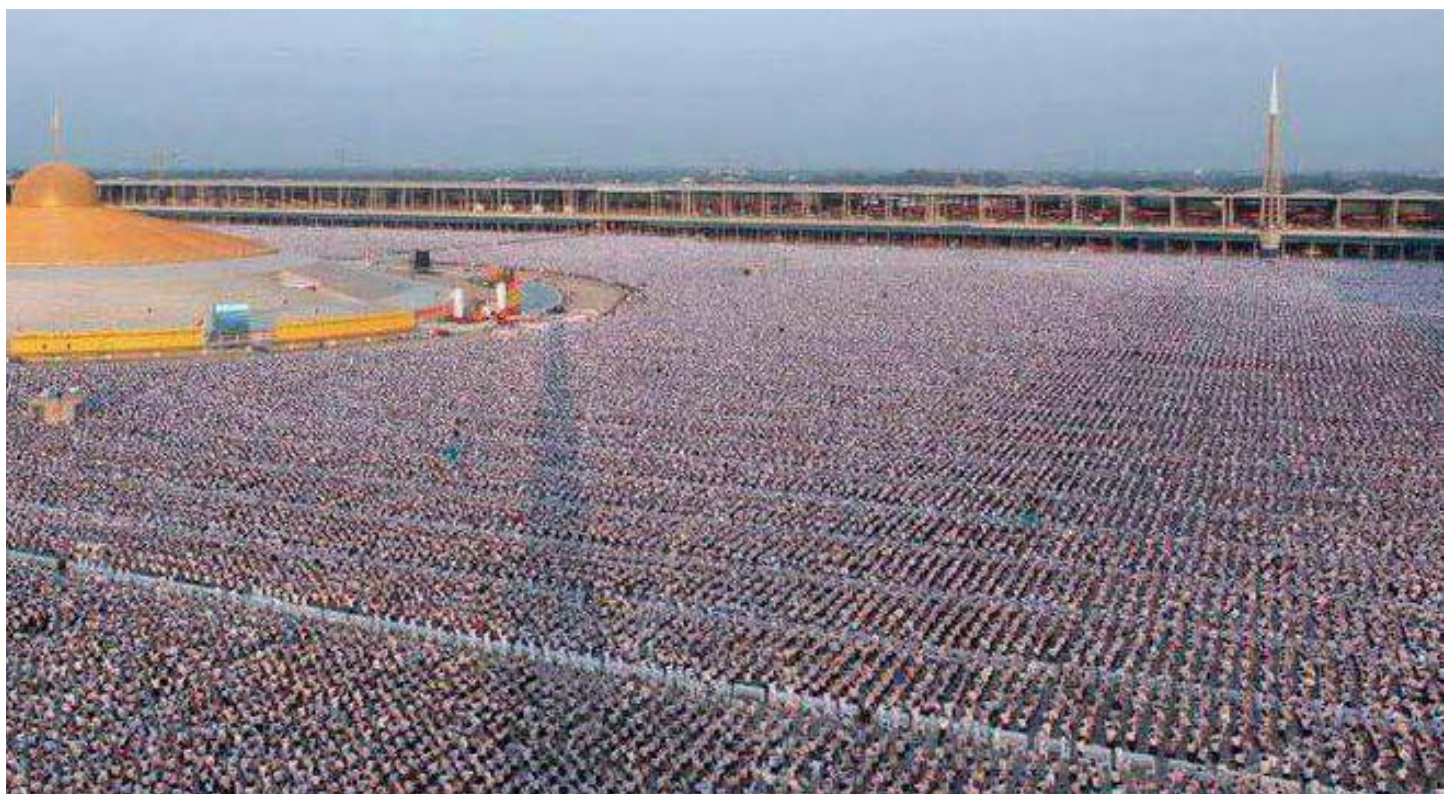


PEACE & SECURITY - THIS IS OUR BUSINESS!

young experts from the South Caucasus



September 21, 2015. To celebrate the International Day of Peace, one million children from over 5000 schools gathered at Shammakaya Phra temple in Thailand to meditate together for world peace.

EDITORIAL

On 19 September, 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia, a regional conference "Gender Dimension of Regional Peace and Security" took place attended by 26 participants from Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The objective of the conference was to support Regional peace discourse and peace-building through the regional conference where everyone could discuss various issues on the current security status quo in the Region; the security challenges and threats, how to desecuritize these threats; how build peace in the region; how involve as many as possible young women and girls; how to use the international instruments such as NAPs for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; what could be the future of the Region; how this future can be shaped with more involvement of youth and the civil society as a whole.

The Peace Conference hosted experts and practitioners, students and women NGO representatives from Ukraine and the South Caucasus countries to discuss the regional security dimension and peace building through gender perspectives and share UNSCR 1325 NAP implementation experience to promote women's and girls' increased participation in peace and security issues.

The Structure of the conference -The Conference was organized on 19 September 2015 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The working Language was English and Russian. The conference was broken down in three sessions with moderator, key speeches from all four participant countries, Q&A and discussions after each session.

The Conference sessions were focused on the major issues that concerned Regional security dimension and gender perspectives; key international instruments for





advancing women's issues and role in peace and security, and gender perspectives of Regional peace building process. The Session I was on Regional Security Dimension and Women, Peace and Security in Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia; the Session II was on Instruments for Women's Increased Participation in Establishing Regional Peace and Security – NAP for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its follow up resolutions; Local Women NGO's role in implementation of NAPs on UNSCR 1325 and other peace strategies and policies; and the Session III was about advancing women's and youth's peace-building initiatives - Gender Perspectives of Regional Peace Building Process.

The conference agenda was built on the Aide Memoire and the participant inputs, who had developed their speeches according to the topics within the offered

sessions and was developed this way (the agenda is attached).

The whole conference was fully packed with various and diverse topics and speeches which were followed by heated discussions. The conference ended with the hope that this kind of events would be more frequently organized as the regular meetings, discussions, conferences and advocacy facilitated to open exchange of views and approaches, it could help promote peace building ideas and advocate for security strategies and policy implementation. The Conference was finalized with key messages to advance women, peace and security issues and increase women's role in Regional peace building process.

*NINO LAGVILAVA
Chair of the Board, YWEPS*





Shorena LORTKIPANIDZE,
*Expert in Women, Peace and Security; PhD
candidate in international relations; Georgia*

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY - Challenging Regional Security Agenda

We need gender analysis to know what world politics says about women. The scholars call these putting gender sensitive lenses. Let us see to what kind of questions we might ask when we put on our gender-sensitive lenses while discussing international, regional and national security.

As of 2012 less than 6 percent of the world's heads of the states were women and most of the world's military personnel were men. To understand the lack of women in high places we might start with asking question where the women are. We can definitely find women in their traditional roles and spheres, in international politics these roles are secretaries, clerical workers, domestic servants, and diplomats' wives. Women are invisible, holding and mostly occupying low-paid or non-remunerated positions. If we use gender lenses the questions would lead us to mapping of existing power structures impeding women to succeed and they are the following: How are the types of power necessary to keep unequal gender structures in place perpetuated? Does it make any difference to state's policy practice that their foreign and security policies are often legitimated through appeals to various types of masculinity? Does it make difference that it is predominantly men to fight wars? Answering these questions may help us to see what is very often taken as granted is how the world is organized, in fact keeping in place certain social arrangements and institutional structures that contribute to the subordina-

tion of women and other disabled groups. In sum, global politics contribute to retain women invisible as it keeps traditional structures and institutions in place.

Post-soviet states share the common past and in certain point common present. Democratization processes more concerns certain states, when others are reluctant to them. Conflicts, occupation, annexation, and geopolitical tensions only aggravate gender equality related problems. In the times of war there is no place for changes, common thinking justifies the gender inequalities. Masculine understanding of national security is part of mainstream discourse in post-soviet states, while feminist definitions is different and open doors for individual security, while traditional national security can be in tension with feminist definition. It definition of security in a broader terms – as the diminution of all forms of violence, including physical, economic, and ecological. They suggest that we think about security from bottom up, instead of from the top down, it means that we start from security of individual or community rather than with that of the state or the international system. This allows examining critically the role of states as adequate security providers. When states are torn by conflicts, government is preoccupied by national security, then less of its citizens, especially women experience physical security. Many states formally at peace sustain huge military spending, while cutting social spending on which women are more dependent than men. In sum existing framework of national security thinking and agenda are

reluctant to implement essential gender equality policies.

Security seeking behavior of states is legitimated by its association with certain types of masculinity. This trend narrows the range of permissible ways for states to act and may reduce likelihood of achieving peaceful solution to the conflicts. Conciliation is often seen as weakness and not as a national interest. This can also contribute to the perceived inauthenticity of women's voices in matters of policy making.

Women are seen mainly as victims. But if we want to define security in broader terms, we have to advocate for the concept which says that women are as men security providers. As civilian casualties increase, women's responsibility rise. When men go off to fight, women left behind as mothers, family providers and caregivers. Instead of war patriot, we might begin to think about citizen as a definition of security provider that could include us all civilians and soldiers alike. It could also provide a less militarized notion of security.

Women do not play a visible or proportional role in Georgian politics as, until 2012, there were only nine women members in the previous parliament. Among contestants of the October 2012 parliamentary elections, the level of women's representation was slightly higher than in previous elections. In the previous parliament, women's representation among MPs was 6%. In the newly elected parliament it reached 12%. Georgia's international rating is 111th place for 2015, in the world classification index, Women in National Parliaments. One should also mention that women's role in politics is not actively discussed by society. According to the poll conducted by the National Democratic Institute (NDI, US) in November 2013, 46% of the Georgian population consider women's representation satisfactory, which indicates that public opinion tends to distrust women politicians and women stay among second-class players in political processes and gender-based discrimination is still part of the electoral process in Georgia.

At the same time, Georgia has made some progress in elaborating and implementing gender related legislation. In 2010, Georgia adopted the Law on Gender Equality and Action Plan for the Implementation of the Law. The Georgian parliament has ratified the following resolutions affecting security governance issues: UN SC Resolutions 1325 on women, and peace and security; UN SC Resolution 1820 condemning the use of sexual violence as a tool of war, and declaring that "rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide"; UN SC Resolution 1888 mandating peace-keeping missions to protect women and children from rampant sexual violence during armed conflict; UN SC Resolution 1889, which explicitly links sexual violence as a tactic of war with women, peace and security issues; UN SC Resolution 1960 on women, peace and security.

Under the resolution of the Georgian parliament, the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN SC Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960 on Women, Peace and Security was adopted in 2011. The

National Action Plan has five priority areas. The first one underlines the issue of women's participation at the decision-making level in conflict elimination, prevention and management process. This part of the Plan sets several objectives which target key power issues: women's increased participation and involvement in the defence and security sector and in peace negotiations. The implementing agencies are the Gender Equality Council, the Office of the National Security Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration. Part of the state budget and donors' funding are key resources to ensure implementation of the planned activities. Parliament has approved Georgia's 2012-2015 NAP for the Implementation of UN SC Resolution on Women, Peace and Security, on 27 December 2011.

Even with these tools of gender equality, significant differences remain in the roles of men and women in the sector. According to international sources, women are underrepresented in political offices on both national and local levels in Georgia. The country was ranked 60th out of 86 in the 2012 Social Institutions and Gender Index and was given the 33rd position among 102 countries in the 2009 Social Institutions and Gender Index. This in reality means that women's roles and representation in the defence and security sector and in formal decision-making processes are limited.

Despite the fact that there are institutional and legislative mechanisms ensuring women's participation in security and defence-related decision-making, there are still many challenges to be addressed. Such challenges are reflected in the absence of gender-sensitive approaches in the relevant government structures where gender issues are still perceived as a formal and exaggerated problem. Besides, in most cases some positions are specially created for male service officers. Traditional gender stereotypes prevail in the defence and security sector, which is one of the most conservative areas. There is a ban on appointing women to combat positions, a process excludes women from the decision-making process.

Our neighbour countries Armenia and Azerbaijan have even worse situation. They have not adopted women, peace and security agenda as resolution 1325 was not ratified with its accompanying resolutions which are vital for increasing state's responsibility in regard to women's more active contributing participating in security decision-making. We have already mentioned that war and conflict situation is not a good ground to make changes. But it is good ground to reflecting on existing repressive and women subordinating power structures. Democratization and increasing state's accountability and transparency is also another point to highlight in the light of feministic perspectives. More democracy is more inclusive society and more place for equal participation and decision-making. To go back to the title of the article challenging existing power structures and transforming state and social institutions open doors for more democracy and decrease the chance for wars and violence. Advancing women in peace and security is a one of the guarantees for peace in the region and in the world.



Vira MARTYNIUK,
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 Social Policy of Ukraine*

Investments in Gender Equality and Improvement of Women's Status

The Constitution of Ukraine enshrines equal rights and freedom for all citizens; thus the Government of Ukraine has been mandated to strengthen gender equality in Ukrainian society. Law of Ukraine "On Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men" envisages achieving equality of women and men by ensuring equal legal rights for women and men, use of temporary special measures aimed at addressing the imbalances between women and men to exercise equal rights given them by the Constitution and laws of Ukraine.

State program on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men for the period until 2016 envisages measures aimed at:

- bringing Ukrainian legislation in line with international standards;
- implementing of measures for the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, especially in terms of gender equality
- realization of information and explanatory work among employers on introducing European standards of equality, reducing gender pay gap between women and men;
- creating conditions for equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men on child-rearing;
- establishing gender approaches at the education system;
- carrying out an information campaigns together with the media, cultural institutions and schools to

overcome stereotypes about the role of women and men;

- developing a mechanism for implementing the rights protection against discrimination based on sex and to take the necessary steps for the review of cases of such discrimination
- implementation of treaties and other international obligations of equal rights and opportunities for women and men;
- involving international organizations and NGOs to fulfill the tasks stipulated by the State Program.

Strengthening the role of women in political and economic life.

Important for Ukraine is the issue of increasing women's representation in parliament.

- Among People's Deputies of Ukraine there are 12% of women (in the previous convocation there part was 9.4%);
- Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine - 11.1% of women (16 men, 2 women)
- regional councils - 12% women
- district councils - 23% women
- municipalities - 28% women
- village councils - 46% women

To resolve this problem an amendment was made to the Law of Ukraine "On Political Parties in Ukraine". In accordance with it size of the quotas, which determines the minimum level of representation of women-

must be at least 30 percent of the total number of candidates in the electoral list.

In some areas there are good practices for the development of leadership skills among women, particularly women from rural areas, conducting schools for candidates for deputies of local councils.

The actual pay gap between men and women in 2015 is 26.3%, in 2014 was 23.7%. Gender equality investments have a new face under the war conditions. Today, over half a million women in Ukraine are deprived of the right to health, education, work and housing. Women regardless of their age, occupation, social status are deprived of right to self-realization as well as any opportunities to work and financially support themselves and their families. During a military conflict life dynamics demands a change of gender equality and women's rights protection investment priorities.

Understanding the challenges that we face today one of the main priorities of the Government of Ukraine are:

- Training and retraining of internal displaced women;
- Job creation for women, especially with children;
- Psychological support and rehabilitation system for the Ukrainian citizens, who were involved in the military conflict (families of combatants, murdered or forcibly displaced persons; eye-witnesses and victims of hostilities);
- Recovery of destroyed infrastructure in liberated areas taken into account gender equality.

The main task facing society today is to ensure protection of vulnerable people. We hope that all mentioned instruments will help Ukraine to ensure social stability and preserve the spirit of liberty and of gender equality.

Knarik MKRTCHYAN,
*Coordinator of the Peace Building
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UNSCR 1325 in Peace Building Processes over Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

« Women make up 50 per cent of the population, how can you possibly attempt to create and maintain international peace and security when you're excluding 50% of the population? »

SARAH TAYLOR,
Coordinator, NGO Working Group,
Women, Peace and Security

Contemporary armed conflicts oblige new realities, which are not taken into account by different stakeholders. Anyone as an observer can easily note that citizens are the ones most affected during and after the armed conflict. This situation is so much referable to women. Neglect and indifference, lack of mechanisms and political will have already created an environment of impunity for the war criminals.

Before moving forward it is important to understand what are the main reasons, saved war tactics that trigger military leaders to unleash different and horrifying types of violence against women during and even after the armed conflicts? So, the first reason is

that women play a very important role when it comes to the reproduction of the nation. Rape, humiliation, killing and other methods, which are so much used during the armed conflict against women, have direct influence on reproduction ratio of the nation. Moreover, deeply rooted gender stereotypes marginalize and exclude women from sociopolitical life. In societies with a strong patriarchal structure women are blamed for the war crimes committed against them.

Another reason is women's underrepresentation in decision making and peace building processes, which detains women from raising their needs, problems and concerns. In 2008, UNIFEM estimated that women account for less than 10% of members in formal peace negotiations and less than 2% of signatories to peace agreements. A study of the Congo, Sudan and Uganda concluded that recognizing and supporting the role of women was a minor afterthought. In Southeastern Nigeria, women were neither represented nor consulted in peace negotiations. The agreement on ceasefire over Nagorno-Karabakh conflict entered into force on May 12, 1994. All signatures put on the ceasefire agreement belong to men.

As a matter of fact in academic literature women are mainly portrayed as victims of war, as a weak angle of the nation, who does not have any positive input during armed conflicts, which overshadows women's roles in the society. But the reality significantly differs from the stereotypic perceptions:

- During 13 years (1990-2003) women have participated in 38 conflicts as combatants,
- Women serve as medical staff members and other service providers vital during the armed conflict,
- Women become the 'engine' of heavy and light industry,
- Women take over both males' and females' responsibilities in household chores,
- Women are central caretakers of the families in many cultures and etc.
- Only in 2000 UNSC adopted its first ever resolution on women, peace and security agenda,

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognizes women as active participants of armed conflict, calls all UN member states to take required steps to increase women's participation in decision making and peace building processes, creates general standards for reporting on current situations for member states. Another advantage of the resolution is that even internationally non recognized countries are allowed to submit UNSCR 1325 reports.

The recognition of women's roles is a step forward in order to make sociopolitical structures more diverse. However, there are certain realities and challenges, which must be taken into consideration in ear-

nest. In contemporary armed conflicts war rapes have already become a weapon, which are very effective, cheap, easily obtainable, and have long lasting impact. Rape is a weapon of war, used more against women than men: 94% of displaced households in Sierra Leone were subjected to sexual assault; a quarter to half women in Rwanda's genocide was raped. Moreover, 90% of world's refugees are women. Many women resort to prostitution to support their families. Because of war rapes and inability to have safe sex due the lack of condoms and etc., the level of infection with HIV/AIDs among female populations in conflict areas is very high.

The next question is: what does UNSCR 1325 suggest to member states and specially women affected by the conflict? UNSCR 1325 as such has 4 pillars, which are interconnected and complement each other.

Participation: UNSCR 1325 calls member states to implement mechanisms for increased participation of women at all levels of decision making, which include national, regional, international institutions. It calls for increased participation in prevention, management of the conflict and reconciliation processes. Women should be involved in peace operations as police representatives, soldiers, and, last but not least, as Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.

In Nagorno-Karabakh women's participation do not precede 30% in politics and other fields related to decision making, which is not too low, but in the same place not enough to lobby for gender policies. In comparison with men women are not equally involved in military circles. Currently, there are no formal peace talks involving Nagorno-Karabakh. The meetings regarding the region are conducted at either foreign ministries or presidential levels of Armenia and Azerbaijan. So, women are automatically left out from decision making processes at the national level. At the international level the most important stakeholder regarding the reconciliation processes of the conflict over NK enclave, is OSCE Minsk group, which is co-chaired by France, Russian Federation and the United States. These countries are represented by male Ambassadors. Hence, women do not have the chance to influence on decision making processes at the international level either. The exclusive and closed nature of the negotiations means that women are not included, their voices are not heard, and their concerns are not taken into account.

Protection: UNSCR 1325 calls for member states to develop and design special mechanisms to provide effective protection for women. Women and girls must be protected from sexual violence, rape and other forms of gender based violence during the armed conflict. They must be protected even in emergency and humanitarian (such as refugee camps) situations.

When the war broke out, there were no mecha-

nisms neither governmental nor societal levels. After the active phase of the conflict in conflict affected regions there was lack of means of hygienic, low level of safety, lack of medication, not stable security bodies, and absence of specific bodies that are responsible for the registration of war crimes committed against women.

Prevention: UNSCR 1325 calls for member states to improve intervention strategies in order to prevent sexual and gender based violence against women. The methods must include prosecution of those criminals responsible for the violations of IHL and international laws. Member countries must strengthen the enforcement of women's rights at the national level and support local women initiatives.

After the active phase all parties of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict failed to provide effective prosecution mechanisms. There were no mechanisms to register war crimes against women.

Relief and Recovery: UNSCR 1325 calls for member states to develop relief and recovery methods to face national/international crises through gender perspective, which means that member countries should respect civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps. Member states should also take into consid-

eration the peculiar needs of women and girls while designing refugee camps.

Women, as well as ex combatant did not receive any psychological help to be fully reintegrated in civilian life, which aggravates the overall level of intolerance and violence. In order to implement UNSCR 1325 member states should develop national action plans (NAPs), yet only 21 out of 192 member states have developed NAPs to achieve the goals set by the resolution. But there is a serious gap in implementation and accountability regarding the resolution, since the Security Council has not developed certain mechanisms of accountability to make member countries implement the provisions of the resolution.

The implementation of the provisions of resolution is very important for South Caucasus, particularly conflict over NK enclave as well. It has double-natured importance for us: on one hand it will help to effectively struggle against gender inequality and, on the other hand, increase women's participation in peace building initiatives and negotiations. The only thing that is left to say is that war is not a justification for the violence. It does not create new types of violence, it aggravates the situation.

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YWEPS, MA Student,

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Non-formal Education – The catalyst for Peace-building process

The global system tends to be more developed and modernized than it was before. In this process, youth are one of the most significant actors, who can play a huge role in world policy formation. Empowerment of youth can drive the world to the better, more diverse, more peaceful system.

Education is the best tool to empower youth and supply the society with innovative ideas, new per-

spectives of problem decision. Using the word “Education” I mean not overcrowded rooms, books, mid-term exams and graduation diploma, but formation of Attitudes, development of social personality, independent thinking and etc. Considering abovementioned topics, I argue that non-formal education plays more crucial role than formal does. Education has to be understood as sharing of ideas, not the competition between two strong powers.

Some traditionalist reader may arise the question: Why non-formal education? Because it is the best opportunity to gather young people, make a platform for sharing ideas, developing youth initiatives and Organization. In this framework Students have free space to share knowledge, experience with surroundings. They are eager to discuss about Peace-building, prevention of conflicts and extremism, capacity building among different groups and countries. One of the best example, how beneficial non-formal education can be is "Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security" (adopted in Amman, Jordan on 22 August 2015). Abovementioned document connects us all, as global citizens, with another youth communities from all over the world through peace issues. The Declaration was entirely produced by young people, engaging more than 11,000 youths' voices and contributions online. This is a great example of inclusive, participatory practice. In this declaration, youth expressed their commitments to live in a peaceful global society and presented a common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support us transforming conflict, preventing and countering violence and building sustainable peace. Amman Declaration is

a good example how youth initiatives are taken into consideration by International Institutions.

Education is the issue that must be implemented through the Top-down as well as Bottom-up policy. The Government in cooperation with relevant NGOs and experts has to elaborate programs and create relevant environment to empower young women students, educate and support their capacities in peace analysis, planning, peace discourse and dialogue. Youth is the power that authentically can make social changes. Governmental and Non-governmental sectors are expected to support young generation to find themselves as peace actors and role players. The future is in the hands of young professionals so, we should take the opportunity.

Education is a tool that breaks borders between various social classes, ethnic, religious, sexual groups and etc. If we aim to achieve more peaceful and secure world, first of all – we have to raise social awareness as well as civil responsibility of society we live in, Easy access to non-formal education - is the best solution to promote Security and peace-building among different nations.



Tamar CHKHAIDZE,
YWEPS

Women in Politics, Regional Security and Current Wars

Today we see it very vividly that there is a fine line between regional and global security. These two dimensions are so interdependent that threats became common, dangers in Syria are dangers for Caucasus, war in Ukraine is very familiar to war in Georgia, turbulences in monetary system is inflation in most part of the world. We again come to the fact that we all live in one world and security threat to any of other country sooner or later becomes a treat to own country.

Much is said about the levels of security, be it state, regional or global. We all agree that global security implies regional as well as state security. The sovereign state will always remain as a key actor in anarchical system of international politics. Therefore states existing in neighborhood take trouble of finding common interests and work together.

I would like to pay your attention to the particular topic of women and their role in regional security. In our region Georgia boasts to have the best indicator of women who are engaged in peace and regional se-

curity building process. Though the indicator is not as high as we would like to, still these women are at decision making level and the steps that they take always matter. In Georgia we have several outstanding ladies who are in charge of security and peace building. In the Cabinet, Minister of Defence of Georgia Miss Tinatin Khidasheli. In the latest period very important documents were signed, such as a substantial NATO –GEORGIAN package, cooperation with European Union, mainly European Union Monitoring Mission, cooperation within the format of Eastern partnership on the issues like transparency/combating terrorism, cooperation under CSDP, cyber security and professional development of the military personnel. One of her deputy ministers is Miss Anna Dolidze, actively taking part development of Georgian Defence sector. Another key women in Georgian politics is now x- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia Miss Tamar Beruchashvili. Miss Tamar was very active in forming bilateral as well as multilateral relations. She was advocating for pragmatic, peaceful dispute settlement with the Russian Federation. Her vision was resolving the hostile relation through diplomatic mechanisms and only. Georgia has been participating at the Geneva International Discussions and The Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism, so called IPRM. The ties between Georgian and European countries have become tighter. Very important steps have been taken for Georgia in order to be a stable, strong country on the state level, a partner and hub in the region, and a new silk road between Asia and Europe. Latest agreements with China justifies this fact. Another women whose work is fruitful in government is Miss Ketevan Tsikhelashvili first deputy state Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic equality. She has been working for reconciliation of our Abkhazian and Ossetian citizens, creating programs for their participation state processes.

Last but not the least the Assistant to the President of Georgia on National Security Issues - The National Security Council Secretary is Miss Irine Imerlishvili, her obligations are as follow:

As the representative of the President of Georgia, participates in preparation of the drafts of the National Security Concept of Georgia and Georgia's Threats Assessment Document.

- Organizes the work of the National Security Council;
- Supervises the Office of the National Security Council;
- Prepares National Security Council Sessions;
- On the behalf of the National Security Council,

signs contracts for the performance of expert and analytical works;

- Within the scope of his/her authority, signs official documents;
- Fulfills other tasks as assigned by order of the President of Georgia.

This list will take us too far. The above mentioned outstanding women are examples how huge the capabilities of educated women in Georgia are. On the other hand, we cannot show a blind eye to a reality which is the statistics of how many women really work in security sector or governing structures in general. The latest trend is positively growing – in previous years the average percent was 15, nowadays it goes up to 35 %. The underlying trend of improvement in the number of women engaged in politics, which amongst other things could be linked to Georgia's higher level of international engagement, its links to the EU, and its perception of itself as a European state should result in better representation of issues affecting Georgian women. The case of Georgia shows, that it is not just institutions that are important. Party and electoral politics also matters, in pushing gender issues to the forefront of wider political debates.

Women in Armenia lack both institutional and cultural resources, and are at severe cultural, social and economic disadvantages when it comes to developing a political career. Gender socialization processes, including attitudes toward women's leadership and overall gender roles, limit women's opportunities and choices to be involved in political life. For example, 63% of the population agree that men make better political leaders than women do. Furthermore, 60% agree that, on the whole, men make better business executives than women do. On this point, Armenia's political institutions, electoral system, and the level of party competition all contribute to create obstacles for women's political participation. The low number of women in politics is mainly determined by the absence of a "woman-friendly atmosphere" during elections, as well as on the decision-making level. In addition, elections are associated with threatening people, giving bribes, and resolving issues in a "boy's clubs" style. Women can't and don't want to play these "games" and automatically becoming excluded.

Given the flawed system of democracy in Azerbaijan, further research is needed to understand why certain women are able to advance in politics, while many more are not. Women's low level of participation may also be related to general disillusionment with the political system on the part of many women, including a large part of the educated and urban classes. Some of

these women call for regime change, others criticize certain policies, and a third group seeks to cooperate on areas of shared interest, primarily through the institution of the State Committee on Family, Women and Children's Affairs. A better understanding of how women in civil society relate to political institutions may provide an alternative means of measuring female participation and inclusion of women's perspectives in policy-making.

Despite the evident progress made by Ukraine in ensuring gender parity, the current situation shows unacceptably low levels of participation of Ukrainian women in political and decision making processes at national level. According to all international commitments and indicators, Ukraine is moving in the wrong direction in terms of promoting women's participation in politics and decision-making. Despite the generally high level of education and qualification of Ukraine's women, and the fact that women constitute the majority of Ukrainian voters, political parties still do not recognize women's potential on the political stage and often ignore the fact that women's interests are under-represented. This automatically affects the gender imbalance in many key areas such as employment, welfare, health, education, and economic development. To remedy this situation and move closer to European standards of democracy and gender equality.

Global experience of developing National and Regional Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security has resulted in four core goals for advancing implementation of UNSCR 1325: i) Prevention: Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations; ii) Participation: women participate equally with men and gender equality is promoted in peace and security decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels and; iii) Protection: Women's and girls' rights are protected and promoted in conflict-affected situations and; iv) Relief and Recovery: highlighting the need to meet women and girls specific relief needs and to ensure that women's capacities to act as agents in relief and recovery are reinforced in humanitarian crises and conflict and post-conflict situations. This Regional Action Plan is broad-based to the extent that it focuses on conflict/post-conflict, transitional contexts and humanitarian settings. This is based on practice that humanitarian, peacebuilding and conflict prevention scenarios and responses are inter-linked. The RAP also focuses efforts on preventing conflict not just responding once violence erupts and governance systems are disrupted.

Having touched the gender and security topic, I

think a few words must be said about the current situation in Ukraine and Syria. Though we claim that it is the 21-st century and a human being on its highest step of development, I am afraid the wars say the opposite. In the case of the 2014 Russian-Ukrainian conflict, implementation of the treaty has actually facilitated military expansion. A main reason the West hesitates to support Ukraine militarily lies in Russia's overkill capacity and Europe's In the case of the 2014 Russian-Ukrainian conflict, implementation of the treaty has actually facilitated military expansion. A main reason the West hesitates to support Ukraine militarily lies in Russia's overkill capacity and Europe's fear of World War III. Both Russia's ability to threaten the deployment of nuclear weapons and Ukraine's inability to do so made Moscow's aggressive foreign policy more likely. Both Russia's ability to threaten the deployment of nuclear weapons and Ukraine's inability to do so made Moscow's aggressive foreign policy more likely. This argument makes sense indeed but on the other hand, the United Nations could have done more to help Ukraine. The same applies to Syria, fear of World War III should not have been the argument in mal-assistance of the refugees. Some countries refused to give a helping hand, some agreed to share this responsibility. I think that none of the European countries is ready to host every refugee at once but providing the average help is within their opportunities. Both the crises in Ukraine and crises in Syria demonstrate that the problem lays in war. If we go deeper the problem lays in the non -existence of will from the side of superpowers to eradicate war as the main reason of endless torture and political crises.

On Munich Security Conference EU High representative for foreign affairs and security policy Miss Federica Mogherini stated "Complexity, Conflictuality, Interdependence seem to be the only elements we can be sure about when we refer to our times." Minister of defence of Netherlands Miss Jeanine Hennis also stated that "It is high time for us to stop sitting back and to relax, fires are burning around the world". Minister of Defence of Germany Miss Ursula Von Der Leyen noted that "I have got the impression that we have already lost by looking too much in our national, national courtyards. Instead of focusing on whole set of European forces, if we Europeans want to remain a credible actor of security policy we must plan and act together ".

In the end, I want to stay optimistic and wish you living in a peaceful world, governed by peace-loving, professional men and women.



Mariam ROBITASHVILI,
Women's Information Centre (WIC),
Georgia

National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in Georgia

The first step to promote UN SCR 1325 was taken by 11 NGOs in 2002. It was supported by UNIFEM in the frame of the project "Women's Peace Council".

Women's Peace Council was working in four directions: Public hearing of women in Parliament, information activities of the agency "Women's Voice", people's diplomacy and meetings in conflict-affected regions, and promotion of UN SCR 1325 in grassroots women.

In 2006, women's NGOs assisted to the development of the first action plan for the implementation of UN SCR 1325. Although huge amount of work had been done and great efforts had been made, process did not end with the adoption of the plan. However some aspects of the document had been considered in action plan 2007-2009 for gender equality policy implementation.

In 2007, women's NGOs participated in the development of state strategy on IDPs in Georgia. Women's NGOs put forward their recommendations regarding internally displaced women, and at the same time included gender aspects in this important document.

In August 2008, during Russia vs. Georgia war, women's NGOs were working actively toward providing urgent aid to IDPs of "new wave" who were forced to leave their homes and seek shelter in Tbilisi and other cities or villages of Georgia.

Women's NGOs did a good job through this period. They managed to mobilize Tbilisi district communities, cities and villages, IDPs' settlements, business entities, and to provide IDPs with humanitarian aid. They were also providing information support, distributing humanitarian aid coming from various international and non-governmental organizations among IDPs.

In 2010, Georgia had a real chance to develop and execute action plan for the implementation of UN SCR 1325. In 2010, draft National Action Plan 2011-2013 for gender equality was developed in Georgia, which included implementation of UN SCR 1325 as a priority.

In order to keep balance in the Task Force aimed at development of action plan for the implementation of Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, besides representatives of state entities one NGO was also involved in the group.

In this Task Force NGOs should have been represented by the organization having good reputation and at the same time, having experience of cooperation with other organizations and representatives of government and international community. This role was performed by Women's Information Center, as the Center uses IC technologies to collect and coordinate information regarding women's issues.

In order to establish communication between representatives of government and civil society, Women's Information Center conducted series of parallel meetings with NGOs working on women's and conflict issues in Georgia. During these meetings, Women's Information Center was introducing organizations into activities of Task Force and progress made by them. Afterwards, in order to select ideas and recommendations for presenting to Task Force at the following meeting, Women's Information Center acted as a facilitator of discussions among NGOs regarding important sections of the Action Plan for UN SCR 1325.

After adoption of Action Plan in 2011, coordination group, envisaged by the plan, was established, in which Women's Information Center and one more NGO were involved together with state agencies. Meetings with representatives of civil sector are continuing on a permanent basis, they receive informa-

tion about progress in the implementation of the plan, and on the other hand, in these meetings NGOs agree on recommendations which then will be presented to coordination group. In addition, in the meeting of NGOs, representative of regional organizations who will participate in the next meeting of governmental group are also selected. In this case principle of rotation is used, which means that each meeting is attended by a new organization presented by NGOs. As a result, initiatives and considerations of civil sector are reflected in the work of group as fully as possible. It is very important to remember role of different organizations and people, IDPs, as contribution and cooperation of each individual is a matter of utmost importance.

Important steps are taken by the Ministry of Defense in terms of implementation of action plan of Resolution 1325. We are in close cooperation in this regard.

1st direction of the plan about participation can be considered as partially implemented. MOD conducts pre-deployment trainings about gender and UN SCR on 1325. National Defense Academy is actively conducting different trainings.

As for the prevention, there is more to be done, for example Cooperation with international and civil society organizations for formation and training of effective support groups, coordination of trainings aiming at support of population, especially women and children, in conflict situations. Increase awareness of the population residing on territories adjacent to occupied regions and, if necessary, throughout Georgia, on increased risks and threats; study on existing legislation on crimes of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict periods and respective recommendations; conferences, discussions and information broadcast on zero tolerance towards crimes of sexual violence committed in conflict or post conflict period;

For the direction of protection situation is similar and most of the activities are partially implemented, such as trainings for representatives of law enforcement bodies, legal aid units, judiciary, local self-governments and other relevant agencies on the topics of UN security Council resolutions; Support development of legal aid service and other mechanisms on the territories adjacent to occupied regions to ensure access to justice for conflict affected women and girls.

As for Relief and Recovery – Addressing special needs of women in war/conflict and post-conflict situations most of the activities have not been implemented yet. For example, needs assessment and respective report reflecting the needs of women; Study special needs of IDP and conflict affected women and girls with disabilities; study psycho-social needs of IDP, refugees and conflict affected women, children and elderly persons, residing on territories adjacent

to occupied regions, especially those suffering from posttraumatic stress and victims of sexual and gender based violence to assess their needs; provide relevant psycho-social and legal assistance to IDP, refugee and conflict affected women and girls, protect their health.

To sum up, it matters who is responsible person at each entity, level of qualification and motivation has a huge impact on the implementation of each component. Most of the activities are of general character and therefore, entities tend to incorporate these activities into wider, already-planned activities.

Another problem is the term, because there is no differentiated timeline for the plan and it does not specify which activity should be implemented in which period.

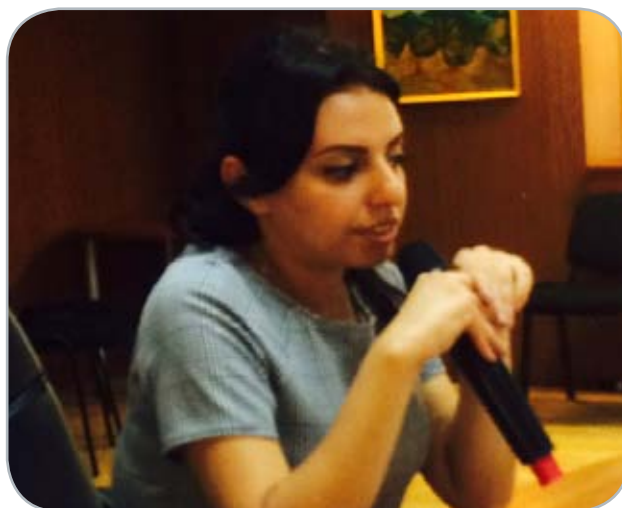
Ministry of Defense is one of the most successful ministries in terms of performance of action plan. Implementation of the plan is important to see actual changes. But it's also very important that commitments undertaken by the country are fulfilled. Although according to the action plan for Women, Peace and Security, Georgia is among the most successful countries, it is important that significant progress is demonstrated in terms of implementation of the plan.

Last year, on 58th Session of CEDAW Committee, 4th and 5th periodic reports were reviewed. NGOs submitted alternative report to the Committee where regarding UN SCR 1325 it was emphasized that “national coordination group working toward implementation of the plan is established on the basis of NGOs and ministries. Group is convened on a periodic basis and is supported only by international organizations. Among ministries, Ministry of Defense has taken important steps forward, though implementation of plan by other agencies does not stand up to criticism. At this stage, raising funds from state budget for the action plan still remains important problem”.

As regards challenges related to the implementation of the Action Plan, degree of implementation varies both by directions and responsible agencies. In addition to budgeting, lack of initiatives and attempts of raising additional funds from alternative resources is also a problem.

2015 marks an important year for the resolution 1325, as it's been 15 years after its adoption, as well as for the National action plan, which is coming to an end and there will be number of evaluations conducted by international organizations, ombudsmen, NGOs and government. We do hope to see more progress by the end of the plan and that the new plan is more comprehensive in terms of including more insights from civil society and incorporating budget for the successful implementation of the foreseen activities.

Shoghik VARDANYAN,
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Роль медиа В миротворчестве

Не последнюю роль в установлении мира и стабильности в мире играют средства массовой информации. Журналисты иногда не осознают ту роль, которую играют в том или ином конфликте, становясь инструментом в руках той или иной стороны, становясь участником информационной войны. СМИ, осознанно или неосознанно, провоцируют негативные настроения в обществе, навязывают читателю позицию, которая была навязана им.

Миротворческая журналистика (peacejournalism) определяется как выбор журналистов и редакторов — что и как освещать, чтобы общество оценило возможность ненасильственного решения проблем. Миротворческая журналистика стремится представить аудитории позицию всех конфликтующих сторон. Не секрет, что у каждой из сторон во всех конфликтах есть своя правда, и, освещая конфликт лишь с одной точки зрения, мы формируем настроение у аудитории.

Всемирно известное информационное агентство Reuters никогда использует слово «террорист» в своих публикациях. «Someone's terrorist is the other one's freedom fighter». Дело не только в том, что это не этично, дело в том, что профессионалы журналистики не должны вселять ненависть. СМИ созданы для того, чтобы сообщать информацию. Но чаще они берут на себя роль судей, грубо или тонко давая оценки, указывая на «виновных» и «невиновных», «правых» и «неправых».

Если журналист передает, что в результате перестрелки на границе между странами А и Б погибли 10 мирных жителей страны А и умалчивает жертв страны Б, то это страшная ложь, потому что искажает реальность, что в контексте конфликта чревато нежелательными последствиями. Тем самым журналист формирует образ «плохих» и «хороших».

На постсоветском пространстве, где по факту нет свободных СМИ, эта проблема стоит наиболее остро. Хотя, следует признать, что проблема носит глобальный характер. Под «свободными СМИ» подразумеваются самодостаточные СМИ, не финансируемые политическими партиями или той или иной организацией.

Кто-то может поспорить, что из-за публикаций в СМИ войны не начинаются. И он ошибется, потому что хотя войны объявляют политики, но воевать идут не они. В век Интернета каждый человек высказывает публично мнения о событиях, о которых узнал из СМИ. И выраженное СМИ настроение распространяется как позиция людей,

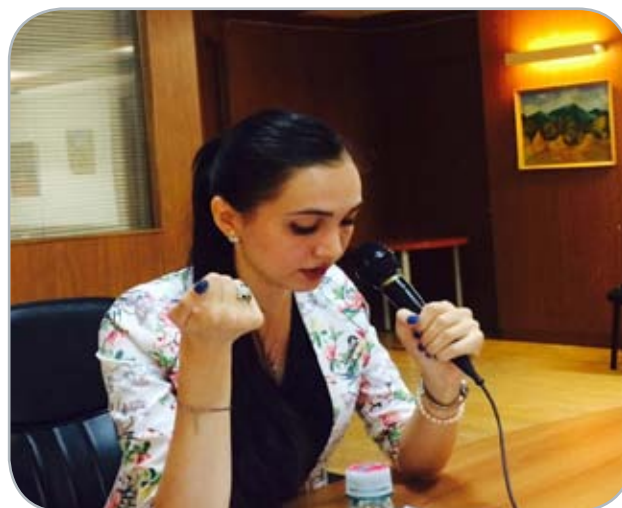
которые, сами того не сознавая, попали под влияние пропаганды.

Любая навязанная нам эмоция в медиа — это еще один патрон на завтрашней войне. В 21-м веке войны перешло в информационное пространство. Не так важно, сколько людей погибло во время столкновения накануне, если можно в статье написать, что убиты тысячи, вызвать гнев и ярость, после чего действительно будут убиты тысячи.



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Gender Dimension of Regional Peace and Security and Youth Participation and their Role in Pursuing peace and Security



The international security nowadays is a very essential and actual issue that concerns everyone regardless political awareness or interest, field of work, age, nationality, gender and etc. But first of all, talking about the international security we have to identify the definition and what do we mean by this expression. The meaning of «security» is often treated as a common sense term that can be understood by «unacknowledged consensus». The content of international security has expanded over the years. Today it covers a variety of interconnected issues in the world that have an impact on survival.

If we look at the map of the world we can see that there are so many unresolved problems, ongoing conflicts and ineffective measures that impact the international security in general. No doubts, it's the matter that should be taken into consideration by each and every single state as well as the international and other organizations. And as we see recently, the problem that appears in one region can lead to the negative consequences affecting other region of the world.

Coming to the regional measure of peace and security in post-soviet area, especially in South Caucasus, we can definitely state that this region cannot be overestimated in ensuring peace and regional security.

And taking into account the increasing role of women, especially young women in our societies and states we can say that the role of women in peace-building, conflict resolution, reconciliation, and supporting peace and security is also increasing nowadays. This tendency cannot bypass the region of South Caucasus as well.

More than the theoretical part that we all have learnt from our books, classes and news I would like

to talk about some practical issues and examples, especially from my life.

I started my active social life not so long time ago, since 2012. I remember my first event that I've attended and I do remember the speech that I've delivered there. Coincidence or not- but it was about the conflicts in South Caucasus and the ways how they can be resolved. Since then almost every event (it's more than 40) I've attended we were discussing mostly political issues more or less concerning security and cooperation. And in most of them there were lots of young women taking part and sharing thought and experiences. I made a small conclusion for myself that women nowadays have become even more active and even more interested in politics than actually men do. I think it's really big progress that we as women could reach at this stage, I mean being the citizens of young states after USSR collapse.

I would like to briefly talk about one of my "best practices" that can be shared. As we all are somehow engaged in international relations we all definitely know that youth becomes more active all over the world and the international organizations that give them voice, no doubts, succeeds in different fields. You can ask: But are our voices really being heard? I can give you an answer: Yes, it is. The international organizations really need a fresh breath and they take into account all of the fresh ideas and thoughts that youth bring.

As you might know the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) since being established in 1975 never had anything-to-do with youth sector and young people. I mean no projects, any specific fields and etc. There were only few conferences for youth. Therefore, the OSCE together with Swiss Chairmanship in 2014 decided to bring the youth into

attention and make it a priority in all 3 OSCE dimensions: human, politico-military and economic-environmental.

The concept was as following: to gather 57 young and active people from all of the participating states and give them a task: to prepare Youth Action Plan and to present it to 57 foreign ministers at the Ministerial Council in Basel. After 2 meetings our Action Plan was ready and was looking quite impressive and ambitious. It includes 144 recommendations both to participating states and OSCE Executive Structures and consists of 3 main axes: youth protection, promotion and participation. As promised, we presented it at the Ministerial Council in Basel. And it happened: the Ministerial Council really liked the plan and approved it, adopting a final document concerning this issue. For us, Youth Ambassadors it was a big success- our voices are being heard.

You can tell that what's happened next? It was just a formal document as hundreds of others and nothing else. But not in this case. It was adopted in December 2014, and already one of the important recommendations to OSCE Executive Structures has been implemented: as we were recommending in our Action Plan, the OSCE appointed 2 Special Representatives on Youth and Security. They have been appointed from our Youth Ambassadors, Serbian and Austrian YAs.

I think it's a real progress. Since that time our YAs have participated in lots of different projects, I can especially tell you about the one that is currently being implemented together with OSCE Mission to Ukraine and our fellow Youth Ambassadors from Russia, Ukraine and UK. They work together with OSCE

and are going to organize some seminars for young people suffering from Ukrainian crisis and especially living nearby the conflict area.

Besides that, I'd like to tell that coming to gender issue and women participation, most of YAs were young women from participating states. I came up with some small statistics for myself: almost whole Post-Soviet region has been presented by young women. All of the Central Asia, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine; in other words, the male representatives were only from Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, and Georgian representative also has been replaced by young lady recently. I consider it really god job- we, young women from post-soviet area become very active nowadays.

And last but not least -our regional initiative — creating «Young women experts' network for peace and security' is also one more example how youth and especially young professional women can unite, bring their expert knowledge and experience, share it with their peers, get more knowledge about women, peace and security and then use it for advancing peace ideas in the countries and for the benefit of Regional peace outcomes too.

Summing up all above mentioned I'd like to state that today we see lots of different event dedicated to youth participation and female involvement into political and socio-economic spheres of the states. Sometimes we think that they are not so effective, but as I love to say, you have to make even very small steps every day if you wish to see a progress. So we should continue this work and believe me, it has an impact and it does make a sense. We have to believe and work together.



Strategy for engagement and joint actions on confidence building and P2P diplomacy that involve women

By Nino LAGVILAVA,
YWEPS

Two years ago I was commissioned by UN Women to carry out a comprehensive study to elaborate range of recommendations in order to strengthen the engagement and joint actions on confidence building and P2P diplomacy with the involvement of women and explore the issue of the application of peace-building tools and mechanisms by women in Georgia.

The methodology employed was to review respective documents and carry out extensive face-to-face interviews with Georgian government staff and also to conduct interviews and focus group meetings with Georgian and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on the relevant topics in Georgia. The focus was on gathering information on both the past and current work of these organisations, the lessons learned and best practices as well as the gaps and challenges identified and opportunities for future strategy on women's involvement in confidence building and P2P diplomacy. Around 100 people participated in the study who contributed to final conclusions of the study as well as recommendations.

The recommendations suggested ways to contribute to a comprehensive approach to peace-building in Georgia through confidence building and P2P diplomacy where women's increased participation was seen as a valuable part of the process. The recommendations were built on well-known strategies and approaches such as: "peace being is achievable only through democracy and justice"; that the "win-win and do-no-harm approach is vital" to solving the problem; that international documents, resolutions and conventions as well as strategies and plans need to be applied. Informed citizenry and active peace journalism was named as important factor for re-establishing trust between conflicting parties with methodologies for formal and informal peace education required in order to foster a culture of dialogue and peaceful handling of conflicts. Specific segments of societies, such as women NGOs and CBOs, youth groups and IDPs, local governments, and professional groups were considered among the best resources for confidence building. It was concluded that a contextual and comprehensive conflict analysis from a gender-orientated perspective must be conducted regularly and forward thinking security and peace experts, professional interna-

tional and local organizations, grassroots peace movement members, including women professionals should be engaged. Peace building capacity, such as human resources, institutional capacities and peace infrastructure was identified as necessary tool in order to ensure effective national peace planning and implementation. And finally the governments' correct and well-tailored policies and strategies were mentioned as primary for achieving confidence building and peace and stability.

As noted, the recommendations reflected the views, approaches and visions of those participating in the research and represented the position of all that this would help accelerate a process conducive to the development of peace building agenda in the country with the active participation of women.

First of all it was underlined that People-to-people diplomacy and all other CBMs should be considered one of the quickest ways to reach out to the communities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, thus it was noted to effectively use these mechanisms to initiate joint projects facilitating the reconstruction of economic, cultural, environmental, social and societal structures and ties which bring mutual benefits and more effective peace outcomes for all parties involved.

Given the multiple internal and external factors, it was



recommended to keep applying both Track I and Track II (**P2P diplomacy**) diplomacy within a strategic framework for peace. Moreover, it was underlined **not to abandon multi-track diplomacy** and try to operate along several tracks simultaneously, including official and unofficial conflict resolution efforts. **Among CBMs, economic relations** were named the most effective mechanism for rapprochement and re-establishing old ties. **Infrastructure and transportation** was named an important mechanism for improved communication and cooperation including establishing business, cultural and social ties. **Educational opportunities/exchange** programs abroad were considered to be a good opportunity for young women and men from all conflicting and breakaway regions to study together and think together about better solutions for common problems including resolution of existing conflicts (another opportunity to carry out P2P).

Given the fact that **informed citizenry** is an important factor for re-establishing trust between conflicting parties, **media role was named decisive** in building confidence and trust, as it could play a constructive role to break stereotypes, change mind-sets and attitudes, shatter the enemy image of Georgia and show its peace-orientation. **ICT development is supported** in both Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Computer literacy is to be increased and youth is provided with personal computers to increase access to diverse information, access to social media and international broadcasting. Given that **special segments of society, such as women's NGOs and CBOs, youth groups and IDPs** were considered among the best resources for confidence building and advancing P2P activities. Grassroots efforts/**the role of local NGOs and CBOs** with the participation of women **operating across the ABL** and beyond have been evaluated very positively. The role of **local governments**, especially those working in the districts and villages located across the ABL, should increase their capacity and knowledge in confidence building issues. The **importance of women's role** in P2P and confidence building efforts has been underlined as one of the main factors for achieving effective peace results as women are considered to be the most efficient peacemaking actors and peace beneficiaries and the integration of gender issues in conflict management and peace building processes at all levels was the key to the effectiveness and the accountability of the ongoing peace processes. Forward-thinking security and peace experts, professional international and local organizations, grassroots peace movement members, including women professionals should be activated as much as possible as **outstanding professional competencies** are required to lead peace processes. **The Georgian Government's peace-building direction**, where all attention is given to peaceful means of conflict resolution should continue and be backed by the international community, including development actors as this is the only way to achieve positive peace and

long-term development for the country including its break-away regions. **A coherent donor aid and peace development policy** (systematic, strategic, and holistic) was advised to use for attaining best peace results which should be developed in partnership with the Georgian Government and civil society. A contextual and comprehensive **conflict analysis** from a gender perspective should be conducted regularly in order to evaluate whether the understanding of the conflict is still valid. Confidence building programmes should be structured around **common security challenges** such as environmental issues (e.g. sea and still water pollution, land degradation, deforestation and plant diseases) or societal security challenges (e.g. minority issues, migration, depopulation, women's rights/domestic violence and children's rights). A clear and **convincing definition of peace** is required to be agreed with active participation of women. This calls for a reconciling of the competing needs and concerns of all parties involved. The assessment of the available **peace building capacity**, such as human resources, institutional capacities, peace infrastructure, as well as gaps, is necessary to ensure effective national peace planning and implementation. It is recommended to enhance methodologies for formal and informal **peace education** that will foster a culture of dialogue and peaceful handling of conflicts. **International documents, resolutions and conventions**, as well as strategies and plans, need to be applied for all parties involved so that international standards and values, such as freedom, justice, democracy, equal participation and engagement, peace, security and sustainable development help attain the end goals (UNSCR 1325 and its follow up resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and NAPs for the implementation of these resolutions are excellent tools to move toward these goals). On a rather general note, based on the abovementioned, the development of a **coherent peace plan/multi-levelled, multi-sectoral strategy** is advised that will take into consideration all aspects discussed above. When working on the peace process in general, and on peace strategy and programmes implementation in particular, risk mitigation measures are vital to avoid intensification of the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants, so the **"Do No Harm"** approach should be incorporated into all activities throughout the application. **The win-win approach** to problem-solving will significantly contribute to confidence building and conflict resolution. The idea that all parties may satisfy their interests with a mutually beneficial resolution of existing problems, for example creating a mutually beneficial sense of interdependence between all the parties involved is a credible mechanism for peace outcomes. "Democracies do not fight wars with one another" – **peace is achievable only through democracy**: efforts aimed at establishing democratic systems in Georgia proper as well as in the breakaway regions will lay the basis for societal transformation conducive to peace objectives and outcomes.

Photo Collage from the Conference



Photo Collage from the Conference



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