

Women participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security

Operationalization of UNSCR 1325 in the SADC Region

Context

The GIZ Peace Security and Good Governance Programme (**PSGG**) supports the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which is one of the five Regional Economic Communities in Africa. SADC works towards strengthening regional and political integration within its 16 member states. Within the SADC Secretariat the programme cooperates with the Organ on Politics Defence and Security Affairs (**SADC Organ**) to **promote peace, security and good governance in the SADC region**. The main objective of the Programme is to ensure that the conditions for peaceful development in the SADC region are strengthened in accordance with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). Within the Peace and Security Sector the **GIZ/SADC cooperation commits its self** to promote women's participation and full involvement in line with the commitments of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (**UNSCR 1325**).

The SADC region has progressively moved towards **stronger integration of gender mainstreaming in peace security**. The SADC secretariat together with numerous regional stakeholders has established regional mechanisms that provide guidance for the empowerment of women, and for gender equality in the region. The relevant documents include the Protocol on Gender and Development (2008), SADC Framework for achieving gender parity (2009), SADC Gender Mainstreaming Resource Toolkit (2009) and the Framework on Mainstreaming Gender in the SADC Organ (2012).

Initiatives to promote Gender equality

In the Peace and Security Sector the programme supports regional and national capacity building measures for the prevention of conflicts and where conflicts exist, for their mitigation and successful management. The programmes effort is aligned with the obligations of the (UNSCR 1325).

The Security Council adopted resolution on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.¹

In response to the commitments of UNSCR 1325 the SADC Organ in collaboration with GIZ PSGG prioritises 3 aspects of the implementation of UNSCR 1325:

¹ United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security Understanding the Implications, Fulfilling the Obligations, http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/cdrom/documents/Background_Paper_Africa.pdf (28.11.2017)

1) Policy and strategy development on the regional and national level

- “The Security Council reiterates its call to Member States to continue to implement resolution 1325 (2000), including through the development and implementation of national action plans or other national level strategies.”

Statement by the President of the Security Council, 7 March 2007²

In order to encourage the 16 member states to develop national action plans as stated in UNSCR 1325 the PSGG/ SADC Organ cooperation worked in the last two years on the **development of a Regional Action Plan** which serves first of all as the regional SADC strategy for the promotion of Gender Equality and also guides the member states in developing national action plans to **translate UNSCR 1325 into concrete and efficient actions**. The regional draft action plan was validated and endorsed by the Ministerial Council of the Organ in 2017 and **Namibia** as one of the first SADC member states has started the process of developing a **National Action plan**.

Within two years the **impact of the initiative is remarkable**. Through the GIZ program SADC Organ was able to facilitate the development of the Regional Action plan and he endorsement by 16 SADC member states took place, which is a major milestone for the PSGG/ SADC Organ cooperation. In the near future the cooperation anticipates more member states to start their **own process of National Action plans** to promote the role of women into the respective national strategy plans.

2) Preventative Diplomacy

- *In many cases, women mediators are more likely to prioritise marginalised people’s contributions.*³

Within the preventative diplomacy PSGG/ SADC Organ cooperation focusses on capacity building in the area of mediation. On the basis of a SADC owned Regional Mediation Training Curriculum, regional and national mediation trainings have been held in various SADC member states with a pool of gender balanced trainers. In the past year around **320 people, 30% of which were women**, have been trained. The participants were representatives from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and civil society organizations. The PSGG/SADC Organ cooperation has a strong emphasis on **capacity building of female mediation experts**.

The short term impact of the initiative is to achieve a **gender balanced representation** in the mediation trainings, build the capacity of Mediation experts in the SADC Region, and therefore increase women representation in the SADC Databank of Mediation Experts. The envisioned long term impact is for qualified and trained women to take part in SADC led regional and national mediation processes. Therefore the **needs and demands of women** in preventative diplomacy can be **represented and addressed by women**.

² United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security Understanding the Implications, Fulfilling the Obligations,

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/cdrom/documents/Background_Paper_Africa.pdf (28.11.2017)

³ UN MEDIATION AND THE WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY AGENDA Moving from Rhetoric to Reality <http://insct.syr.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/INSCT-White-Paper-Standfield-mwedit082217.pdf>

3) Post conflict reconstruction

- *It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.*

The PSGG/SADC Organ cooperation supports capacity building measures for the **Civilian Component** of the SADC Standby Force. Civilians are trained and listed in the SADC Civilian experts Roster who are ready to support the African Union and SADC's efforts in achieving lasting peace and stability both in the SADC region and the African Continent as a whole. In the near future around **150 civilians 30% of which are female** will be trained and rostered. The SADC Standby Force consists of representatives from the military, the police and the civilians. Through the support of female civilians being part of the SADC Standby Force the **program also contributes to the Gender Mainstreaming efforts of SADC within peace support operations**. Similar to the Initiative on capacity building in mediation processes, the program supports the needs and demands of women in (post-) conflict contexts to be represented and addressed by women

The PSGG/SADC Organ cooperation in collaboration with the SADC Gender Unit conducted an **analysis on the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV)** within the SADC Region with a focus on statistics from 6 SADC member states, namely Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa and Mauritius. The analysis was presented to the Ministerial Council of the Organ in 2016. One of the main results of the analysis is that Gender Based Violence is one of the worst forms of human rights violations in the SADC Region. Therefore SADC committed itself to take up the issue and assess the situation of GBV in all 16 member states with special focus on the Peace and Security Sector including implications for actions at both regional and national level. The commitment is a **significant milestone in the efforts of the program** to reduce Gender Based Violence according to the UNSCR 1325. The medium impact is to integrate Gender Based Violence as a human rights violation in the National Action Plans (previous Initiative) to operationalise UNSCR 1325. The programme will support further activities and initiatives towards the integration.

Cooperation

PSGG **cooperates with various stakeholders internally and externally**. Internally GIZ PSGG works together with the GIZ/SADC Gender Focal Point, the GIZ AU African Peace and Security Architecture Programme and the Addis Group for Peace and Security. Externally PSGG cooperates with SADC Organ, SADC Gender Unit and UN Women, EU and United Nations Department of Political Affairs. The cooperation with the various stakeholders **achieved major milestones and will continue to deepen efforts**. The **joint goal** is the promotion of the role of women in the peace and security sector, and the **guiding principle** for all stakeholders is the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on the regional and national level. Nevertheless it is at times **challenging** to avoid working in silos, and to ensure a participative approach involving all relevant stakeholders. The **cooperation and the activities are successful** thanks to collective and deliberate efforts made to jointly plan, steer and monitor the activities, to ensure a shared understanding of the context we are working in, and to foster complementarity of resources, skills and competences.

Gender and RBM

Gender equality is an integral part of the M&E System over and above having a Gender Indicator. The M&E System was established in close collaboration with the SADC Organ. **PSGG has a Gender Focal Point**, who works closely with the M&E officer. At the beginning of the Implementation phase the Monitoringsystem for the cooperation was agreed to, and is part of the steering structure of the PSGG/ SADC Organ cooperation. Biannually PSGG and the partners have strategic monitoring meetings to analyse, among other issues, **gender disaggregated and gender related data of the various activities**. Through the analysis the project is able to get a status update of the implementation progress of the UNSCR 1325 and to make strategic decisions for the following 6 months, and for the annual report to BMZ and the SADC Secretariat.

Gender as a quality feature of our work

Over the above the UNSCR 1325, all initiatives contribute to the global **Agenda 2030** (SDG 5,16) and the continental **Agenda 2063** (Aspiration 4,6) and therefore promote the synergy building and harmonization of the global and continental agenda regarding Gender equality. In addition, **all initiatives impact directly** on the role of women, and gender equality on the **national level**. The unique multi- level approach, including the focus on Policy Development, Preventative Diplomacy and Post Conflict Reconstruction in the SADC Region is **recognised and valued** by the SADC Organ. PSGG managed to **operationalise** the SADC Organ policy documents regarding Gender **into very concrete action and tangible results**. The Milestones and achievements have given SADC recognition at the AU level and among other Regional Economic Communities in Africa. PSGG is seen as a strong and reliable partner in working together towards **women participation** and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance **and promotion of peace and security**.