15 years after the adoption of Resolution 1325
Closing the implementation gap

A CSW side event hosted by Australia, South Sudan, and the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality (GENDERNET)

Monday 16 March 2015, from 1.15-2.30pm
Australian Mission to the United Nations, 150 East 42nd Street – 33rd Floor

Space is limited – Please RSVP to gabrielle.krasowski@dfat.gov.au

Background:
Fifteen years ago, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1325, a landmark decision which placed for the first time women’s interests and concerns at the centre of the international peace and security agenda. Taken collectively, resolution 1325 and its six follow-up resolutions have played a critical role in recognising women’s key contribution to conflict resolution and peacebuilding, calling for women’s full and equal participation in peace and security, and recognising the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women.

Despite political commitments, progress on the ground has been slow: gender equality concerns are rarely integrated in the early stages of donor interventions in post-conflict situations, women represent a small proportion of the participants in peace negotiations, and most peace agreements have no specific provisions to ensure women’s rights.

2015 represents a momentous year for stepping up progress on implementation of international commitments on women, peace and security, with:

• The twenty-year review the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which identified the effects of armed conflict on women as one of 12 critical areas of concern;
• The high priority placed on gender equality in the post-2015 development agenda;
• The celebration of the 15th anniversary of resolution 1325; and
• The 2015 reviews of the UN peacebuilding architecture and of UN peacekeeping operations.

This side event will provide an opportunity to take stock of challenges and progress in made in translating the women, peace and security agenda into action, and to identify priorities for closing the implementation deficit. Participants will be informed about the findings of a new OECD publication on Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members’ aid in support of women, peace and security issues. This event will also provide concrete inputs in preparation for the High-Level Review of resolution 1325 in October 2015.
Objectives:
This side event will stimulate discussion on:
• Progress and challenges in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; and lessons and best practices
• The status of DAC donor financing for women, peace and security and priorities for closing the existing financing gaps
• Actionable initiatives that could contribute to accelerating progress on this agenda
• How to seize the opportunities opened up by the convergence of global processes in 2015, including the High-Level Review of resolution 1325?

Opening remarks:
• H.E. Ms. Caitlin Wilson, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in New York. Welcome and introduction:
  Why is 2015 a critical year to take stock of progress made in implementing the women, peace and security agenda? How can we raise the level of ambition in order to truly deliver on political commitments in practice? How is Australia contributing to this?

Chair:
• Ms. Geraldine J. Fraser-Moleketi, Special Envoy on Gender, African Development Bank.

Panellists:
• Ms. Nahla Valji, Policy Adviser and Officer in Charge, Peace and Security section, UN Women.
  Preliminary findings from the Global Study on the implementation of resolution 1325 and how can we use the High Level Review of resolution 1325 strategically to make progress on this agenda?
• Ms. Emily Esplen, Lead Policy Analyst, Gender Equality and Women’s Rights, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.
  What is the current state of play of DAC donor financing for gender equality and fragile states?
• Ms. Harriette Williams Bright, Acting Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarité.
  How can we effectively promote women’s leadership role in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding processes? Lessons learned from women’s initiatives in Africa.
• Ms. Maryam Rahmani, Afghan Women’s Resource Center (AWRC).
  What is the perspective of women’s organisations in Afghanistan? What are the priorities for accelerating implementation of women, peace and security commitments in this context, and how can the international community better support women’s participation in peacebuilding and statebuilding processes?

Closing remarks:
• H.E. Ms. Priscilla Nyayang Joseph, Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Welfare of South Sudan.
  How is South Sudan supporting the effective implementation of women, peace and security commitments at the country level?