

Support for Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans

Belgrade, Serbia

22 March, 2012

Representatives of Ministries of Defense in the Western Balkans, the participants of the meeting organized by the Ministry of Defense in Republic of Serbia and UNDP/SEESAC on 21 and 22 March 2012 in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia:

HAVING IN MIND the importance of international commitments on gender equality and in particular the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination of Women,

REAFFIRMING the importance of equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts related to the maintaining and promotion of peace and security,

AWARE of the need to expand the role and contribution of women in conflict prevention and recovery, and the need to increase the role of women in decision-making in this area,

RECOGNISING the need to mainstream a gender perspective in a security sector reform to ensure it best responds to the needs of society,

DETERMINED to cooperate at regional level in developing common solutions for common challenges within the region, and within the framework of the Regional Cooperation Council,

DETERMINED to contribute to enhanced human security in the Western Balkans,

HAVE AGREED:

1. To cooperate in the achievement of strengthened security sector reform processes in the Western Balkans by mainstreaming gender into security and defence policies and institutions thus enhancing the effectiveness of their development efforts and contributing to human security;
2. To take part in regional project activities implemented within the framework of the UNDP managed *Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans* project;
3. To jointly plan activities and to keep each other informed of and consult on matters of common interest relating to the promotion of gender equality principles in defense and security policies;
4. To foster the regional ownership of the project through, when possible, the facilitation of exchanges, study tours, training and other common activities.
5. To jointly promote the activities and successes of the project and to cooperate in outreach activities.

Belgrade, 22 March, 2012.



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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

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