

Sunday, 18 December 2016

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Closing Ceremony of Gender Training of Trainers Course for African Military Personnel

BELGRADE – Fifteen officers from the Armed Forces from Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda and Rwanda successfully completed the Gender Training of Trainers (GTOT) course and received their certificates at the Closing Ceremony on 15 December 2016. The GTOT was organized by UNDP SEESAC in partnership with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM) and the Peacekeeping Operations Centre of the Serbian Armed Forces.

The course was delivered by Gender Trainers from the Ministries of Defense and Armed Forces in BiH, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with support from NCGM and UNDP.

Mr. Nenad Nerić, State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Serbia; Lt. Gen. Jovica Draganić, Deputy Chief of the Serbian Armed Forces General Staff; Col. Milivoje Pajović, Head of the Peacekeeping Operations Center of the Serbian Armed Forces; Lt.Col. Lars Berglund, NCGM Commander; and Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, Manager of the UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) addressed the audience at the Closing Ceremony. Col. Flavia Byekwaso from the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces, opened the ceremony, speaking on behalf of all course participants.

Mr. Nenad Nerić congratulated the participants on completing the course. He stressed that the integration of gender perspective in Security Sector Reform processes increases the efficiency of these institutions. He praised UNDP SEESAC's Gender Equality in the Military project for facilitating cooperation between Western Balkans and the Sub-Saharan Africa on gender equality, and its contribution to global security.

Mr. Rastislav Vrbensky, Manager of the UNDP Regional Hub for Europe and CIS emphasized that the peaceful and inclusive societies are essential for sustainable development. "This course prepared you as instructors to integrate the gender perspective in your training activities. Only by increasing the knowledge on gender equality and the gender perspective will your institutions become more inclusive and thus better able to provide security for women, men, girls and boys," Mr. Vrbensky told the participants during the ceremony.

Col. Milivoje Pajovic, highlighted the importance of international cooperation and sharing of knowledge and experience among the regions. Lt. Gen. Jovica Draganić, emphasized the importance of gender equality for the military and the need to implement the knowledge gained in practice.

Lt. Col. Lars Berglund, congratulated the participants for successful completion of the GTOT and emphasized the importance of partnership between UNDP SEESAC, NCGM and MoDs and AFs in the Western Balkans which started three years ago. He expressed great satisfaction by the work of the Regional Network of Gender Trainers in the Western Balkans, and the expansion of joint work to the African region.

On behalf of the students, Col. Byekwaso from the Uganda People's Defence Forces thanked the organizers for warm welcome and in particular the instructors for their hard and committed work during the course. Col. Byekwaso stressed that all students are committed to put in to practice the knowledge gained.

The GTOT Course, which took place from 7 to 15 December 2016 in the Peacekeeping Operations Centre of the Serbian Armed Forces, is a NATO certified course which enables instructors to efficiently integrate a gender perspective in military training and education for troops, units, and officers.

The aim of the course was to build upon results achieved within UNDP's Gender Equality in the Military in the Western Balkans project, and utilize the capacities developed to foster south south cooperation. The course was organized in cooperation between the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (RBEC), UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support and Regional Bureau for Africa.

The course was organized through UNDP RBEC's Regional Security Sector Reform Platform (RSSRP) that has been developed in cooperation with the Governments in South East Europe with the aim to foster South-South Cooperation through provision of quick, short-term targeted technical support. The GTOT was delivered by Gender Trainers from the UNDP-supported Regional Network of Gender Trainers in the Western Balkans with seven



Closing Ceremony for Gender Training of Trainers – certificates awarded to participants



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instructors coming from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Since the network's establishment in 2014, the Trainers organized gender briefings and seminars to over 4,700 staff of MoDs and AFs in the Western Balkans and have now delivered the course for the African military personnel which is also the largest deployment under the RSSRP model.

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Closing Ceremony for Gender Training of Trainers – certificates awarded to participants



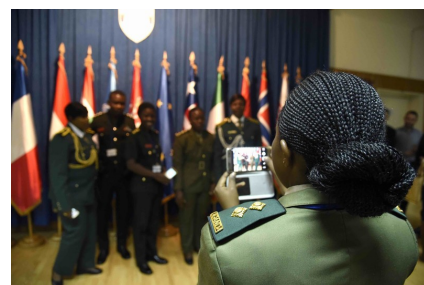
Closing Ceremony for Gender Training of Trainers – certificates awarded to participants



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The GTOT was organized in close cooperation with the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations



Gender Trainers from the Western Balkans delivering GTOT for African militaries



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Students discussing the integration of gender perspective in education and training and preparing for exam during the Gender Training of Trainers Course



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