organizations

19. Estonia actively supported the creation of UN Women and was a member of its Executive Board. The UN Women has a leading role in advancing women's human rights, including the topics of UNSCR 1325.
20. The fact that the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court elected a woman to be its President for the first time can be considered a great international success. Ambassador Tiina Intelmann was the President of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court from 2011 to 2014.
21. Within the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, Estonia's positions in the context of UNSCR 1325 and international military operations have been presented during various discussions at international organizations, primarily at NATO.

B. At national level

22. Gender equality is not only ensured at national competitions arranged to fill in positions related to maintenance of peace and security. Provided there is a suitable female candidate, presenting her is not restricted in any way. A similar gender balanced approach applies to filling international positions; therefore, creating a separate database of female candidates has been deemed unnecessary.

23. All employees of the PBGB can apply for international missions that are staffed by the PBGB, regardless of gender. Therefore, no specific analysis of measures that would allow increasing women's participation in international missions has been prepared so far. As a positive effect of the Action Plan, the percentage of female officials has significantly increased among civil mission participants. Additionally, among civil servants the awareness of gender issues, including the protection of women's rights, has increased.
24. As regards the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence, it can be said that it is possible to involve women in most operations and positions. The choice of positions and offices is influenced by the cultural specifics of the target country of the operation, the tasks imposed on the unit, whether there are women in Estonia with appropriate training that is required in the contributing unit, etc.
25. The most important achievement in the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence in 2013 was the Military Service Act that entered into force on 1 April 2013. According to the Act, women can assume the national defence obligation and serve in active duty in the Defence Forces, as well as participate in reserve trainings as reservists or enter the conscript service. Pursuant to the new law, any female Estonian citizen, who is 18–27 years old (included) and has completed at least the basic education, can enter the conscript service. The law stipulates an exception for females, according to which women, who have entered conscript service, can withdraw from it within 90 days. Young men who enter the conscript service voluntarily do not have this right because they have national defence obligations; women do not have an automatic national defence obligation pursuant to law. The purpose of the stipulation is to provide women with an opportunity to assess, whether their decision was correct, while in conscript service. Procedure for accepting women into conscript service and the training that they receive is not different from that of men. Similarly to young men, women, who want to enter the conscript service, must pass a medical examination and comply with the health requirements for a conscript. When in conscript service, women have the same rights and obligations as men. Women who complete the conscript service have a national defence obligation similarly to men who complete the conscript service; they cannot withdraw from that. Once a person is entered into the national defence obligation register, a person, who assumed the national defence obligation voluntarily, has the same rights and obligations as someone who was called up to the conscript service and entered active service on an obligatory basis.
26. According to the legislation, women can join the Defence Forces through the Defence League; the basic course on the military skills of an active member of the Defence League is accepted by the Defence Forces as sufficient for females in order to apply for a place in the first level course at the Estonian National Defence College.