

# HOW SWEDEN CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1325 IN ALBANIA - VIEWS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

The following recommendations have been developed by Operation 1325 and the Albanian women's rights organization Women, Peace and Security Association (AGPS).

## SITUATION ANALYSIS

- Albania's National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 is due to expire 2020 and there is currently no clear indication of an extension or a new plan being developed.
- Sweden and Albania share many challenges in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 including formulating new National Action Plans and establishing reporting mechanisms.
- Women's political participation in Albania is high, women are however still underrepresented at regional governance levels and in the security sector.

## RECOMMENDATIONS IN SHORT

- Ensure the adoption of a second National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 after 2020 and support Albania in establishing implementation reporting mechanisms for accountability.
- Encourage closer collaboration between Sweden and Albania for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the respective countries and in multilateral organizations.
- Advocate for the meaningful inclusion and participation of women in Albanian politics and the security

## SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A SECOND NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR UNSCR 1325 AND ACCOUNTABLE REPORTING MECHANISMS

Albania adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) for UNSCR 1325 in 2018. The plan was the result of extensive collaboration between Albanian civil society organizations and the Government. This process was closely monitored and supported by Swedish and the Netherlands diplomatic missions and civil society. According to the national monitoring report, 63% of the plan has so far been implemented. The plan is due to expire in 2020 and there is currently no clear indication of a second plan being developed or the current one being extended. Civil society reports that there are still inadequate structures for monitoring and a lack of political will to fully implement UNSCR 1325 in Albania.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sweden should in diplomatic dialogue with Albania discuss when the second National Action Plan will be in place and the importance of including civil society in its creation.
- Sweden should advocate that funding is allocated for the implementation of future National Action Plans, including direct, long-term, and flexible financing for women's civil society organizations. To this end, Sweden should highlight the importance of the Albanian Ministry of Finance and Economy being involved early in the NAP design processes.
- Sweden should advocate that the Albanian Government, in collaboration with civil society, establish sound reporting and monitoring mechanisms on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. On the EU and UN level, Sweden should advocate for gender quotas, in line with the previous National Dialogue, with 30 % women in all future formal Yemeni peace negotiations.



Operation 1325 is a Swedish civil society organization working for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325. Founded by several Swedish women's and peace organizations in 2003, the organizations objective is to increase women's influence at all levels of peace processes and in conflict resolution.

Women Peace and Security Association (AGPS) is a non-profit organization operating throughout Albania to promote gender equality and protect the rights of marginalized women across the country.

## ENCOURAGE CLOSER COLLABORATION BETWEEN SWEDEN AND ALBANIA TO ADVOCATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325 IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Both Sweden and Albania have stood out as ambitious proponents of the women, peace and security agenda, not least through their participation in OSCE. Sweden and Albania could thus benefit from further bi-lateral collaboration including mutual learning and information exchange regarding UNSCR 1325 implementation. Sweden will furthermore take over the Chairmanship of OSCE from Albania in 2021, which creates further opportunities to deepen collaboration with Albania on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE forum.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sweden should use its position as Chairman of OSCE in 2021, to continue to cooperate with Albania in advocating for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in OSCE
- Sweden should encourage bi-lateral information sharing and department-wide collaboration with Albania to support the process of building implementing and reporting mechanisms, including training of staff at relevant implementing ministries in both countries.
- Sweden should collaborate with Albania in creating inclusive processes for the creation of a new National Action Plans.

## ADVOCATE FOR THE MEANINGFUL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION OF ALBANIAN WOMEN IN POLITICS AND THE SECURITY SECTOR

While women's political participation in Albania is high, with 50 % women in Government and 30 % in the Parliament, significant barriers, particularly on local levels, persist, including women facing threats, intimidation and unequal access to funding. Regarding the security sector, women's participation has increased since the introduction of the National Action Plan, however, it remains low with 10 % women in the armed forces and 6 % in the police force. Women also tend to occupy low rank and administrative positions rather than high-level positions in the operational sector.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sweden should advocate that the EU highlights the importance of providing funding and safeguarding that women do not face threats or intimidation for their political participation, in future Accession Talks.
- In line with the Swedish National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, Sweden should, together with the EU, continue to support Albania to develop recruitment processes and routines which aim to increase women participation in the security sector.
- Sweden should together with the EU, advocate that women are meaningfully included in all decision-making bodies in armed- and police forces, potentially through the establishment of official gender quotas.



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