

CSO Consultation on EU Draft Indicators for the EU Comprehensive Approach on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 (Brussels, March 2010)

The Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security (doc. 15671/1/08, hereafter referred to as the Comprehensive Approach) includes a commitment to further develop 'indicators for progress regarding the protection and empowerment of women in conflict settings and in post-conflict situations' (43).

Over the past months the EU informal Task Force on Women, Peace and Security has worked on drafting a set of indicators, building on the four indicators on women and armed conflict developed during the French Presidency of the EU. The set of indicators aims to measure implementation of the EU Comprehensive Approach – complemented by an operational document on implementing SCR 1325 as reinforced by 1820 in the context of CSDP (15782/3/08).

A special meeting of the EU Task Force to finalise the set of indicators took place on 29 March.

Following a suggestion from EPLO and International Alert, the Task Force expressed its interest in receiving civil society feedback on the indicators developed during the meeting on 29 March. Despite a short timeframe, Alert and EPLO tried to solicit as many views and recommendations as possible from European civil society actors.

On 24 March, International Alert and EPLO, with funding from the Initiative for Peacebuilding (Gender Cluster), co-organised a face-to-face consultation meeting on the draft list of indicators in Brussels.

To allow for feedback from civil society organisations unable to attend the face-to-face meeting, EPLO and Alert also distributed a form via e-mail. This form included background information and the draft set of indicators.

The consultation aimed to address two questions: (1) How to improve/modify current draft indicators? (2) What is missing and which (type of) indicators should be added?

Besides specific comments on the set of indicators proposed, the following key messages and recommendations were made:

- **Partnership and consultation with civil society** Many civil society respondents felt there had not been enough time to include all key civil society voices in the consultation process. Civil society should be an integral part of the process of developing, monitoring and further strengthening EU indicators on women, peace and security. A constructive partnership with CSOs needs to be established which allows for genuine involvement in monitoring implementation of the Comprehensive Approach.

- **Measuring outcomes and impact** The indicators proposed are primarily geared towards measuring the process of implementing the Comprehensive Approach, rather than measuring impact on women in conflict-affected areas. While it is important to monitor implementation of activities included in the Comprehensive Approach, it is important that the development of indicators does not become a goal in itself. The Task Force should decide on a set of *meaningful* indicators. A good example would be to include an indicator on (EU support to) women's participation in peace processes.
- **Monitoring and accountability** Robust indicators that can track the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach require the establishment of clarity on monitoring mechanisms. Existing accountability structures need to be used in order to ensure effective action.
- **Ensure complementarity with global indicators.**
- **Track funding levels and budget disbursements** Successful implementation of women, peace and security commitments depends on the allocation of budgets, including core funding for civil society organisations (including women's organisations).

During the special meeting of the Task Force on 29 March, Alert and EPLO presented these messages and recommendations. Several proposals, including an indicator on (EU support for) women's participation in peace processes, were taken on board by the Task Force.

For more information, please contact or [Steven Schoofs](#) (International Alert) or [Sanne Tielemans](#) (EPLO).