

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN 2020-2023

1. Introduction

Civil population, especially women and children are more affected by armed conflicts which could not be avoided by any country of the world at different periods of human civilization. However, women are unable to enjoy equal participation in security and peace processes. Therefore, on 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UN Security Council) adopted Resolution 3125, drawing attention to the necessity of women's important role and equal participation in the prevention and management of conflicts and peacebuilding.

Being the first of the eight resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council on the theme of women, peace and security, this Resolution calls upon the Member States to ensure increased representation of women at national, regional and international levels in prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is an important obligation for Azerbaijan, which has been in a state of war since 1988 and a member of the UN since 2 March 1992. As a result of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan's former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Province and seven adjacent administrative districts were occupied by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia. As a result of the armed aggression, a total of 6,000 Azerbaijani nationals went missing or were taken prisoner, 20,000 were killed, 100,000 were wounded and subjected to unthinkable torture and abuse, and 50,000 suffered various degrees of injury and became disabled. To this day, 288 women officially registered as missing and 98 as prisoners and hostages are held in Armenia and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in unbearable conditions, engaged in forced labor and subjected to other forms of violence. Despite the signing of a ceasefire agreement in 1994, killings of Azerbaijani civilians by Armenians are still recorded. During this period, 34 children have been victims of Armenian terrorism. Of them, 14 were killed and 20 were wounded. Currently, 613,129 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including 297,026 men and 316,103 women, are settled in different parts of the country.

The trauma of stress and physical and psychological violence experienced lives with them for a long time, sometimes for a lifetime, which causes serious harm to physical, psychological, social and economic security of people who have gone through war. Furthermore, women and children living in districts bordering the occupied territories have serious health problems, in particular, a number of anomalies are observed in the health of pregnant women and newborns, which has a negative impact on our gene pool. It is crucial to carry out rehabilitation for their reintegration into the family and society, as well as to take action with regard to their right to a dignified and safe life and the right of return. Women play an important role in conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping (in particular, as medical and administrative workers). However, their representation and participation in peace negotiations and political decision-making on armed conflicts at national, regional and international levels is almost nonexistent.

Therefore, a series of important steps have been taken in Azerbaijan over the past period in connection with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. One of the first and most significant initiatives was the establishment of Coalition 1325, which operated from 2002 to 2006, with the support of UNIFEM. This Coalition implemented important projects in the country for 4 years, bringing together 24 women who represented Milli Majlis (National Parliament), state agencies, non-governmental organizations, political parties and mass media outlets. In addition, in the last 15 years, state agencies, international organizations and national NGOs have implemented dozens of projects and have consistently taken hundreds of appropriate measures on the theme of Women, Peace and Security. Specifically, in the field of social protection of refugee and internally displaced women, which is a matter of constant attention for the state, a legal framework has been established that meets international standards, central coordination of the activities of international and local organizations has been ensured and a favorable environment for cooperation has been created. The Cabinet of Ministers has been instructed to develop and implement an appropriate program for the purposes of development of proposals for strengthening social protection of refugee and internally displaced women in accordance with the 14 January 1998 Order of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on “Measures to increase the role of women in Azerbaijan” and providing employment for refugee and internally displaced women in accordance with the 6 March 2000 Decree on implementation of the state policy on women in the Republic of Azerbaijan. By the 26 September 2000 Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Program on Providing Decent Work for Refugee and Internally Displaced Women was approved in order to provide employment for refugee and internally displaced women. On 1 July 2004, the State Program to Improve Living Conditions and Increase Employment of Refugees and IDPs was approved and the Additions made to this State Program under the 31 October 2007 Order #2457 and the 21 February 2011 Order #1346 still continue to be successfully implemented. Currently, consistent work is underway to address the social problems of IDPs, improve their housing conditions, and increase their employment rate.

However, it is essential to develop a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in order to act in a consistent, sustainable and coordinated manner. For Azerbaijan, as a member of the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM) and other regional organizations and a participant of the EU's Neighborhood Policy and Eastern Partnership Programs, the work that has been and will be carried out in the field of Women, Peace and Security is consistent with the millennium goals for the development of a national mechanism for the establishment of gender equality in the country. Specifically, the government of Azerbaijan has undertaken to prepare and implement development programs in accordance with the international standards for gender equality, which is in line with the global framework of sustainable development goals.

Thus, the UN Security Council encourages the Member States to develop a national strategy in accordance with Resolution 1325. Adoption of a National Action Plan incorporating the obligations under Resolution 1325 in the form of specific activities as part of the strategy is in tune with the recommendations of the UN Security Council, as well as the existing international protection mechanisms in the context of women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Currently, almost half of the 193 member countries of the UN (80 countries, according to the information as of 31 March 2019) have adopted a National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Taking into account that Azerbaijan is still in a state of war, the National Action Plan for 2020-2023 on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is adopted.

Drawing from the principles of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and selected indicators of the Resolution, this document has been developed on four existing areas of focus: a) prevention, b) participation, c) protection, d) relief and recovery.

- a) Prevention: Intervention strategies empowering women should be improved to end violence against women.
- b) Participation: Women should have equal representation with men in conflict prevention, management and resolution at national, regional and international levels.
- c) Protection: Taking into account the special needs of women and girls, they should be treated with dignity in refugee camps and settlements and protected from all forms of discrimination and violence.
- d) Relief and recovery: Gender-responsive relief and recovery efforts should be improved to tackle international crises.

2. Purpose and main objectives of the National Action Plan

- 2.1. The purpose of the National Action Plan is to significantly increase the participation of women and girls in decision-making processes, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding, at local and national levels, as well as to ensure physical, psychological, social and economic security of conflict-affected women and girls and protect their human rights, taking into account their special needs.
- 2.2. The main objectives of the National Action Plan are as follows:
 - 2.2.1. Prevent conflicts, as well as all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls;
 - 2.2.2. Include women's and girls' interests and increase their participation in processes aimed at prevention, management and resolution of conflicts;
 - 2.2.3. Protect the human rights of conflict-affected women and girls and ensure their physical, psychological, social and economic security;
 - 2.2.4. Take into account the special needs of women and girls during conflict and in post-conflict period.

3. Financing of the National Action Plan

The activities stipulated in the National Action Plan are financed through funds provided in the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the relevant implementing state agencies for the respective years and other sources not prohibited by law.

4. Expected results of the implementation of the National Action Plan

- 4.1. Expected results of the implementation of the National Action Plan are as follows:
 - 4.1.1. Women's and girls' special needs related to their physical, psychological, social and economic security studied and taken into account during conflict and post-conflict processes;
 - 4.1.2. Women's and girls' awareness of and participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution significantly increased;
 - 4.1.3. Mechanisms for the protection of women's and girls' human rights related to their physical, psychological, social and economic security strengthened;
 - 4.1.4. Dignified and safe life and return of women and girls during conflict and in post-conflict period ensured.

5. Plan of activities for the implementation of the National Action Plan

5.1. Prevention				
Objective 1 (2.2.1.) Prevent conflicts, as well as all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls				
Priority area / Expected result	Specific activities	Indicators	Implementing agencies	Implementation period
5.1.1. Organize assessment and awareness-raising activities on security and human rights for women and girls living in areas densely and temporarily populated by IDPs and districts near/bordering the conflict zone	5.1.1.1. Perform assessments of challenges faced by the relevant target group, and study their special needs 5.1.1.2. Conduct awareness-raising activities for target group participants on security and human rights in conflict and post-conflict situations	Number and content of assessments and awareness-raising activities (the fact that the awareness-raising program meets the needs and is extensive, informative and comprehensive), disaggregated by gender and age	SCFWCA, State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons To be recommended: Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan NGOs	2020
5.1.2. Raise awareness of sexual and gender-based violence and of UN Security Council	5.1.2.1. Include gender equality principles and information on UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122 and 2242	New curriculum and teaching materials	Ministry of Defense, SCFWCA, Ministry of Education	2020-2022

<p>resolutions among persons studying and operating in the field of military</p>	<p>in the curriculum of the Military Academy of the Armed Forces</p> <p>5.1.2.2. Conduct awareness-raising activities on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as measures to be taken in such cases among persons serving in the army and those operating in the field of military</p> <p>5.1.2.3. Conduct trainings on human rights and gender equality, including UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security, for persons operating in the field of defense and security</p>	<p>Number and content of awareness-raising activities (the fact that the awareness-raising program meets the needs and is extensive, informative and comprehensive), and number of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>Number and content of trainings, and number of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>To be recommended: Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan NGOs</p>	
<p>5.1.3. Activities for peacekeepers</p> <p>(to be determined by the Ministry of Defense)</p>				

5.2. Participation

Objective 2 (2.2.2.) Include women's and girls' interests and increase their participation in processes aimed at prevention, management and resolution of conflicts

Priority area / Expected result	Specific activities	Indicators	Implementing agencies	Implementation period
5.2.1. Analyze the obstacles and challenges hindering women's increased participation in peace negotiations and humanitarian issues	<p>5.2.1.1. Prepare recommendations for the study, analysis and resolution of issues hindering the growth in the number of women involved in peace processes</p> <p>5.2.1.2. Develop a recruitment strategy for relevant authorities to increase the number of women in the military and police system, especially in leadership positions; prepare a database of women candidates with relevant skills</p>	<p>Number of people in the target group of the study, depth of the analysis and comprehensiveness of the recommendations</p> <p>Compliance of the strategy with modern standards and number of authorities for which a database of women candidates has been created</p>	Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense	2020-2021
5.2.2. Consider the special needs of internally displaced and conflict-affected women, girls and youth in the development and implementation of relevant policies	5.2.2.1. Develop a dialogue mechanism to ensure the participation of internally displaced women and girls in the development of policies and programs related to IDPs	Number of people involved in the framework of the dialogue mechanism (surveys, consultations, meetings)	State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons To be recommended: NGOs	2020-2021

<p>5.2.3. Provide support to individuals and organizations working in the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding</p>	<p>5.2.3.1. Build a database of individuals and organizations working in the field of conflict resolution and peacebuilding, and conduct research to explore their needs and assess their potential</p> <p>5.2.3.2. Conduct trainings on conflict resolution and peacebuilding tailored to the needs of individuals and organizations working in this area with the aim of increasing their participation</p>	<p>Number of individuals and organizations included in the database, and methods and scope of research</p> <p>Number and content of trainings, and number of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>Ministry of Defense, State Committee on Work with Diaspora, SCFWCA, To be recommended: NGOs</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>5.2.4. Develop female mediators for prevention of conflicts and building a culture of peace</p>	<p>5.2.4.1. Conduct trainings on human rights, peacebuilding and development of communication skills to develop women participating in political and public life as mediators</p>	<p>Number and content of trainings, and number of participants disaggregated by age</p>	<p>Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defense, SCFWCA</p> <p>To be recommended: Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan NGOs</p>	<p>2020</p>

<p>5.2.5. Increase the number of women in public administration and decision-making and provide equal opportunities for them therein</p>	<p>5.2.5.1. Conduct a gender analysis of strategic documents of state agencies for gender sensitivity, and prepare a package of recommendations</p> <p>5.2.5.2. Conduct trainings on gender equality, leadership and communication skills for employees of state agencies serving in all positions</p> <p>5.2.5.3. Carry out annual monitoring of provision of equal opportunities for women serving in all positions in state agencies</p>	<p>Monitoring results and package of proposals for changes</p> <p>Number and content of trainings, and number of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>Monitoring results and package of proposals for changes</p>	<p>SCFWCA To be recommended: NGOs</p>	<p>2020-2022</p>
<p>5.2.6. Ensure that gender officers in state agencies are better informed about their job responsibilities and work more effectively</p>	<p>5.2.6.1. Empower gender officers</p> <p>5.2.6.2. Conduct trainings for gender officers to increase their knowledge and skills in exercising their powers and related topics so that they can more effectively discharge their responsibilities</p> <p>5.2.6.3. Conduct trainings for gender officers on gender equality and women, peace and security, as well as the rights of women and girls and international mechanisms related to gender equality, in particular the Convention on the</p>	<p>List of powers of gender officers</p> <p>Number and content of trainings, and number and composition of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>SCFWCA, all ministries and state committees</p> <p>To be recommended: NGOs</p>	<p>2020-2022</p>

	<p>Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)</p> <p>5.2.6.4. Produce publications and audio/video materials aimed at increasing the knowledge and skills of gender officers in exercising their powers and related topics so that they can more effectively discharge their responsibilities</p>	<p>Publications and audio/video materials produced</p>		
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5.3. Protection

Objective 3 (2.2.3.) Protect the human rights of conflict-affected women and girls and ensure their physical, psychological, social and economic security

Priority area / Expected result	Specific activities	Indicators	Implementing agencies	Implementation period
5.3.1. Review the policies on gender-based discrimination and violence	5.3.1.1. Monitor to see if policies on gender-based discrimination and violence are in line with modern standards, and develop proposals accordingly	Number of policies reviewed and modified during the period of implementation of the national action plan	SCFWCA, To be recommended: Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan NGOs	2020-2021
5.3.2. Provide internally displaced and war/conflict-	5.3.1.2. Conduct trainings for judges, lawyers and staff of law enforcement and other relevant agencies on UN Security	Number of trainings conducted and participants	Ministry of Justice, State Committee for	2020-2021

<p>affected women and girls with access to a fair justice system</p>	<p>Council resolutions on women, peace and security</p> <p>5.3.1.3. Support the establishment of legal aid services and other mechanisms in areas densely and temporarily populated by IDPs and districts bordering the occupied territories to ensure access to justice for conflict-affected women and girls</p> <p>5.3.1.3. Provide free legal advice to internally displaced and conflict-affected women and girls and their families</p>	<p>disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>Number and list of agencies employing the persons in the target group</p> <p>Period of provision of legal aid services, and number of recipients of such services/consultations disaggregated by age and gender</p>	<p>Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, SCFWCA, relevant local executive authorities, To be recommended: NGOs</p>	
<p>5.3.3. Ensure the physical, psychological, social and economic rights of internally displaced and conflict-affected women</p>	<p>5.3.3.1. Support the employment of internally displaced and conflict-affected women, and organize vocational training courses for them</p> <p>5.3.3.2. Ensure access to educational, health and social services for internally displaced and conflict-affected women</p> <p>5.3.3.3. Conduct trainings to support the creation of business entities and households in areas densely and temporarily populated by IDPs and districts bordering the occupied territories</p>	<p>Number of employment programs/projects, number of women supported by such programs/projects, and number of vocational training courses</p> <p>Number of women who received relevant services, disaggregated by service</p>	<p>Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice, SCFWCA, ASAN Service, Ministry of Economy</p>	<p>2020-2021</p>

		Conduct trainings for women on family budget management, financial literacy and “starting your own business”		
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5.4. Relief and recovery

Objective 4 (2.2.4) Take into account the special needs of women and girls during conflict and in post-conflict period

Priority area / Expected result	Specific activities	Indicators	Implementing agencies	Implementation period
5.4.1. Raise public awareness of the risks and dangers faced by the population living in districts bordering the occupied territories, in particular the needs of women and children	<p>5.4.1.1. Conduct awareness-raising activities among the population living in districts bordering the occupied territories on the risks and dangers arising from the conflict, as well as on the needs of women and children</p> <p>5.4.1.2. Conduct trainings on civil defense and security measures for the population living in districts bordering the occupied territories</p> <p>5.4.1.3. Involve the media in such activities; ensure the active participation of the media in peace efforts and activities to promote a culture of peace</p>	<p>Number of awareness-raising activities, and number of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p> <p>Number of trainings and number of participants disaggregated by gender and age</p>	<p>Ministry of Defense, State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, relevant local executive authorities, SCFWCA</p> <p>To be recommended: Commissioner for Human Rights</p>	2020-2022

		Number of media outlets involved, and number and database of articles written	(Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan NGOs	
5.4.2. Ensure that security interventions meet the different security needs and priorities of women	<p>5.4.2.1. Review government-supported security measures to ensure that they are in line with the security needs and priorities of women and girls, and prepare proposals accordingly</p> <p>5.4.2.2. Ensure that government measures related to demobilization and reintegration are in line with the security needs and priorities of women and girls</p>	<p>Number and content of changes made during the period of implementation of the national action plan</p> <p>Number of measures taken, and an analysis of their compliance with the identified needs and priorities</p>	Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs	2020-2021
5.4.3. Set priorities to meet the needs of internally displaced and conflict-affected women	<p>5.4.3.1. Assess and report on the short- and long-term needs of internally displaced and conflict-affected women and their families</p> <p>5.4.3.2. Develop a package of recommendations based on the results of assessment of priorities and special needs of internally displaced and conflict-affected women</p>	<p>Assessment tools, and number and content of reports prepared</p> <p>List and content of recommendations developed</p>	State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, SCFWCA, relevant local executive authorities, To be recommended: NGOs	2020-2021

<p>5.4.4. Increase the social participation of women, girls and children in areas densely populated by internally displaced and conflict-affected population</p>	<p>5.4.4.1. Increase the number of projects aimed at meeting the social needs of women, girls and children in areas densely populated by internally displaced and conflict-affected population</p>	<p>Number and content of projects implemented, and amount of allocated funds</p>	<p>State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, SCFWCA, Ministry of Finance,</p>	<p>2020-2023</p>
<p>5.4.5. Take into account the needs of women and girls in residential buildings built for IDPs</p>	<p>5.4.5.1. Conduct consultation meetings on the needs of women and girls during the construction of residential buildings for IDPs, develop new standards, and take such needs and standards into account during construction</p>	<p>Number of consultation meetings, content of standards, and number of settlements built according to the new standards</p>	<p>State Committee for Affairs of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, Ministry of Finance</p>	<p>2020-2023</p>