

Women, Peace and Security: Norway's strategic plan 2011–13
Progress Report 2011: Summary



**NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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This report has sought to give as full a picture as possible of the Government's efforts in 2011 to follow up Security Council resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) and the other resolutions on women, peace and security, including areas where there are challenges. It will therefore be an important tool for our future efforts. It is built up around the five priority areas presented in *Women, Peace and Security: Norway's Strategic Plan 2011-13*: 1) Peace processes and negotiations, 2) International operations, 3) Post-conflict situations and peacebuilding, 4) Sexual violence in conflict, and 5) Reporting and accountability. Each chapter includes boxes on the various countries highlighted in strategic plan. These boxes give a general picture of the political context and main features of Norway's SCR 1325 efforts in these countries.

The report shows that Norway is a champion of the resolutions on women, peace and security vis-à-vis the UN, NATO and individual countries. It also shows that Norway provides substantial support to NGOs and other actors working to implement these resolutions on the ground, particular those seeking to increase women's political participation and influence, and those fighting sexual violence and providing assistance to victims.

It is difficult to track all the funding Norway allocates to women, peace and security, as much of it is a contribution to broader efforts. However, Norway's bilateral funding for projects in conflict and post-conflict countries where gender equality is a primary or subsidiary objective gives an indication. In 2010, this amounted to just over NOK 2 billion (2 053 645 000), around NOK 360 million of which was allocated to projects where women's rights and gender equality was a primary objective. In addition, Norway provides core contributions to a number of UN organisations that include efforts to promote the women, peace and security resolutions in their work. Norway's core contribution to UN Women of NOK 82.5 million in 2011 is one example. Another is our core contribution of NOK 6 million to UN Action for Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) in 2011. UN Action is a network of 13 UN organisations, which was formed to strengthen and improve coordination of the UN's fight against sexual violence in conflict.

Norway's efforts to follow up the resolutions on women, peace and security in **peace processes and negotiations** focus on three main goals: to increase the number of women taking part in peace negotiations and the number of women peace mediators; to ensure that local women are represented and consulted; and to integrate the gender perspective into processes where Norway is involved. Financial support for partner organisations and political lobbying are key instruments for achieving these goals.

An important arena for this work is our direct and practical cooperation with the parties to peace processes that we are involved in. Norway always encourages the parties to include women in their delegations and to integrate a gender perspective into the peace process. This applies both to processes where we have an official and public role as a third-party facilitator, such as in the Philippines, and to processes involving back channels and quiet diplomacy that take place out of the public eye. Helping to build competence among women's networks and organisations in post-conflict countries is an important aspect of this work. Assistance is provided to, for example, the Institute for Inclusive Security in the former Sudan, Sulong CARHRIHL in the Philippines, and the Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange in Uganda. The embassies in Kathmandu and Kabul are among the missions that work particularly closely with local women's organisations and networks. Norway is also seeking to increase the number of women participants at the annual Oslo Forum Mediators' Retreat, where peace mediators from all over the world come together to exchange experience and ideas. In addition to the support that is provided directly to SCR 1325-related initiatives, Norway also requires the gender dimension to be integrated into all projects that are funded through the peace and reconciliation allocation.

Norway works closely with the UN system to promote women's participation in peace processes and increase the number of women mediators. For example, we provide support for the UN Department of Political Affairs and UN Women *Joint Gender and Mediation Strategy*. However, both in our cooperation

with the parties in the peace processes we are involved in and in our efforts in the UN system, there is still a long way to go before we have reached our goals on women's participation. Over the next year, we will give particularly high priority to strengthening the gender perspective and women's participation in peace mediation, as well as the participation of local women in peace processes.

Integrating the gender perspective and increasing women's participation in **international operations** is another priority area. Norway is seeking to ensure that personnel in international operations receive training in the women, peace and security resolutions. Increasing the proportion of women in international operations in general, and in operational positions in particular, is another high priority. At national level, this work is carried out by the police and the armed forces. The gender project at the Norwegian Defence University College assists the armed forces training institutions in including the women, peace and security resolutions in the curriculum. For example, it produces teaching materials and presents this subject at courses for personnel who are to be deployed to international operations. This is also an important subject in the introductory course attended by police officers prior to taking part in international operations. In addition, specific courses on the resolutions are held before departure, in line with the guidelines drawn up by the UN. Norway has made considerable progress in the field of training, but it is still necessary to strengthen both Norwegian and Nordic expertise in order to ensure that training is relevant in the field. Through initiatives such as the Training for Peace programme, Norway is helping to increase the recruitment of women to international operations and to train personnel provided by other countries. Like other troop- and police-contributing countries, Norway faces challenges in recruiting and retaining women. Systematic efforts have been initiated in both the police and the armed forces to address these challenges, but it will take time to reach our goals.

Another high priority is integrating the gender perspective into the planning, implementation and evaluation of international operations, both in Norway and in cooperation with the UN and NATO. Norway is a strong advocate of this goal in both the UN and NATO. In the time ahead, it will be important to increase focus on building alliances with untraditional partners in order to exert a stronger influence. In the UN system, this applies particularly to member states in the Global South.

There are two main priorities for Norway's women, peace and security efforts in **post-conflict situations and peacebuilding**: to strengthen women's participation in decision-making processes; and to promote the gender perspective in security sector reform. The report shows that promoting the participation of women is a high priority for Norway. Norway supports more than 20 local, regional and international organisations that seek to strengthen the role of women in local decision-making processes and increase awareness of SCR 1325 among decision makers and the general public. Among the initiatives supported are the International Civil Society Action Network's work in the Middle East and North Africa, the National Democratic Institute's efforts in Haiti, the National Peace Council and the Association of War Affected Women's work in Sri Lanka, and the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy's work in the Palestinian Territory. The participation of women is also a topic in Norway's dialogues with the authorities in fragile states.

In the field of security sector reform, Norway cooperates with the UN, the national authorities in the country concerned, and local and regional organisations to ensure that women's rights and needs are mainstreamed in practice. There are still serious unresolved problems in this area, and in many of Norway's focus countries there are challenges throughout the judicial system that need to be addressed. Norway provides financial support and expertise, and takes part in bilateral and multilateral cooperation on justice and home affairs issues. Local initiatives and ownership are vital in order to bring about lasting change. Norway also promotes the gender perspective in various UN funds and programmes and in the World Bank. These organisations play key roles in the reconstruction of post-conflict countries. Norway is an important contributor, and expects the gender perspective to be integrated into these organisations' work, both at headquarters level and in the field. Integration of the gender perspective is also a high priority in Norway's humanitarian efforts. The challenge ahead is to ensure that the gender perspective is sufficiently integrated into the relevant organisations' analyses and given priority to when measures are to be implemented on the ground.

Norway's seeks to combat **sexual violence in conflict** multilaterally, bilaterally and in cooperation with local partners. Particular focus has been directed to DR Congo. Prevention and protection, rehabilitation and support for survivors of sexual violence, and prosecution of perpetrators are the main goals in this area. Much of our work relating to prevention and protection is carried out in cooperation with the UN system both in the field and at headquarters. For example, Norway has contributed four civilian observers to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) Joint Monitoring Teams. Norway is working with the UN to increase survivors' access to the legal system and the prosecution of perpetrators. And Norway has deployed a witness protection specialist to a pilot programme under the auspices of MONUSCO's Joint Human Rights Office, and five police experts on investigating cases of sexual violence to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Through its Crisis Response Pool, Norway has deployed specialists to bilateral judicial system teams in countries such as Georgia and Afghanistan. Both long-term cooperation and strong local ownership are necessary to achieve lasting reform. With this in view, Norway provides assistance both to the national authorities concerned and to various actors that build capacity and provide technical assistance, including the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces and the International Center for Transitional Justice. Norway also supports civil society actors with a watchdog function that lobby the authorities to ensure that the political will for reform is maintained.

Norway's efforts relating to rehabilitation and practical support for survivors is channelled through NGOs such as the Christian Relief Network, the Norwegian Pentecostal Church Foreign Mission, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the International Criminal Court's Trust Fund for Victims, the American Bar Association and Norwegian Church Aid, and their various local partners. Community ownership is a key component here. In addition to support for specific projects, it is also important to engage in dialogue and build alliances with countries that provide police and troops for UN operations and with the authorities in countries where conflict-related sexual violence is a particularly serious problem. Work in this area will be given even higher priority in the year ahead.

At the request of the UN and civil society, Norway is increasing focus on **reporting and accountability** in relation to its implementation of the resolutions on women, peace and security. This report is part of these efforts. We will continue to develop the matrix of indicators and to strengthen reporting in the years ahead. Norway is engaged in dialogues with the UN system and other multilateral cooperation partners on improving reporting, and this will be an important priority in the years ahead. We also want to learn from the good work that is being carried out in many of the organisations we cooperate with.

Mainstreaming the resolutions on women, peace and security in the relevant ministries, the armed forces, the police and the missions abroad will be an important priority in the years ahead. We will also seek to increase cooperation between embassies in various conflict and post-conflict countries so that the expertise and experience of embassies and delegations that have been particularly successful in promoting this agenda can be benefited from more widely.

Norway also attaches importance to cooperation with research communities and a wide range of NGOs, for example through the SCR 1325 Network. This is an important arena for exchanging experience, expertise and information, and for coordinating efforts to promote women, peace and security at both national and international level. At the same time, openness and cooperation are necessary to ensure that civil society is able to monitor the Norwegian authorities and hold them accountable for the further implementation of these resolutions.