

Initiative for Peacebuilding – Gender cluster - Roundtable 9 July 2008

Charlemagne 9:00 – 13:00

The roundtable was chaired by Mme Véronique Arnault, Director Relex B with participants from DGs Relex, DEV and Aidco; the Council; UNIFEM; UNFPA; France MFA; Finland MFA; EC Gender Help Desk; IfP Gender Cluster: International Alert and EPLO.

The roundtable focused on how to further the EU implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in all its work. The participants gave examples of how this implementation is taken forwards in their work on gender, development policy and crisis management. Women's rights form a priority focus on the French presidency's agenda, in particular violence against women and women's access to justice and post-conflict reform. The participants agreed that it is an opportune time to promote the continued implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the work of the European Commission, the Council and EU Member States.

Possible next steps were discussed, including a high level strategic document, outlining a framework of action for the Commission and Council towards the full implementation of UNSCR 1325. It should include a broad definition of UNSCR 1325, measures for implementation including timeline and indicators, as well as linkages to ongoing initiatives and commitments. The participants agreed to form an inter-institutional working group to take this idea forwards.

Suggestions for future IfP Gender cluster Roundtables included a thematic focus (eg. Gender and SSR) and a country case-study focus with participants also invited from the field.