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# **AD HOC WORKING GROUP MEETING ON SALW AND MA**

NATO Headquarters, Brussels

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# **UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Gender Mainstreaming in SALW and MA projects**

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# Why focus on women?

## Security

- The vast majority of casualties in today's wars are among civilians, mostly women and children
- 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence

## Work

- In most of the developed world, women spend more time working each day than men do, if unpaid work is included

## Pay

- Women earn less than men for the same job

## Access to education

- Across 63 developing countries, girls are more likely to be out of school than boys in primary and secondary age groups

## Decision-making

- Women underrepresented in political and economic decision-making

# What does UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security say?

- Urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts
- Stresses the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and the importance of their equal participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security
- Calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse

## **SALW and gender – how are they interconnected?**

- Firearm violence almost exclusively perpetrated by men, men make up the majority of victims
- Women almost exclusively victims of small arms related violence and rarely perpetrators
- Women directly affected through domestic violence: in Serbia in the last 18 months, 54 women were killed, more than 33% by SALW
- Indirectly affected by firearm violence: when a man is killed a woman may be left alone to care for the household and the family

# Mine action and gender – how are they interconnected?

- Although men constitute majority of mine victims, women are at particular risk when they collect water, firewood in mined areas
- Women often have the primary responsibility for the care of the family and are also primary care-givers to landmine victims
- Disabled women are often abandoned by husbands/partners or have difficulty finding one, they face difficulty in finding employment and taking care of children
- Women often have poorer access to health services
- Women and men do not have equal access to education on mine risks

# What can we do?

## *SEESAC Regional Micro Disarmament Standards*

### GENERAL:

- When developing intervention assess how women and men are affected and what are their needs
- Collect gender disaggregated statistics
- Consult women and promote women's political participation
- Work on gender responsiveness of security institutions

### SPECIFIC:

- Address motivation for firearms ownership
- Work towards stricter SALW possession control and monitoring
- Ensure equal access to mine risk education for women and men
- Address access to health care for landmine victims and develop victim support services for victims



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**Thank you !**  
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