

Subcommittee on Security and Defence  
Clare Moody MEP

## **SEDE STRATEGY ON GENDER EQUALITY AND MAINSTREAMING**

### **Background**

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, which consists of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its follow-up resolutions, is one of the most important global instruments for fostering women's and gender issues in security and defence. It aims to systematically incorporate gender considerations into peace and security related matters.

UNSCR 1325 identifies women as important actors in peacebuilding and conflict mediation and calls for the increased involvement of women at all-decision-making levels, in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict reconstruction.

It encourages states to actively involve women and to integrate a gender perspective in national and multilateral security initiatives including peace settlements, peace missions, and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes.

The EU and its Member States committed themselves to the full implementation of the WPS agenda. This commitment involves systematically integrating a gender perspective into all fields in the domain of peace and security, including all political and strategic dialogues, human rights dialogues, all related policy formulations and policy-making processes, research, analysis and assessment, planning and conduct, as well as relevant monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes.

When implementing the EU's Global Strategy or relevant Council conclusions<sup>1</sup>, the WPS agenda as well as gender equality and women's empowerment, should continue to be mainstreamed into all policy areas including security and defence.

The EU Global Strategy also strives to increase the number of women in decision-making and in policy-making positions as well as in senior roles in the EU Institutions and CSDP missions and operations.

---

<sup>1</sup> For instance, Council conclusions on the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan in 2017: Strengthening gender equality and women's empowerment in EU external action, adopted by the Council on 26 November 2018, as well as Council conclusions on Women, Peace and Security, as adopted by the Council on 10 December 2018.

CSDP missions and operations (both civilian and military) can contribute to the implementation of commitments to promote the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict-prevention. However, the number of women working in CSDP missions and especially military operations remains very low (slightly over 20% in civilian missions and between 3-8% in military operations).

Based on the work of the EP's Gender Mainstreaming Network and recommendations incorporated in the EP's relevant resolutions, including those of 13 March 2003, March 2011 and 8 March 2016 on gender mainstreaming, the Subcommittee on Security and Defence led by SEDE appointed Vice-Chair Clare Moody has drawn up the following objectives and actions to be implemented in its work:

### **Committee objectives**

- *to promote* the implementation of the WPS agenda, UNSCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions including by promoting a more holistic understanding of the WPS agenda, focused not only on women, but on gender relations more widely, taking into account the very specific range of topics and areas covered by SEDE;
- *to promote*, in general, the need to advance the balanced presence of both women and men in leadership positions relevant to peace, security, and defence so that women should not only be observers and beneficiaries of security policy, but also active and meaningful participants in decision-making processes and institutions relevant to peace, security and defence;
- *to raise awareness* about the need for and benefits of the contribution of both women and men in terms of crisis management;
- *to systematically call on* EU executives to:
  - apply a gender perspective in the CSDP actions, considering the impact of conflict on women and the crucial role that women play in post-conflict stabilisation and peace-building processes;
  - to address gender violence as an instrument of war in conflict regions;
  - to actively involve women in peace and stabilisation processes, and to address their specific security needs;
  - to ensure as far as possible under given circumstances a fair balance between women and men in the composition of CSDP missions.
- *to analyse and incorporate* the best practice implemented in other security and defence organisation such as NATO in the WPS arena;

- *to continuously monitor* gender equality policies in the CSDP area and ensure that the commitments undertaken by EU Institutions and EU Member States and subsequent recommendations for action are implemented;
- *to promote* an increase in the number of women in the EU's crisis management missions and operations, ensuring Member States recognise and fulfill their obligations to achieve this goal;
- *to interact* more effectively with the in-house bodies in charge of the implementation and promotion of gender mainstreaming in parliamentary activities, notably the FEMM Committee, the Gender Mainstreaming Network and The High-level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity, as well as outside actors such as representatives of UN Women, the EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and the European Institute for Gender Equality.

### **Committee tools**

In order to achieve these objectives, the following tools should be applied:

- Drafting SEDE Reports and opinions:
  - in preparing reports and opinions, a gender focus should be taken into account in the formulation of the Subcommittee's position on policy, whenever possible;
  - include a paragraph on gender-related issues in relation to the topic of the report/opinion;
- Allocation of responsibilities within SEDE:
  - the Subcommittee should strive for a fair balance between both genders when it comes to appointments, the distribution of reports and opinions and the composition of delegations and missions; taking into account the total composition of the Subcommittee;
- Exercising more periodic oversight of the implementation of the WPS agenda:
  - the Subcommittee should exercise more periodic and systematic oversight over EU executives by using debates/exchanges of views, Subcommittee meetings and public hearings, written and oral questions, Subcommittee reports and opinions;
- Selection of speakers/experts/studies:
  - the gender-balance of paid experts and invited speakers should be taken into account and SEDE should always strive for a fair ratio between male and female experts/speakers, ensuring the presence of top - level specialists and at least one woman on every panel. A gender aspect will be included in the terms of reference of studies commissioned by the Subcommittee;

- Application of gender-neutral language:
  - taking into account the very specific range of topics and areas covered by SEDE, the application of gender-neutral language in compliance with EP guidelines should be used in documents relating to the work of the Subcommittee.
- Reinforcing gender-related training:
  - staff of the SEDE Secretariat and political groups, as well as MEPs and their assistants, should be offered training on gender mainstreaming;

The implementation of the SEDE Strategy on Gender Equality and Mainstreaming will be encouraged and monitored by the Member responsible for gender mainstreaming in the Subcommittee and supported by the SEDE Secretariat.

The Member responsible for gender mainstreaming will periodically report back to the Gender Mainstreaming Network on the implementation of the SEDE Strategy.