

## **The 1325 Scorecard – Poland Summary (September 16, 2015)**

### **General Assessment:**

Poland has not adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and therefore has yet to develop a comprehensive framework for gender mainstreaming in its foreign policy and peacebuilding initiatives. From the National Report submitted to the NATO International Military Staff Office of the Gender Advisor (IMS GENAD), we see that some progress has been made particularly in the area of (Shelby insert). That said, considerations of gender are not high on Poland's list of priorities. Overall, the women, peace and security framework is far from being mainstreamed within Polish foreign and defense policy.

### **National Importance/Political Will:**

National level documents made public by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of National Defense do not address any part of the women, peace and security agenda. For example, documents titled "Vision of the Polish Armed Forces 2030" and "Polish Foreign Policy Priorities 2012-2016" make no mention of UNSCR 1325, Bi-SC directive 40-1, or their objectives. Though Poland has submitted several National Reports to the Office of the Gender Advisor, they have yet to create a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. Finally, no government funding appears to have been allocated for the Ministry of National Defense to fund gendered policy.

### **Institutional Policy and Practice:**

Poland reported to have four Gender Advisors (GENADs), all of whom have received training in either Sweden or the Netherlands. However, it does not appear these Gender Advisors are a part of the Commander's staff, and thus might have limited influence in the armed services. Moreover, no Gender Focal Points (GFPs) have been assigned in Poland, likely limiting opportunities to implement the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

Poland provides training to military personnel on protecting vulnerable populations from sexual violence and on improving gender awareness. Over 20 gender training courses were provided to staff at the Ministry of National Defense, however it is unclear who received gender training. Though all military personnel are trained on sexual harassment in the workplace, a reported 30-45% of women experienced sexual trauma while serving, and only a third of victims sought health care.<sup>1</sup> This exposes serious problems within the Polish military: Women only constitute 2.55% of active duty members and only 2.25% of those deployed. Because women make up such a low percentage, they are vulnerable to attack and susceptible to intimidation not to report. Poland needs to ensure the safety and security of its military women.

### **Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation:**

Despite the publication of National Reports (2011-2012 and 2012-2013), there are no systematic monitoring or evaluation efforts in place. Without a National Action Plan, it is difficult to measure Poland's implementation of the principles of UNSCR 1325.

### **Recommendations:**

The most important step for Poland to take in the near future would be to create a National Action Plan in order to implement the WPS agenda. Without such a plan, progress and improvement are impossible

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.news-medical.net/news/20150429/2073/Polish.aspx>

to map and measure. Once a NAP is created, Poland should have three main priorities: (1) work to increase the number of women in the military, especially in the highest ranks; (2) incorporate WPS into the major foreign policy and national security documents; and (3) ensure the safety of those women already serving by addressing the issues of sexual harassment and assault. Finally, as Poland develops a NAP it should be encouraged to consult civil society and to develop monitoring and reporting requirements for the NAP.