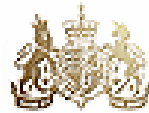


## UPDATES TO THE UK NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT UNSCR 1325



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Ministry of Defence

**The UK Government's National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 is divided into five main areas: UK Support to the United Nations (UN); Training and Policy within Her Majesty's Government (HMG); Gender Justice, including Gender-Based Violence (GBV); Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR); and Working with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).**

### **UK SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)**

**Action Point 1: HMG to ensure that gender elements are incorporated in the objectives of Security Council missions and make recommendations relating to women and girls in any follow-up reports.**

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has produced guidance language on SCR 1325 which UK diplomats and civil servants try to ensure is included in all relevant UN Security Council Resolutions (SCRs) concerning Peacekeeping Operations (PKOs), new and revised PKO mission mandates, terms of references for PKO mission visits, as well as in progress reports at the UN and other International/Regional Organisations. This guidance language - together with the checklist produced by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security in New York - has been circulated to all relevant desk officers and is being used to ensure language is included, for example in SCR1769 (2007) which authorised a hybrid UN/AU PKO for Darfur. (The UK has also drawn up language on other crosscutting issues – such as Children in Armed Conflict and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse - to be included in all Peacekeeping-related Resolutions.)

The UK Mission to the UN established a dedicated peacekeeping team in September 2007 that monitors upcoming UN resolutions in order to ensure, among other things, that early steps are taken to incorporate gender-sensitive measures in UN-mandated missions.

**Action Point 2: HMG to ensure that gender perspectives continue to be reflected in all Security Council mandates for peacekeeping/support operations, and to include gender perspectives when negotiating UN peace agreements, ensuring that they are subsequently adopted.**

The UK Mission in New York has undertaken SCR 1325 training for all its desk officers. UNIFEM and the UK-funded NGO Working Group (NGOWG) conducted the training, which familiarised all staff with the provisions of SCR 1325, made them aware of their responsibilities and demonstrated concrete ways in which the Resolution could be incorporated into resolutions, reporting and peacekeeping mandates. A similar training programme was also provided for the Permanent Representation of Ghana, in advanced of Ghana's period as chair of the Security Council (which included the Open Debate on SCR 1325 in October 2007). The Ghanaian mission confirmed its appreciation not only of this training, but also of assistance (again from the NGOWG) in providing materials and information during Ghana's negotiation of the Presidential Statement. The UK Mission continues to lobby for greater uptake of these training opportunities by other Member State missions.

HMG has also been encouraging further engagement in New York between the Secretary-General's Special Representatives and the UNSCR Friends of 1325 Group. In 2007, the SRSGs of UNMIL (Liberia) and UNIOSIL (Sierra Leone) briefed the Friends of 1325 on their Missions' work to implement SCR 1325 in their respective countries.

**Action Point 3: HMG to continue to incorporate gender perspectives into Peacekeeping Operations; to support the requirement to finance gender units; to support gender units/specialists' requirement for access to senior-level decision-makers; and to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated in all Peacebuilding Strategies.**

HMG's Global Conflict Prevention Pool (jointly run by the FCO, DFID and MOD) is funding a package of DPKO projects, building capacity for gender mainstreaming in DPKO and its peacekeeping missions. A parallel project completed in September 2007 included training of peacekeeping personnel, the development of a Virtual Resource Centre and sharing best practices to encourage dialogue with other organisations in the peacekeeping field. There are now Gender Advisers in all eleven of DPKO's

multi-dimensional and integrated missions (and there will be GAs in the missions to be established in Darfur and Chad). All other UN-led peacekeeping missions have at least a Gender Focal Point, appointed to support co-ordination of gender-related activities in addition to their main tasks.

The UK is continuing to work closely with the central Gender Adviser at DPKO in New York to promote the work and impact of the gender advisers in peacekeeping missions. In 2006, along with Norway and the Netherlands, officials from the FCO and DFID participated in a joint donor review of the effectiveness and impact of DPKO's work on gender, to identify lessons learned. The final report from the mission was presented to USG Guéhenno, the rest of the UN system and Member States in October 2006. The UK also hosted the 2006 Arria Formula Meeting on SCR 1325 in New York in October, the focus of which was the role of women in peace consolidation and the newly established Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

In February 2007, officials from the FCO, MOD and the Metropolitan Police participated in a strategy workshop with women's constituencies from Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and Police Contributing Countries (PCCs), organised by DPKO. The workshop was aimed at enhancing gender mainstreaming in the national policy setting, training and planning processes that inform pre-deployment to the UN's peacekeeping missions.

The NGOWG identified in 2006 a lack of information and understanding of the PBC, especially among international civil society. At that time it was also felt that there was a need for greater attention to gender dimensions of the PBC's work. The NGOWG's annual report at the end of 2006 therefore comprised a 100-page document on *SCR 1325 and the Peacebuilding Commission*, which is an important resource for all parties, as well as providing recommendations for implementation by the PBC of the provisions of SCR 1325. The NGOWG also pressed the PBC Mission to Burundi to meet with women leaders of civil society. The Mission subsequently did so, and the Integrated Peacebuilding Strategy that was developed for co-operation with the Government of Burundi in June 2007 contains clear commitments to addressing the gender dimension in peacebuilding activities. The largest women's organisation in Burundi is represented on the Task Force that is developing a monitoring and tracking mechanism for this Strategic Framework. In June 2007, the NGOWG organised a Round Table in New York on Gender and the PBC, at which UN and Member State participants heard directly from peacebuilders from Burundi and Sierra Leone.

The NGOWG has also worked as an implementing partner with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in providing training workshops on SCR 1325 in Central Asia. Three in-country workshops were held in mid-2007 with mixed governmental, military and non-governmental audiences to raise awareness and enhance national-level implementation in

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Representatives from these Central Asian workshops were then brought to New York to participate in “1325 Week” in October 2007.

DFID provides core-funding to the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) in Brussels, which has initiated the EU 1325 Partnership to bring together interested parties from the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission and NGOs (modelled on the Associate Parliamentary Group in the UK). Although there is significant 1325-related work going on in the different institutions, they do not always communicate effectively with each other; the EU 1325 Partnership provides a forum and contact group to address this. EPLO is also closely involved with an initiative by the Council and Commission to produce a Communication on Gender in Conflict and Peacebuilding during 2008, and is advocating for improved integration of gender in operations under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) following the successful inclusion of a Gender Adviser in the ESDP mission to DR Congo.

The UK has participated in the work on gender mainstreaming of SCR 1325 in NATO. The UK co-chaired the Committee for Women in NATO Forces (CWINF) in 2004 and 2005. In November 2007, the CWINF will brief the military committee on guidance for NATO gender mainstreaming. In view of this meeting, the UK has distributed the UK National Action Plan to other NATO Member States, as well as information on MOD policy on Equality and Diversity.

The UK provides Peace Support Operations (PSO) training to a wide array of potential and existing Troop Contributing Countries, Regional Training Centres and Multilateral Organisations, such as the African Union (AU). These capacity-building activities include aspects of SCR 1325, as they are covered in UK PSO doctrine and training.

**Action Point 4: HMG to provide financial support to the UNDP/Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in support of mainstreaming gender, and to UNHCR’s work with Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) and reduction of gender-based violence against refugees.**

DFID continues to be a major funder of BCPR. Following a critical review of gender dimensions of its work, BCPR organised a four-day workshop in September 2006 in London to address this issue. DFID participated fully in this event and helped towards a very constructive outcome, which included an eight-point Agenda for engendering BCPR’s new four-year strategy. The workshop was also notable for the strong commitment of BCPR’s leadership (and particularly the Director) to ensuring that gender concerns were fully integrated into all their activities. This was followed by a workshop in Geneva in October 2007, which included

programme officers from BCPR and from UNDP country offices, and focused on implementation of the Action Plan in their day-to-day work. Following this, in London in November 2007, Kathleen Cravero (Director of BCPR) launched a call for US\$10 million to help women and girls in crisis for the next two years, “vital to scale up a groundbreaking new strategy that addresses the needs of women affected by conflicts.” She also noted that the 8-point Agenda was not only a BCPR document but that it had been endorsed as corporate policy for the whole of UNDP, and that BCPR intended to work with UNIFEM, UNICEF and the PBSO to have the agenda adopted across the UN.

DFID continues to be a leading supporter of UNHCR’s programme on Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM), for which DFID previously provided earmarked support. By the end of 2007, this programme will have been rolled out in 106 countries, along with an accountability framework to ensure implementation (piloted successfully during 2006/7 with top management in Geneva and 20 country representatives, and then fully launched in May 2007 by the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection). A first review is planned for March 2008. In 2006, UNHCR developed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV); these are now part of the inter-agency agenda for 2007 and will be field-tested (on an inter-agency basis) in 2008. In October 2006, the annual meeting of UNHCR’s Executive Committee also adopted a Conclusion on Women and Girls at Risk which the UK has strongly supported and which drew on earlier work funded by DFID.

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) is one of the priority areas for the new Joint Organisational Strategy (2007-9) for UNHCR, agreed between the UK, Denmark and Canada. GEWE and its participatory approaches are being tracked under the Public Service Agreement. In early 2008, the three countries will undertake a review of progress against the 2007 targets agreed in the JOS, including gender mainstreaming.

## **TRAINING AND POLICY WITHIN HMG**

**Action Point 5: HMG to raise awareness amongst key programme/project stakeholders of the importance of taking into consideration gender issues in all conflict/security programme/project activity.**

In 2006 and 2007, the FCO wrote to its Posts overseas to raise awareness of UNSCR 1325, explaining what the UK was doing to support implementation of the Resolution, how this linked into the FCO’s Strategic Priorities and suggesting ways in which they could support. (DFID will be doing the same with its Country Offices in 2008.) Several reports were received back, mostly about

the broad context of women's participation in the host country, but some gave information on 1325-related activity (see under Action Point 9 below for examples).

In 2006, the FCO organised an SCR 1325 awareness-raising seminar in London for its staff who deal with conflict prevention and resolution in London. They briefed their Countries at Risk of Instability (CRI) policy reviewers on SCR 1325, for them to factor it into their work as appropriate. In addition, they arranged for all their Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) Strategy Managers to be briefed on SCR 1325 to ensure that they were informed and therefore able to mainstream gender within projects and programme proposals. The FCO will be repeating this exercise in early-2008.

In March 2007, the FCO organised a seminar in London to mark International Women's Day, with discussions centred on SCR 1325. The meeting provided an opportunity for experts from international/regional organisations, national governments and civil society to come together to identify priorities and to discuss practical approaches to developing implementation strategies on Women, Peace and Security at the national, regional and international levels. The seminar was attended by about 80 participants, and was opened by Dr Kim Howells MP, Foreign Office Minister.

Following a cross-DFID evaluation of their gender work in 2006, DFID agreed a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP), in which their International Divisions were fully involved. Objectives include ensuring that multilateral agencies develop and adopt a policy and strategic framework for achieving Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (GEWE) which responds to internationally agreed standards and norms. The Action Plan specifically includes promotion of greater familiarisation within DFID of SCR 1325.

The UK Government's Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit (PCRU) runs mandatory annual training on SCR 1325 for all its staff. (The training is open to interested staff across HMG and the PCRU's deployable civilian experts.) Also, PCRU ensures that the design and delivery of all PCRU-led training and exercises incorporate issues relevant to SCR 1325, with the support of a Gender Specialist on contract to the Unit. Further, PCRU guidance on stabilisation, assessment, planning and implementation is reviewed to ensure adequate reference to SCR 1325.

**Action Point 6: UK Ministry of Defence Armed Forces to: undertake an audit of gender content of Pre-Deployment Training; where necessary, develop gender awareness training, and raise awareness of the UN Code of Conduct on personal behaviour: and, where appropriate, incorporate gender perspective-related training into other military and conflict-related personnel doctrines.**

The MOD has conducted an audit of existing individual and pre-deployment training to provide assurance that the current training given to British military personnel complies with the intent of SCR 1325. The audit concluded that British military personnel generally receive sufficient training – mainly through the Law of Armed Conflict module and specific pre-deployment training - to ensure that they are compliant with the intent of the Resolution.

It also concluded that the UK Armed Forces were fully compliant with the UN Code of Conduct through existing training provisions, as well as with the UK's own values and standards.

To further reassure the compliance with the Resolution, the Permanent Joint Headquarters has, at the request of the MOD, ensured that preparation training provided to formed headquarters and formations includes relevant briefings on the role/relevance of gender to the specific society living in the deployed area. The pre-deployment training provided by the Front Line Commands (FLEET, LAND and AIR) also includes these topics.

Pre-deployment planning currently covers social and cultural issues tailored for particular operations, and includes specific gender issues that should be taken into account. As a result of the audit, the intent of the Resolution will, at the request of the MOD, be included in relevant doctrine publications, to generally ensure that this is given due consideration during operational planning.

**Action Point 7: HMG to encourage UK and international institutions, civil society, and UN Member States to identify suitably qualified female candidates for positions within their own countries/establishments in an attempt to increase the number of women at senior decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.**

The UK Mission to the UN successfully negotiated language into the October 2007 Security Council Presidential Statement on SCR 1325 on the subject of the appointment of women into senior leadership appointments, which called for: “the Secretary General to increase the profile and transparency of this procedure and issue guidelines to Member States on the process of nominations to senior posts.”

The MOD and the FCO have participated in developing and conducting a course for prospective female candidates, to enhance their understanding of peacekeeping operations. Although not intended exclusively for women, we see this course as having particular potential in exposing women to defence issues that they might not have come across previously. Our first candidate in

2006 was a woman from the World Bank, who received training from the tactical to the strategic levels (though it concentrated at the operational level, using the Joint Venture 06 exercise as the vehicle to illustrate the planning and execution of operations).

**Action Point 8: HMG to continue to deploy, where appropriate, female personnel on operations.**

The MOD continues to deploy women on operations, and does so in proportion to the number of women in the Armed Forces, which at the moment is around 10%. Their most recent deployment (February 2007) of a small group of military observers to the UN mission in Nepal (UNMIN) included a woman. (This was particularly relevant given that 40 % of the combatants are women.)

The FCO has attended National Conferences and Seminars raising the profile of International Policing with particular focus on the deployment of female officers and conducted discussions with the Head of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) on ways to generate further interest from female MDP officers. The FCO are also focusing attention on the recruitment of female officers during their 2007/08 International Secondments Team (IST) recruitment campaign. As of November 2007, all female officers who had applied for positions through IST have been deployed. These include one officer in Sierra Leone, two in Bosnia and five in Kosovo.

The FCO has specifically targeted the recruitment of women police officers and staff in a range of articles in specialist police magazines, such as *Police Review and Constabulary* magazine. The articles feature both male and female officers in order to highlight the opportunities for both men and women in international policing, and to challenge perceptions that there are no roles for women overseas.

A further strand of the FCO's work is to incorporate information on women, peace and security in the education of police officers serving overseas. The FCO has developed a set of guidelines for use by officers in international peace operations, which includes specific references to SCR 1325 and the essential role of women in the prevention of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. The guidelines, "Peace Support Operations: Information and Guidance for UK Police Personnel", were published in mid-2007.

A second document (planned for publication in Spring 2008) will support the guidelines and provide more practical information for officers in theatre. The handbook, "A Manual of Procedures and Guidance", will cover the practical day-to-day aspects of working in an international peace operation and will include information on SCR 1325 and on UN policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

## **GENDER JUSTICE, INCLUDING GENDER- BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)**

### **Action Point 9: HMG to promote justice for women and tackle gender-based violence in post-conflict situations.**

1325-focused projects undertaken by the FCO's Posts overseas are mostly funded by HMG's Conflict Prevention Pools, jointly run by the FCO, MOD and DFID with an annual (FY 2007/08) budget of £137 million. The internal "Guidelines and Procedures" for Strategy Managers within the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) refer specifically to SCR 1325 and, in their annual review of the Pool in April 2007, Strategy Managers were asked to identify ongoing work to address "the diverse needs of those involved in conflict, particularly the different needs and priorities of women and men."

Some of the examples that Posts/Strategy Managers identified included:

- In Pakistan, support to the Women's Parliamentary Caucus, which seeks to raise input and awareness of women's involvement in parliamentary and democratic processes.
- In the Eastern Caribbean, prison reform programmes, which have specifically addressed the diverse needs of women officers and prisoners.
- In Sudan, support to national NGOs to implement local peacebuilding initiatives. Projects have supported awareness-raising on issues such as HIV/AIDS and gender issues, as well as media campaigns against Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- In Afghanistan, the NGO *Womankind* is running a project which aims to promote gender equality by helping women play a more active role in public life. It is funding the development of a political campaign for women for the 2009 elections, and the setting-up and supporting of women's shuras. (Additionally, in this 2007/08 Financial Year, the GCPP has funded a report by *Womankind* that gathers data on women's rights in the South of Afghanistan. This report will help develop strategy for empowering women in that region.)
- Also in Afghanistan, the GCPP is supporting the *Afghan Woman's Hour Project* which addresses gender issues through broadcast programming, with the aim of helping Afghan women explore new ideas, find solutions to their problems and encourage them to participate more fully in the rebuilding of their country.
- In Iraq, the FCO co-hosted an International Women's Day networking event in Baghdad, and part-funded a conference on using international human rights law and Iraqi domestic law to protect women's rights, for Iraqi judges, parliamentarians and women's activists.

- Also in Iraq, the FCO brought a delegation of senior officials from Basra's judiciary, police and prison service to the UK, to examine how the UK deals with women and juvenile issues in detention, and have committed £1 million to a US-funded project (scheduled to commence in December 2007) to build the new Basra Central Prison facility, which will mean that one of the two existing prisons – Al-Maqil or Al-Mina – will become a dedicated women's and juveniles facility in southern Iraq, something that is at present lacking in the region.

In February 2007, DFID commenced funding of a new £3.2m programme with UNIFEM to support women's engagement in peacebuilding and reduction of gender violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. This global programme aims to support community-based approaches to gender-sensitive peacebuilding and preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the contexts of Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Timor-Leste. Activities vary across these contexts, but most of the country-level work includes support for gender-sensitive policing, for improved justice system response to SGBV (including in informal justice institutions), and capacity-building for women to engage in conflict prevention and peacebuilding forums from the local to the national level. DFID participated in a very successful inaugural workshop held in Lira (northern Uganda) in April 2007, involving UNIFEM teams and partners from all six focus countries. Since then, the programme start-up phase has been completed in all six countries. Notable achievements to date (November 2007) include the completion of a comprehensive baseline study for Afghanistan, the appointment and posting of a gender adviser to the UN envoy to the Juba peace talks for Uganda, and the finalisation of the small grants facilities in Afghanistan and Haiti. The baseline study for Afghanistan has highlighted the conditions under which some local peace *jirgas* have been able to address women's security concerns, and this has pointed to useful areas for intervention for this programme. In Haiti, a competitive process for the small grants facility has identified 13 potential community-based organizations in the North, Northeast, West and Southwestern provinces to be recipients of small grants for one year of support. In Uganda, the gender adviser to the Juba talks will interact with local and international women's organisations to ensure that the current national consultations over transitional justice and accountability mechanisms reflect women's concerns. She will go on to support women's efforts to feed their views into the two remaining phases of the peace talks, and will subsequently support efforts to implement the peace agreement.

DFID's Conflict and Humanitarian Fund (CHF) provides core funding for the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), which has a strong gender dimension to its work and is undertaking major research and advocacy on gender and reparations for human rights abuses in conflict and post-conflict countries. Objectives of this programme include the collection and analysis of information about how past and ongoing reparations programs have dealt with a variety of gender issues, articulation of views about how the adoption of a gender perspective in reparations could better serve women's justice interests, and facilitation of a

network of experts on the issue of gender and reparations. Funding also began in September 2007 for the NGO *Avocats Sans Frontières* to work on the non-discriminatory protection of fundamental rights for vulnerable people and the poor. Women and children are top priority in this work, which also specifically targets victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.

The UK Mission in New York continues to address the issue of gender-based violence through mandate review and within the context of relevant General Assembly and Security Council debates. The October 2007 Open Debate on SCR 1325 was informed by an Arria formula meeting earlier that month, which had been supported by the UK, focussing on gender-based violence in Darfur, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The UK made a noteworthy intervention on GBV at the October 2007 debate on SCR 1325 and continues to champion awareness-raising of the security issues surrounding gender-based violence. This pressing issue will be revisited at Security Council debates on Protection of Civilians and Children in Armed Conflict, with a view to highlighting – during the UK's Presidency of the Security Council in May 2008 - the effects of sexual violence against women.

**Action Point 10: HMG to continue to implement its Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Strategy, which provides a key tool to mapping out the concrete actions needed to tackle this issue and to assess progress made.**

HMG continues to support the actions of the Secretary-General to implement his 'zero-tolerance' approach in all United Nations Missions. The UK has funded the development of an Awareness-Raising Video on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by United Nations staff, designed to highlight the consequences of SEA and to raise awareness among UN staff of the widespread occurrence of SEA and what the UN is doing to combat it. The UK has also funded a project to support UN reforms relating to SEA, in particular on policy development and on the role of the Welfare Consultant. This work has been taken forward by the UN's Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU), with whom the UK continues to work closely.

As mentioned under Action Point 1, the FCO has produced guidance language on SEA which desk officers try to ensure is included in relevant SCRs, as well as in progress reports.

The UK actively participated in the UN's successful negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding on the required conduct of peacekeeping and related personnel at the UN in June 2007. The next essential element of the strategy, on the issue of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse committed by UN and related personnel, is the provision of a programme of assistance to victims. The UK

Mission in New York is working with other Member States to forge a UN Victims Assistance Strategy that will provide for those who suffer SEA by such individuals. This is hoped to be in place by January 2008.

By increasing the number of female peacekeepers, we can improve organisational, managerial and command accountability in terms of SEA.

The MOD has contributed to this objective by training and deploying women on peacekeeping operations. As stated earlier, the MOD has also devised a training programme for female candidates nominated for senior positions within peacekeeping.

SEA is covered by the PSO training of potential and existing Troop Contributing Countries, designed and conducted by the MOD (International Defence Training/Land Warfare Centre). The courses provided ensure that students are briefed on proper conduct while engaged in PSOs, and include briefings from organisations such as UNHCR and *Saferworld*.

DFID has engaged with Save the Children and others on recent allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, e.g. by humanitarian workers in Liberia.

### **DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)**

#### **Action Point 11: Address gender issues in UK-supported Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programmes in countries emerging from conflict.**

Internal HMG guidelines on DDR have been finalised, which refer to the UN Integrated Standards developed through an inter-agency process – part-funded by HMG - led by DPKO and UNDP. DFID has also been heavily engaged in the process of agreeing an EU approach to DDR, in which gender features prominently (and again refers back to the UN Integrated Standards).

The GCPP funded a Wilton Park conference in March 2007 on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC). DFID and FCO were closely involved in setting the agenda, which addressed specific issues affecting girls in DDR and how more girls could be brought into the process successfully. Reintegration of girls associated with fighting forces was recognised as a particular problem.

Discussions are continuing with the World Bank on the development and implementation of gender action plans as part of the Multi-donor Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (MDRP) for the Great Lakes region in Africa. Gender dimensions are also addressed in the DFID-supported research and analysis on DDR design and implementation by Bradford University.

### **WORKING WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (NGOs)**

#### **Action Point 12: HMG to liaise with NGOs, civil society and Parliamentarians on the implementation of SCR1325, continuing regular dialogue on gender related issues.**

The UK works closely with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG) in New York and continues to support the group financially through the GCPP. DFID also supports the NGO, European Peacekeeping Liaison Office (EPLO), in its work at the European level. (Further details of the work of these two consortia are given under Action Point 3 above.)

DFID's Conflict and Humanitarian Fund (CHF) funds International Alert to provide a secretariat for Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS), a UK-based network of specialist organisations and individual experts working in peace and development and with a particular focus on implementation of SCR 1325. GAPS provide support to policymakers (including the APG) and civil society groups within the United Kingdom, and also organises meetings and other public events around SCR 1325. DFID spoke at one of these (in March 2007) on the role of men in implementing the Resolution.

Where possible, HMG participates in NGO-organised events and brief NGOs on the UK's work on SCR 1325. Civil servants from the FCO, DFID and the MOD continue to participate in the Associate Parliamentary Group (APG) on Women, Peace and Security. All three Departments also participated in the successful meeting on SCR 1325 organised in January 2007 by the Northern Ireland Women's European Platform, which involved senior civil servants as well as NGOs and women activists.