WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY:
CCCPA’s Contribution to the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Background
United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, adopted in 2000, was the first to recognize women’s unique experiences in times of conflict, both as victims and agents of positive change. Ever since then, the normative framework around the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda has expanded dramatically, through the adoption of eight subsequent UNSC resolutions: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009); 1960 (2010); 2106 (2013); 2122 (2013); 2242 (2015), and 2272 (2016).

Nonetheless, implementation continues to lag. As conflict and insecurity continue to plague parts of Africa and the Arab world, and with evolving threats—most notably the rise of terrorism, forced displacement and organized crime, the challenges facing women and children are further compounded. As a result, there is an urgent need for gender expertise and capacities, regionally, nationally and locally to respond to today and tomorrow’s problems.

Egypt’s First National Action Plan on the Implementation of the WPS Agenda
In continuation of Egypt’s strong commitment to the implementation of the WPS agenda, the Government of Egypt decided to develop the country’s first National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions. CCCPA has been assigned the responsibility of leading this effort, in coordination with the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Egyptian National Council for Women (NCW) and other national entities.

Training on Gender Mainstreaming in Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
In addition to adopting a gender-sensitive approach in all its programs and activities, CCCPA is at the forefront of regional efforts of building African and Arab capacities on issues of women, peace and security.

Since 2013, CCCPA in cooperation with the Crisis Management Center (CMC) of Finland, the League of Arab States (LAS), and the Arab Women Organization (AWO) delivered 12 foundational courses and 4 training of trainers (TOT) courses. These courses serve as a contribution to mainstreaming gender across the continuum of peace interventions (conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding), while establishing a group of experts and practitioners with enhanced knowledge and skills on the effective implementation of the WPS agenda.

CCCPA’s integrated and multidimensional approach to training brings together civilian, police, and military professionals for highly-interactive, scenario-based courses. Participants act out the various roles of a peacekeeping/peacebuilding mission operating in a fictional conflict-affected state or post-conflict situation, with a complex mandate (including protection of civilians, especially women and children, and management of election processes). Recognizing that gender is not a value-free concept, special emphasis is placed on raising self-awareness that touches upon participants’ own perceptions, attitudes and emotions regarding gender.

CCCPA trainings are based on a training manual and toolkits that are developed and regularly updated in cooperation with regional and international partners, including LAS, AWO, and UN Women. The trainings cover the following modules:
• **Gender in Conflict:** This module provides the framework for the training. It introduces basic gender concepts and encourages participants to reflect on their own perception of gender. The module presents the different ways in which conflict affects women, men, boys and girls; thus highlighting the importance of a gendered-peace and security agenda.

• **The International and Regional Policy Framework on WPS:** This module reviews the evolution of the international and regional normative framework including the WPS. It also reviews the efforts of the League of Arab States (LAS) and the African Union (AU) in contextualizing this agenda.

• **Integrating a Gender Perspective in Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding:** This module covers the key principles underpinning peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as well as the gender dynamics involved. Trainees learn about the benefits of mainstreaming gender across the spectrum of peace interventions.

• **Gender Analysis Tools:** This module focuses on three analytical tools for understanding gender roles and relations in conflict: Gender-Sensitive Conflict Analysis, the Capacities and Vulnerabilities Framework, and the Gender Analysis Framework.

• **Situational Training Exercise:** This module builds on the knowledge and skills gained throughout the training. The module consists of three scenarios related to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), conflict-related and gender-based violence (CRSV and GBV), and ensuring women’s participation in elections. The scenarios require trainees to interact with the issues in a simulated environment and formulate context-specific gender-sensitive responses.

Training on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping Operations (PSEA)

In pursuing its mandate of training Egyptian and international peacekeepers, CCCPA integrates an intensive training module on Gender in Peacekeeping, with a special focus on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in its core pre-deployment trainings (CPDT). The training is mandatory for all Egyptian peacekeepers. Participants receive a separate certificate for completing the gender training in addition to the CPDT certificate. Since January 2016, CCCPA has conducted 39 courses, training a total of 9,166 Egyptian peacekeepers.

Relatedly, and as part of CCCPA’s continued efforts to improve training tools and reference material for peacekeepers from Africa and the Arab world, CCCPA has developed a booklet on “Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping Operations”, in Arabic, French and English, to be distributed to Egyptian, African and Arab peacekeepers.

Training on Gender-Sensitive Media Coverage of Conflicts

In recognition of the media’s critical role in advancing the WPS agenda in conflict and post-conflict situations, CCCPA— in cooperation with UN Women—implements trainings on gender-sensitive media coverage in conflict situations. The training aims to enhance the skills of Arab and African media professionals on gender-sensitive reporting and improves their knowledge of issues related to the WPS agenda, including women’s contribution to peace and security.

Research and Convening

Since 2014, CCCPA has been at the forefront of Arab and African efforts to contribute to the ongoing regional, continental and global debates on issues related to the WPS agenda. Through a series of events organized in the context of the global reviews of UN peacekeeping operations and the peacebuilding architecture (2014-2015), which have continued to date, CCCPA plays a critical role in raising awareness of the centrality of the WPS agenda in Africa and the Arab world.

In addition, CCCPA’s research agenda covers a wide range of under-researched WPS topics specific to the Middle East and Africa, such as the question of women living under foreign occupation, the impact of violent extremism and terrorism on women and children, and the interlinkages between conflict and migration, with a particular focus on their impact on women and children.

Aswan Forum Preparatory Expert Workshop on “Advancing the Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa: Overcoming Challenges and Seizing Opportunities”

In the lead up to the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, CCCPA, acting in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development, which is planned to take place in Aswan, Egypt in December 2019, successfully hosted an expert workshop on 4-5 September. This workshop aimed at taking stock of the national and continental programs, policies and mechanisms related to the WPS agenda, with the aim of advancing the implementation of the agenda in Africa on all levels, through exploring opportunities for enhancing the AU’s contribution to advancing the implementation of the WPS agenda across the full spectrum of peace interventions, informing the design, implementation and evaluation of programs that advance the comprehensive and meaningful contribution of women in peace and security in Africa. That is in addition to discussing lessons learned and good practices from the development and implementation of African National Action Plans (NAPs);

Future Activities

Alongside the efforts of developing Egypt’s first National Action Plan on the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda, CCCPA, in cooperation with the government of Sweden, will be implementing a project to enhance Arab women’s meaningful participation in conflict resolution. The project aims at building female capacities in mediation and conflict resolution to establish a pool of Arab qualified women for more inclusive peace processes. Moreover, the project will ensure the engagement of Arab women leaders in building community resilience to radicalization and extremism leading to terrorism by means of empowering women community leaders with the necessary tools to analyze the local context and the individual pathways to radicalization, detect attempts for radicalization, understand the elements of radical and extremist narratives, and acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver alternative narratives of peace.

CCCPA

Founded in 1994 by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and re-chartered in June 2017 by a Prime Ministerial Decree, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, is an Egyptian public agency specialized in training, capacity building and research in the fields of peace and security. It is the successor of the Cairo Regional Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA).