



AR/100

25 June 2007

SEESAC ACTIVITY REPORT – AR/100

ROUNDTABLE ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE SECURITY AND SALLW CONTROL SECTORS

SEESAC FUNCTIONAL AREA	FA 4 – SALW Awareness and Communications Strategy
SEESAC OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY	OA 1 – Capacity Building OA 2 – Coordination Measures OA 3 – Information Management and Exchange Activities

UNIFEM Kosovo, in conjunction with UNDP Kosovo's Small Arms Control Project (KOSSAC) and SEESAC organized a regional consultation for security sector representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro, including members of police units and governmental and public security institutions. Civil society representatives engaged in relevant work were also invited. The Roundtable took place in Durrës, Albania, from 05 - 07 June 2007.



In the context of ongoing security sector reforms, the objective of the roundtable was to discuss and exchange experiences on the opportunities and the challenges for establishing mechanisms, formulating policies, and institutionalizing practices to integrate gender perspectives within the security sector. A second aim was to explore ways to promote greater participation of women in security and defence work, as well as to ensure their contribution to peace and security policy-making. The consultation was designed to facilitate exchange of country experiences and best practice, and to explore possibilities for regional networking on this issue.

The workshop agenda covered:

- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, looking at issues and obligations, and priorities for implementation;
- Gender mainstreaming within security sector and law enforcement institutions;
- The impact of SALW on women; and
- Security sector reforms in the region.

Participants were divided into country groups to develop priorities and action plans for their countries.

The SEESAC SALW Awareness Officer, the EUSAC CTA Montenegro and a representative from KOSSAC facilitated a two-hour session on the impact of SALW on women. The session was used as an awareness raising exercise to raise the profile of the impact of SALW on women, particularly in the context of domestic violence, and introduce ideas about how this can be addressed. Other 'gendered' aspects of SALW were also raised, such as the role of traditional notions of masculinity in perpetuating the acceptance of violent resolution of conflict and in particular weapons proliferation and misuse. The importance of data collection and the role of law enforcement agencies in this area was also stressed, with participants invited to consider data collection mechanisms and follow up policy actions in their countries. Data collection was included as a priority in both regional and national priority action plans that were developed during the course of the Roundtable.

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