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

Implementation report for the period of 01 January 2013 – 31 December 2013

Introduction

1. In October 2000, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 "Women, peace and security" (UNSCR 1325) to acknowledge the disproportionately harmful impact of armed conflicts on women and children.
2. To promote the issue in Estonia, the Government of the Republic noted the document "Estonia's Action Plan for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, peace and security" in Estonia 2010–2014" at its cabinet meeting in October 2010. The Action Plan sets out national and international activities in various areas and establishes the leading agency for each area.
3. This report outlines Estonia's actions in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2013; however, depending on the length of some projects, activities undertaken in 2012 and 2014 have also been described.

Summary

4. The Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the agencies within their area of administration, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, MTÜ Mondo and the United Nations Association Estonia actively participated in implementing and analysing the actions undertaken in the third reporting period of Estonia's Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. Numerous other institutions were directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 objectives. The *Riigikogu* had an essential part in introducing the objectives and actions of UNSCR 1325.
5. The Implementation Report 2013 of UNSCR 1325 Action Plan shows that Estonia considers the actions undertaken to accomplish the objectives of UNSCR 1325 to be current and important, and it wishes to continue this extensive cooperation at national and international level.
6. At international level, Estonia has introduced the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan and the progress made in implementing it in UN, NATO, EU and OSCE and in the executive bodies of these organisations. Focusing on the idea of empowering women through education, human rights, including protection and promotion of the freedom of expression, Internet and media, and the fight against impunity, Estonia actively participated in shaping and implementing the UNSCR 1325 policy of the mentioned organisations.
 - Estonia actively participated in the work of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women (CSW).
 - The UNSCR 1325 objectives are an important part of Estonia's activities at the United Nations Human Rights Council where Estonia is a member in the period 2013–2015. UNSCR 1325 topics are among Estonia's human rights priorities.
 - Estonia stresses the importance of focusing on UNSCR 1325 aspects and the implementation of relevant measures within the context of the Rome Statute of the

International Criminal Court (ICC). The President of the Assembly of ICC States Parties, Ambassador Tiina Intelmann, in her presentations and during meetings, has drawn attention to sexual violence that can be classified as international crime due to its scope or systematic nature. As women form the largest group of victims of sexual violence, their greater participation in actions related to maintenance of peace and security must go along with the fight with impunity. Estonia supports the idea that the United Nations should constantly pay attention to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions.

- In 2013, Estonia continued to emphasise the importance of developing an action plan for UNSCR 1325 in OSCE. The adoption of an individual action plan has failed due to a lack of consensus within the organisation, but the issues of UNSCR 1325 were reviewed in the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.
 - In 2013, Estonia continued to support Charlotte Isaksson, ACO Gender Advisor at NATO, and was in favour of bringing this position under the permanent international military staff. In 2013, Estonia financially supported the carrying out of an analysis by the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations in Sweden in which the implementation of UNSCR 1325 principles during NATO operations were assessed.
 - In 2013, Estonia continued active development and humanitarian aid cooperation with priority partner countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed UNSCR 1325 related projects with a record high of 634,406 euros. Moreover, projects in Afghanistan, Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine supported by the Ministry of Defence were carried out. Governmental agencies together with non-governmental organisations implemented projects that help restrict violence against women and the social and educational empowering of women and children utilising bilateral and multilateral cooperation in Armenia, Ghana, Yemen, Kenya, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Moldova, Niger, Chad and Belarus.
7. The analysis of actions undertaken in the country during the reporting period confirms the understanding that it is important to build awareness, coordination and cooperation related to UNSCR 1325. The following developments and observations are worth noting:
- Within the context of the area of governance of the Ministry of Defence and UNSCR 1325, the most important success in legislative drafting in Estonia was indisputably the adoption of the new Military Service Act that came into force on 1 April 2013. According to the act, women can take the national defence obligation and be employed as active servicemen in the Defence Forces, and persons in reserve can participate in reservist training or sign up for conscript service. The act also extends opportunities for women to take part in international military operations. Implementation of the act has helped the defence forces to raise gender issues and promote these topics within the country as well as within the context of foreign missions.
 - It is worth highlighting the survey “Human rights in the Defence Forces“ conducted by the Estonian Institute of Human Rights in 2013 with the aim of identifying human rights related problems in the Estonian Defence Forces, show the international background, introduce the experiences of other countries and use the results to improve the application of human rights in the Defence Forces.
 - An important tool in increasing the awareness of UNSCR 1325 is higher national defence courses intended for senior public servants, members of parliament, journalists, representatives of business circles and other people.
 - On 24 October 2013, the government established the Gender Equality Council, the creation of which was prescribed by the Gender Equality Act that came into force in

2004. The duties of the Council also help address UNSCR 1325 topics and promote the White Ribbon Campaign and the initiative “Men against violence”.

- Consistent UNSCR 1325 related education throughout the years has resulted in building a strong group of teachers that are able to successfully carry out teacher-to-teacher training. Estonia is ready to share the experience it has gained in this field with other countries.
8. To sum up the results of implementing Estonia’s Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, it can be said that additional resources and the more frequent exchange of information between the parties involved as well as the coordination of cooperation and actions sometimes help achieve the objectives set out in the Action Plan much more efficiently. Actions can be coordinated through the e-mail address Res1325@lists.mfa.ee, which the parties are welcome to use much more frequently. The general approach – decentralised actions, joint responsibility – should also be upheld.
9. The system of performance measures used for assessing the UNSCR 1325 implementation results is worth noting. Estonia strongly supports the utilisation of this system. In Estonia’s Action Plan, specific actions and measures are linked together. The previous report and this report show that the measures and accountability set out in the plan help to compile a systematic overview of what has mainly been implemented by the government and non-governmental organisations individually and in cooperation with each other. 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.

Due to the above reasons, the report is more qualitative than quantitative in assessing most of the activities.

10. In 2014, the cooperation of governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations in UNSCR 1325 at international and national level and in the name of achieving the objectives set out in Estonia’s Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 is on-going. Estonia continues to introduce the contents, conclusions and lessons of Estonia’s Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 in Estonia as well as internationally, but UNSCR 1325 related cooperation with Estonia’s priority partner countries is also pursued.

An overview of implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the current review period

I. Political and diplomatic activities in international organisations

11. Estonia’s political and diplomatic participation in the work of international organisations has been active and effective. Estonia has informed EU, OSCE, UN and NATO about its activities and forwarded action reviews to these organisations to be included in the reports. Estonia has also presented its opinions to the working bodies of these organisations, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council or the United Nations 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 these international organisations.

A. At the level of international organisations

12. Estonia has taken into account UNSCR 1325 objectives when participating in the work on the United Nations Human Rights Council. At the 22nd session of the Council, Estonia's speech addressed the Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 and the importance of its implementation in the prevention and resolution of conflict and peace-building. Estonia has also discussed the topic of women's rights and gender equality in the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) of other countries' human rights reports. Hence, Estonia has added the aspects of UNSCR 1325 to the report submitted to UN bodies, thereby facilitating international supervision of the relevant activities.
13. As a member of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Commission of the Status of Women, Estonia supports the goal to strengthen women's role in society and improve the cooperation of international organisations in order to achieve this goal more effectively. Estonia has consistently introduced its opinions in these forums in support of reinforcing women's roles, especially in areas important for Estonia, such as human rights and freedoms, gender equality, education, information technology and communication, empowerment of women and the fight against sexual violence targeted at women.
14. Estonia is a member of the Commission of the Status of Women in the period 2011–2015. During the 57th session of the Commission, Estonia organised a side event "UNSCR 1325 – What lies ahead?" that analysed the future of UNSCR 1325. Bineta Diop (Femmes Africa Solidarité founder and president), Anne Marie Goetz (UN Women), Soon-Young Yoon (Commission of the Status of Women) and Mavic Cabrera-Balleza (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders) participated in the event. A speech on the future development of UNSCR 1325 by Foreign Minister Urmas Paet is available at http://www.un.estemb.org/statements_articles/aid-877.
15. In the work performed by the Permanent Representation of Estonia to UN, UNSCR 1325 issues received a lot of attention during 2013. The issues were addressed in almost twenty speeches, including open discussions of the United Nations Security Council on the topic of women, peace and security but also on related topics such as development and humanitarian aid and the resolution of conflicts.
16. During the 68th General Assembly of the United Nations, Estonia organised a side event at Foreign Minister level that addressed the issues of sexual violence and accountability (Enhancing Accountability for Sexual Violence in Conflict). Foreign Minister Paet also participated in a side event led by Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, William Hague, where sexual violence in conflict (Ministerial level event on Sexual Violence in Conflict) was discussed. Estonia joined a Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.
17. In 2013, Estonia continued introducing the method of preparing the Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 and reports to countries that are in the process of developing their own

action plans. Aside from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence also actively introduced Estonia's activities at international level.

B. At national level

18. 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. An important event in the context of this topic was the visit to Estonia of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, in November 2013.

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

19. Information about development cooperation is available in the database of Estonian development cooperation: https://rakendused.vm.ee/akta/andmed_otsing.php.

20. In this review period, 13 development cooperation projects that partly or fully address the situation of women and children or gender equality were initiated at international and national level at a cost of 653,137 euros, of which 449,067 euros were paid out in 2013. Some of the projects last several years.

Furthermore, in addition to these 13 projects, a side effect of most development cooperation projects is raised awareness, self-help skills and other knowledge of women.

Activity support given to international organisations related to UNSCR 1325 activities amounted to 220,000 euros in 2013. This is a record high for the implementing periods of the Action Plan for UNSCR 1325.

A. At the level of international organisations

21. Estonia gave activity support to the total sum of 220,000 euros to international organisations focused more specifically on the UNSCR 1325 activity in 2013:

- United Nations Development Programme – 50,000 euros;
- United Nations Population Fund – 45,000 euros;
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – 45,000 euros;
- United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) – 20,000 euros;
- United Nations Children's Fund – 60,000 euros.

A more detailed overview of voluntary donations to international development cooperation and humanitarian aid organisations is available at <http://vm.ee/et/vabatahtlikud-annetused-rahvusvahelistele-arengukoostoo-ja-humanitaarabi-organisatsioonidele>.

22. Within the framework of development cooperation, the following sums, altogether 195,000 euros, were allocated to international organisations in 2013:

- 50,000 euros through the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict to support the activity of the United Nations Expert Team on Reinforcing Rule of Law and Fighting Sexual Violence in 2013;
- voluntary donation of 50,000 euros to the United Nations Population Fund for 2014;

- voluntary donation of 90,000 euros to the United Nations Children's Fund for 2014;
- allocation of 5,000 euros to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims to support the victims of sexual and gender violence.

23. Estonia has stressed that when developing the EU development cooperation opinions, adherence to the principles of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820¹ should be highlighted in relation to post-conflict countries. We also contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan in Development. Estonia has also supported UNSCR 1325 related activities in the Agency of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme Council, of which Estonia is a member.

24. In 2013, Estonia allocated humanitarian aid to the tune of 2,449,883 euros. Alleviating the situation of women and children accounts for around 95% of this sum, while in all humanitarian aid projects the gender aspect has been taken into account, if possible, which shows the relevance of these projects in improving the situation of women. For example, Estonia has alleviated the situation of Syrian refugees through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Children's Fund, but also projects in Afghanistan, Yemen, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Palestinian Local Authority Territory and Chad. We have also supported the regional and country offices of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the World Health Organization. A more detailed overview is available at <http://vm.ee/en/taxonomy/term/55>.

B. At national level

25. The issues of gender equality have been consistently introduced to the national public by MTÜ Eesti Naisuurimus- ja Teabekeskus (Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre).

26. The Ministry of Defence has supported Estonia's target countries of development cooperation (including Afghanistan, Georgia, Montenegro and Ukraine) with monetary contributions and know-how. Although these projects are not directly related to the topic of UNSCR 1325, the objectives of UNSCR 1325 have been integrated into other topics. The goal of gender balance of participants in training sessions offered to Ukraine, Montenegro and Georgia was achieved.

27. There were nine bilateral development cooperation projects that partly or fully addressed the situation of women and children or gender equality financed by the Foreign Ministry's development cooperation funds in 2013. The target countries and projects were following:

- Afghanistan: MTÜ Mondo's follow-up project to promote the education of girls, coping skills of women and special needs persons in rural regions in Afghanistan during which 100 women of Afghanistan Char Bagh region were offered a six month thorough IT training programme that took into account the needs of local businesses. As a result of

¹ UN Resolution 1820 (2008) specifies the damage of sexual violence in armed conflict and requires parties in conflict and other involved participants to fight it.

the project, women in the Char Bagh region have a better employment rate and ability to cope. During the project, the quality of education offered to girls was improved by training 20 rural schoolteachers and acquiring IT equipment. The project also helped to continue the provision of education at Fatima Zahra school in Jalalabad where children of special needs parents and orphans study. During the project, the impact of the completed health care projects on the community was assessed. The project sum was 67,408 euros and the project was implemented by MTÜ Mondo.

- Armenia: the objective of the project “In aid of children – joined knowledge and best practice to protect Armenian children!” was to prevent, identify, intervene and reduce the abuse of children in Armenia. The focus was primarily on human trafficking (sexual abuse, forced begging and human trafficking in a broader sense). Estonian specialists trained Armenian teachers and psychologists who in turn will share their knowledge with other teachers, parents and children of Armenia. For the first time, a survey on child abuse in schools was conducted and target group interviews with teachers and other key persons on the topic of child abuse and human trafficking and discussions and role-playing for young people were organised in Armenia. The number of cyber crime cases related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children in Armenia has significantly grown. Awareness has also increased about the abuse of children on the internet. The project and its results were introduced in Armenian media channels. The project cost 86,299 euros and it was implemented by the Estonian Women’s Studies and Resource Centre.
- Georgia: a project to promote the development of citizen’s associations and gender equality in Samtskhe-Javakhet region with the objective of supporting the development of democracy in Georgia through the greater involvement of women of national minorities at the decision-making level. The primary objective of the project was to support the growth of their civic activity and empower them to participate in Georgian society, as well as the policy-making and decision-making of women, primarily of Armenian women and women of other national minorities that live in the Samtskhe-Javakhet region. The key target group was representatives of women associations operating in the Samtskhe-Javakhet region. The project helped to establish a functioning cooperation network of socially active women, develop a joint action plan and give the members of the target group the skills and knowledge to implement the action plan. The project cost 52,398 euros and the project was implemented by MTÜ Kodanikukoolitus.
- Yemen: a cooperation project of MTÜ Mondo and Yemen non-profit organisation Youth Leadership Development Foundation that dealt with educating girls from illiterate families and reducing cases of early marriage during which 12-21 year-old girls from illiterate families were educated in Yemen’s Bani Al-Hareth and Maen regions. The training programmes help girls withstand the problems in the community, such as the low awareness of women’s rights, early marriages and leaving school due to early marriages. The project cost 60,752 euros.
- Ghana, Kenya and Uganda: a joint project for sustainable coping – a business and education programme in MTÜ Mondo target countries in Africa. The main task of the project was to improve the independent coping of women in rural regions in Kenya and Ghana and disabled young people in Uganda. During the project, already running business and coping programmes in Ghana and Kenya were improved and expanded, new activities related to business were initiated and the sustainability of businesses owned by women was increased by promoting the sale of their produce. The quality of education offered in rural region schools and the involvement of young people with special needs in Uganda society was improved by creating additional vocational educational options in social businesses established by Mondo. The outcome of the

project is that 300 women in Ghana and Kenya are independently able to earn a living, that marketing channels that adhere to fair trade principles for their products have been created on the local and Estonian markets and that the local schools have obtained new equipment. The social businesses established by Mondo in Uganda are independently able to manage themselves and continue offering additional training to disabled people. The project cost 44,371 (Ghana) and 44,372 (Kenya) euros.

- Moldova: a joint project of Moldova and Estonia to help sexually and physically abused children during which specialists that work with Moldova children were trained for 26,970 euros. The project was implemented by MTÜ Tartu Laste Tugikeskus.
- Ukraine: allocation of 50,000 euros in support of the UNICEF children's rights project "Development of community-based services for children in conflict with the law and children with disability" in Ukraine. The objective of the project was to help the reintegration of children in conflict with the law to society and facilitate them re-joining their families by providing assistance to develop local social aid centres and services and ensure help to the families related to these most vulnerable children.
- Belarus: a joint project between Belarus and Estonia to help abused children in 2013-2014 during which specialists that work with Belarusian children were trained at a total cost of 25,567 euros. The project was implemented by MTÜ Tartu Laste Tugikeskus.

28. The Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association has been very active in introducing the objectives of UNSCR 1325 and Estonia's Action Plan and in raising general awareness and increasing support both in Estonia and at international level. The association organised four thematic round tables under the collective name "Women and security" in 2013. The events were held on 1 February, 12 May, 4 September and 14 November and they focused on policy, diplomacy, Middle East and military missions. These events were held in the round table format that was first introduced in 2012 and the number of participants, presenters and interested people has increased with every event.

- On 12 February, a round table "Women and policy" was held where Kadri Simson, a member of the *Riigikogu*, talked to participants. 12 people participated in the morning coffee event. During the conversation, it was highlighted that only one fifth of politicians in the list of candidates are women and around 20% of members elected to the *Riigikogu* are women. Estonia has also dropped in the gender equality rankings. It was also discussed that the unequal treatment of women and men is clearly spread in society and does not only concern elections.
- At the round table held on 7 May, Elisabeth Rehn, Kaja Kallas, Raul Markus and Aleksander Ljudvig participated in the discussion. The round table was chaired by Ott Lumi. The main statement highlighted at the discussion was that the role of women in society would increase in the near future and especially in relation to security policy. At the same time, there are no great differences in the approach to gender equality issues between generations and, therefore, it is not likely that society's opinion about the roles of men and women will significantly change in time without applying any additional measures.
- At the round table held on 4 September, the topic "Women in Mission" was discussed. The presenters were Eva-Maria Liimets from the Foreign Ministry, Christopher Bruce Holtby, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Estonia, and Charlotte Isaksson, ACO Gender Advisor at NATO.

- The round table held on 14 November focused on the topic “Women and Middle East”. Marwa Korayem, Kadri Jõgi and Hille Hanso participated in the discussion chaired by Sven Mikser. At the round table, the situation of women in Egypt, Turkey and Syria in the past and at present was highlighted.

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

29. Increasing the number of experts on gender issues and provision of training for them is not a separate activity but closely integrated into the main functions of public agencies. Building awareness about women, peace and security is a clear and all-inclusive priority in Estonia. For example, this is included in the operations of the Police and Border Guard Board and agencies within its area of administration. These agencies have a clearly defined, and therefore quite specific, area of responsibility, primarily in aspects that concern international civil and military missions and operations.

30. It is important that the issues of UNSCR 1325 and gender equality are discussed at all stages of the Estonian educational system. The Ministry of Education and Research has been active in promoting educational aspects at basic and upper secondary school levels. The objectives of UNSCR 1325 and the introduction of activities at national and international level is also part of the courses of the Baltic Defence College, and the topic is also included in the higher national defence courses organised by the Ministry of Defence.

31. The work done by the Estonian office of the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Association Estonia in educating children and young people is worth noting. UNSCR 1325 has been discussed during the Model United Nations organised by these organisations for upper secondary school pupils and university students.

A. At the level of international organisations

32. The task of introducing UNSCR 1325 principles to the Police and Border Guard Board public servants who are deployed to international civil missions, serve in international organisations and have long-term assignments abroad² is incorporated into the action plan of the Coordination Office of the Police and Border Guard Board. It is planned to improve the awareness of gender issues at pre-mission training conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The volume of particular training depends on the nature of the specific mission and local situation.

33. Though the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defence at international level, the treatment of the principles of UNSCR 1325 in the context of international operations has been rather modest and the topic has been addressed at meetings minimally. The importance of gender considerations in EU and NATO operations, including at

² As of 31 December 2013, the Foreign Ministry employed 18 civil experts: within the framework of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan (NTM-A) four PBGB servants (50% women), EUPOL Afghanistan mission two Rescue Board and two PBGB experts (one women), EUMM Georgia mission four PBGB experts and EULEX Kosovo mission five PBGB experts. In addition, one expert (woman) in the European Union Civil Planning and Conduct Capability. In addition, two liaison officers in Europol and one Interpol liaison officer in Europol.

management level, is growing and support for raising awareness about these issues should be continued. Estonian experts participate in relevant discussions.

B. At national level

34. Although building awareness about the content, objectives and activities of UNSCR 1325 was continued at national level in 2013, increasing the number of experts on gender issues and training them is not an independent activity in Estonia but integrated into the main functions of several public agencies. Information about Estonia's Action Plan is available on the home page of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
35. As increasing relevant awareness is directly related to general education, security (including UNSCR 1325) and gender equality issues are dealt with at all stages of the Estonian education system within the area of activity of the Ministry of Education and Research. This is an important part of providing children with democracy education and citizen knowledge and engaging the young people in society. Increasing the number of experts on gender issues and training them is also included in the activities of the Police and Border Guard Board, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the agencies within their area of administration, such as the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences. The objectives of UNSCR 1325 and introduction of practical activities in Estonia and at international level are part of courses offered at the Estonian National Defence College and the Baltic Defence College, and the topic is also addressed in higher national defence courses.
36. The Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 has been introduced at several human rights and security seminars and at the Model United Nations organised in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund Estonian commission, MTÜ Mondo and United Nations Association Estonia³. To increase public awareness, articles were published in the media, and well-known people participated in television shows and gave interviews to magazines.
37. In 2013, MTÜ Mondo trained almost 100 Estonian teachers at world education in-depth courses where the problems of women in developing countries and their possible solutions were introduced, among other topics. The organisation has also compiled an elective course entitled "Globalising world" for upper secondary school level where UNSCR 1325 issues are discussed.
38. The Ministry of Education and Research actively promoted UNSCR 1325 and related educational aspects, taking co-responsibility for preparing and disseminating informative materials that discuss the issues of women, peace and security and are intended for use in national defence and social studies classes.
 - Topics related to the Geneva Convention are discussed in general education schools.
 - Peace education plays an important role in history classes: the topics of how wars change people's understanding of humanitarian law, the establishment of the Red Cross and issues concerning the prohibition of armaments are discussed.
 - In social education, people's rights and obligations, human rights and humanitarian law related topics and the issues of refugees and relocation are discussed.

³ Role-playing with the objective of teaching the participants through personal experience about how an international organisation functions and understanding the focal issue of international policy.

- In nature studies, the impact of crises on the environment and population processes is examined.
- International humanitarian law and development cooperation are compulsory topics to be discussed in social education (upper secondary school). These topics are also examined at teachers' refresher courses. International humanitarian law is offered as an individual elective subject.
- Gender equality (stereotypes) is discussed in social education at all stages of the educational system. This topic has been thoroughly discussed in Estonian curricula and at teacher refresher courses. Gender equality is separately mentioned in the national curriculum for upper secondary school (§ 2 (3))⁴.

National strategies and principles of international documents have been incorporated into these curricula.

39. Since 2006, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Estonian Red Cross as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross have been implementing the educational programme "Discovering humanitarian law", the main objective of which is to instil in young people a sense of responsibility so that they respect life and human dignity. The task of coordination of the programme has been given over to Estonian History and Social Studies Association (*MTÜ Eesti Ajaloo- ja Õhiskonnaõpetuse Selts*) and the coordinator is Aare Ristikivi, a history and social education teacher at Hugo Treffner Upper Secondary School. The Ministry of Education and Research supports a varied set of measures necessary for implementing the programme (translation and editing of study materials, training, etc.).
40. The study material (compiled by Aare Ristikivi and Annika Talvar (a teacher at the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences) deal with both historical and modern events to give pupils an idea of how atrocities of war and the suffering of people not involved in war can be alleviated by implementing humanitarian law with the aim of instilling a respect for life and human dignity in young people. The topic is explained to pupils with the help of discussions and the recollections of people that have participated in armed conflicts. The study aid is available on paper and in an electronic format on the home page of the Estonian Red Cross <http://www.redcross.ee/en/index.html>. A thorough summary has been prepared about the implementation of the programme and lessons learned. Over the years, a strong group of experts has been established that is able to successfully carry out teacher-to-teacher training.
41. The Personnel Office of the Police and Border Guard Board fulfils the tasks imposed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Estonia's Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, and the relevant activities have been included in the annual action plan of the administration of the Police and Border Guard Board. Information about the Action Plan can be found in the intranet of the Police and Border Guard Board.
42. Within the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, the Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 is coordinated at secretary general and ministerial level. The Ministry and units of agencies in the area of administration of the Ministry that are most involved in these issues prepare the action plan.

⁴ The Government of the Republic adopted national curricula for basic and upper secondary school on 28 January 2010.

43. The promotion of research into the role of women in maintaining peace and security must be highlighted in the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence. In 2013, the Estonian Institute of Human Rights conducted the survey “Human Rights in Defence Forces” with the aim of determining human rights related problems in the Estonian Defence Forces, showing international background and introducing the experience of other countries to ensure better adherence to human rights in the Defence Forces. The results of the survey were published in May 2014 and they can be found at <http://www.eihr.ee/en/human-rights-in-the-defence-forces/>.

During the survey, both conscripts as well as professional servicemen were interviewed to identify

- the awareness of conscripts and servicemen about human rights;
- how human rights are adhered to in the Estonian Defence Forces;
- how relations between conscripts and harassment cases are viewed;
- applicable punishments and assessment of their appropriateness;
- attitudes to women conscript service and women working in the Defence Forces;
- satisfaction with the conscript service and serving in the Defence Forces.

The report of the survey shows that there are no serious problems with the application of human rights in the Estonian Defence Forces. Human rights are respected in Estonia and human rights are also ensured in the Defence Forces. It does not mean that attention should not be given to human rights or the topic should not be dealt with in the Defence Forces. There are also areas in the Defence Forces where the protection of human rights should be strengthened. It is also important to ensure that the situation does not deteriorate. Hopefully, this survey has a positive impact on this process. The young men in conscript service know more about human rights compared to the average Estonian population. However, 40% of conscripts are not aware what rights apply to them in conscript service.

In general, conscripts have a positive opinion about women’s conscript service. Only 16% of respondents were against it. Professional servicemen were also generally in favour of the women conscript service. However, according to the respondents, 33% of women working for the Defence Forces have experienced sexual remarks from time to time and a small number of women have also experienced unpleasant attention and physical abuse. The number of gender abuse cases has decreased compared to 2005. It is a positive sign that most servicemen feel that women should have equal opportunity to serve in the Defence Forces. Therefore, the traditional gender role stereotype that the Defence Forces is only meant for men does not apply in Estonia.

44. In the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defence – security and national defence – addressing UNSCR 1325 or gender issues was not included in the general training of commissioned and non-commissioned officers in 2013. Some training is offered under some topics, for example areas such as human rights and gender equality, humanitarian law, violence against women and human trafficking are touched on in legal and cultural training and pre-mission training on the cultural background of the conflict area. The Defence Forces accepted offers of and, where possible, also took part in training that explained gender aspects but they should be more active in utilising new opportunities, especially taking into account the current foreign missions of the Estonian Defence Forces. As usual, the issues of UNSCR 1325 were discussed in the national defence classes at upper secondary and vocational schools, during commissioned and non-

commissioned officers and pre-mission training, and courses taught at the Estonian National Defence College and the Baltic Defence College.

45. There is no Defence Forces' training manual that deals with UNSCR 1325 issues and no specific gender equality training is part of military training. In the Estonian National Defence College, the primary focus is on international law and armed conflict law, while the nature of human rights and central subjective rights is minimally touched on. In the light of current and possible future foreign missions of the Estonian Defence Forces, compiling such a study aid is reasonable and relevant.
46. The objectives of the Estonian Defence Forces in regard to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, such as ensuring gender equality on domestic competitions to peace and security related positions, equal treatment of female mission participants, better understanding and assistance in resolving problems of female population in the mission area and paying more attention to the involvement of women in peace-building, were realised in 2012 by giving females serving in the Defence Forces an opportunity to take part in operations as professional experts and regular members of the defence forces. Estonian participants in foreign missions adhere to the international missions' code of conduct, and supervision over the fulfilment of this obligation is ensured at the mission's management level. If a breach of rules is discovered, an appropriate investigation will be conducted.
47. During the pre-mission training, the servicemen that are sent to Afghanistan will be given information about local culture and customs, including the role of women. When gender issues are discussed during the training, the focus is on customs and rules that apply to contacting local women: how to behave if there are women present, when and how women may be addressed, etc. The task of the Estonian units in Afghanistan is to ensure general security in the region of responsibility and, therefore, it is not considered necessary to teach servicemen about how to determine the violation of women's rights because this action is not included in the direct obligations and work duties of the Estonian servicemen. In future, the need for organising training sessions dealing with sexual abuse by soldiers and other sexual abuse should be analysed on a mission-by-mission basis.
48. In 2013, no individual training sessions for women serving in the Defence Forces with the aim of improving their possibilities to participate in international missions were organised. Women in active service can participate in foreign missions as equally as men based on their speciality and military training. Usually, 3–5 female staff members, mainly in positions of staff officers or in supportive functions such as public relations and medical care, are in mission rotation.
49. Several courses taught at the Baltic Defence College address the objectives of UNSCR 1325 and activities taken at national and international level. The College, as an international educational institution, offers study modules and sub-modules in English on such topics as human rights, international humanitarian law, violence against women and human trafficking.
50. The topic of UNSCR 1325 is minimally touched on at the higher national defence courses organised by the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry of Defence and the agencies within its area of administration work well together with the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre through the national UNSCR 1325 working party.

51. *Naiskodukaitse* (Women's voluntary defence organisation) is a voluntary organisation that brings together women across the nation, helps nurture the intention to defend the country and supports women's social activity and development of their social skills. With the aim of increasing personal security, the security of close family members and the entire population, *Naiskodukaitse* teaches the main principles of first aid to its voluntary members, senior Home Daughters and persons that are non-members of the organisation. Regular security courses are conducted to improve the ability to cope of the members of *Naiskodukaitse* as well as the whole population in creating a safe environment and preventing risk situations. By educating citizens and upholding patriotic traditions, *Naiskodukaitse* contributes to achieving the national defence objectives of the Defence League and the development of society in general. As of 31 December 2013, the membership of *Naiskodukaitse* was 2,011 women (compared to the previous year 243 members have joined) and 3,513 girls to *Kodutütred* (Home Daughters) organisation. The members of *Naiskodukaitse* and *Kodutütred* account for 24% of the membership of the Defence League. The number of Home Daughters is slightly higher than Young Eagles, indicating the significant popularity of the topic of national defence among girls.

- A good example of national cooperation is the traditional joint event "From woman to woman" (10/03/2012) organised by *Naiskodukaitse*, the Women's Network of Estonian Police and the Estonian Academy of Security Studies. The objectives of the family day were to introduce possibilities of women to improve their personal security and that of their close family members, to offer opportunities to learn some new knowledge and skills, to promote civic initiative and to increase people's awareness of women's opportunities and tasks in the defence structures. All proceeds from this voluntary family day were donated to the Estonian Women's Shelters Union to support the helpline for women that have experienced violence (<http://www.naistepaev.ee>). This charity family day will also be organised in March 2014.
- At local level, the members of *Naiskodukaitse* have organised voluntary charity lotteries and the proceeds from these were donated to local women's shelters.
- In some *Naiskodukaitse* regions, emergency assistance training was organised.

52. The Ministry of Social Affairs daily promoted the topic of gender equality and reducing violence against women.

- In 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs together with the Police and Border Guard Board organised six network trainings on family violence issues. Judges and prosecutors were also trained and, because these trainings were so successful, they will be continued in 2014.
- In 2013, the Ministry of Social Affairs financed women's shelters through the Gambling Tax Council and this will continue in 2014. A relevant working party was established to develop a plan for the more sustainable financing of women's shelters in 2013.
- In 2012, the application by the Ministry of Social Affairs to get financing from Norway for the project on the development of topics of violence against women, family violence and human trafficking was approved. The implementation of the project activities (communication campaigns, development of services, prevention, training, etc.) began in 2013. The projects will continue until the end of 2015, and the official end of the programme is 2016.

53. The focus of the activity of the United Nations Association Estonia is work with young people at university level. UNSCR 1325 objectives were dealt with during the United Nations Security Council simulation in April 2013, which was the first international event that brought together students and United Nations Associations of other countries. It is planned to repeat the simulation in 2014. UNSCR 1325 issues were also discussed during the open lectures series organised by the United Nations Association Estonia.
54. The *Riigikogu* was also an institution that contributed to building awareness of UNSCR 1325 topics in Estonia and at international level in 2013. Marianne Mikko, Deputy Chairman of *Riigikogu* Women's Associations and a member of the National Defence Committee, as well as *Riigikogu* members Kadri Simson and Sven Mikser spoke publicly on UNSCR 1325 issues.

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

55. Increasing women's opportunities to participate in international military and civil operations are closely integrated into the functions of public agencies. This, in turn, is determined by clear areas of responsibility and is, therefore, quite specific. The most important event at national level was the new Military Service Act, which came into force in 2013 and gave women an opportunity to participate in conscript service. This, in turn, has enabled women to join the defence structures more actively.

A. At the level of international organisations

56. The President of the ICC Assembly of Party States until the end of 2014 is the Ambassador Tiina Intelmann. She has been serving on the Ambassador-at-Large for International Criminal Court position since she was elected to this position in December 2011. T. Intelmann is the first female president to serve on this position.
57. In the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, Estonia has expressed its opinions on UNSCR 1325 and within the context of military operations at various discussions in international organisations.

B. At national level

58. Gender equality is not only ensured at national competitions arranged to fill in positions related to maintenance of peace and security. If there is a suitable female candidate, presenting her is not restricted in any way. A similar gender-balanced approach also applies to filling in international positions, which is why it has not been considered necessary to establish a separate database of female candidates.
59. All employees of the Police and Border Guard Board, irrespective of their gender, can forward their candidature to international missions manned by the Police and Border Guard Board. This is why a special analysis of measures that allow for increasing the participation of women in international missions has not been prepared to date.
60. 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.

61. In 2013, the most important development in the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence was the Military Service Act, which came into force on 1 April 2013. According to the Act, women can take the national defence obligation and be in active service in the Defence Forces, as a person in reserve they can take part in reservist training or sign up for conscript service. According to the new Act, a female Estonian citizen of 18–27 years of age (including) with at least basic education can sign up for conscript service. The Act prescribes an exception applicable to women according to which women that have signed up for conscript service can withdraw from it within 90 days. Young men that have voluntarily signed up for conscript service do not have this right because they bear the national defence obligation, but an automatic national defence obligation does not apply to women. The purpose of the provision is to give women the opportunity to assess their decision during the time of their conscript service.
62. The procedures applied and training given to women that are taken into conscript service is no different compared to those applied to men. Just as young men that wish to take up conscript service must go through a health examination and comply with the health requirements of a conscript, females have to undergo the same examinations. During conscript service, women have the same rights and obligations as men. Women that have undergone conscript service like men bear a national defence obligation that they cannot disclaim. After the information of the person that has voluntarily agreed to national defence obligation is entered into the register of persons responsible for national defence obligation, he or she has the same rights and obligations as the persons that have been called up to compulsory military service and persons that are in active service.
63. 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.
64. As of the end of 2013, there are altogether 326 or 12% women in active service in commission officer positions and specialised positions in the Estonian Defence Forces and in voluntary national defence organisations. Of them, 77 are officers, 221 are commissioned officers and 28 are soldiers. 766 women work as civil servants or under an employment contract in the Defence Forces. As of 31 December 2013, there were 1,092 or 28% women in the Defence Forces.
65. In 2013, 16 women began their career as active servicemen through refresher training, 14 underwent specialised officer basic course and two took a specialised senior non-commissioned officer course. Currently, four women participate in conscript service under contract, of which three have successfully undergone the junior non-commissioned officer courses. In 2013, 16 women were called up to conscript service and in 2014 it is planned to call up 38 women. The limits of voluntary conscript service of women are set to ensure that they have appropriate conditions (including accommodation and hygiene conditions). If more women wish to sign up for conscript service, it is possible to build additional infrastructure and increase the limits.

66. Participation in international military and civil operations and missions manned through national competitions is voluntary and the candidates – both men and women – are treated equally in accordance with the Gender Equality Act. As regards the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence, it can be said that women can participate in most operations and positions. To date, the measures that would allow for an increase in female participation in international missions have not been analysed. It has not been considered necessary to establish a separate database of female candidates. Although no specific communication and recruitment campaigns targeted at women have been organised, the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Forces disseminated appropriate information through media channels about the implementation of the new Military Service Act.
67. In 2013, 484 servicemen participated in international military operations, of which 10 were women: 6 medical doctors, 1 supply non-commissioned officer, 1 communication officer, 1 liaison non-commissioned officer and 1 driver of an armoured vehicle. Altogether 82 women have participated in foreign operations manned by the Defence Forces. It can be said that the choice of positions and posts is determined by the cultural specifics of the target country of operation, the tasks imposed on the unit and whether there are women in Estonia that have received training relevant to the unit, etc.
68. Opportunities for women to run as candidates for rescuer or other rescue service positions (including missions) is not limited. All employees are informed about free positions on an equal basis via the intranet as well as through public channels. Women have put forward their candidatures for rescuer positions, but the physical tests are same for everyone, irrespective of the gender of the candidate. Making an exception based on the gender of the candidate is not possible because in the event of emergency all rescuers have to perform in the same manner. Women participate in rescue events as volunteers, and they are also represented in Estonia's rescue teams both on missions (in rescue teams women act in the medical field and as dog handlers) as well as in training sessions.