

EXERCISE: Convincing the Mission Leadership

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)



Background information

MINUSMA

The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was established by Security Council [resolution 2100](#) of 25 April 2013 to support political processes in that country and carry out a number of security-related tasks. The Mission was asked to support the transitional authorities of Mali in the stabilization of the country and implementation of the transitional roadmap.

By unanimously adopting [resolution 2164](#) of 25 June 2014, the Council further decided that the Mission should focus on duties, such as ensuring security, stabilization and protection of civilians; supporting national political dialogue and reconciliation; and assisting the reestablishment of State authority, the rebuilding of the security sector, and the promotion and protection of human rights in that country.

(See also the mission fact sheet.)

The United Nations Security Council decided to include gender in MINUSMA's mandate through Resolutions 2100 and 2164. These resolutions are the basis for the mission of the Gender Unit within MINUSMA.

Gender equality must be considered as a cross-cutting issue in all aspects of MINUSMA's mandate and the mission is mandated to support the Malian authorities in ensuring full participation and representation of women at all levels, from the beginning of the stabilization phase, and including in the context of the reform of the security sector, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, national political dialogue and reconciliation, and elections.

Mandate of the Gender Unit

The mandate of the gender unit is based on Security Women, Peace and Security Resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and the six others that complement it, namely Resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and Resolution 2122 (2013) on Women, Peace and Security (2242). The mandate of MINUSMA's Gender Unit is also based on the DPO/DFS Policy on Gender Equality in Peacekeeping operations

Role of MINUSMA's Gender Unit

- Support senior management in the development of a gender strategy for the mission
- Provide technical support to the various components of the mission on gender issues
- Strengthen the technical capacities of MINUSMA staff on gender issues through training
- Support the Malian authorities and civil society organizations working in the field of gender, in cooperation with United Nations agencies in the country

Areas of intervention

Taking into account the mandate of the mission, the Gender Unit focuses primarily on four priorities:

- The inclusion of a gender perspective in MINUSMA policies and strategies
- The promotion of political participation of women
- The promotion of human rights, prevention and response to violence against women, especially with regard to conflict-related violence
- The inclusion of a gender perspective in the reform of the security sector

External partnerships

Ministry of Women, Children and Family / Ministry of the Interior and Security

The Malian Defense and Security Forces

UN agencies, in particular UN Women and UNFPA

Civil society organizations and women's networks in Mali

Internal: The Working Group on Internal Gender Issues (Gender Task Force)



Situation

You are the military gender advisor based in MINUSMA Head Quarters. You are working closely together with the civilian gender advisors of the Gender Unit.

You arrived in the mission 8 weeks ago and you have already noticed that many of the military colleagues in the mission are not very gender aware. Also, the percentage of military women in MINUSMA is very low. You have found an alarming report on your desk: *A review of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by United Nations peacekeepers in Mali.*

A summary of the report:

This study assesses the implementation by MINUSMA of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. Although several preconditions for a successful implementation exist, there is still a long way to go to ensure the full implementation of the resolution. MINUSMA needs to improve the gender balance among its military staff, increase troop awareness of UNSCR 1325 in the Malian context, and include the provisions of protection and participation of women in the planning and conduct of military operations. MINUSMA also suffers the risk of becoming a mission where the counterterrorism effort is taking precedence over all other provisions – e.g. protection of women and girls – in the mandate. This is exacerbated by the limited number of troops, lack of enabling resources, and untrained personnel deployed by some nations, as well as the military component's need to prioritise transport, escorts, and logistics. In order for MINUSMA to fulfil the provisions of UNSCR 1325, there is a need to strengthen the basic military capability of the mission and ensure that the resolution maintains its central position – together with protection of civilians – in MINUSMA's mandate.

(Source: A review of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by United Nations peacekeepers in Mali, FOI 2018)

After reading this report, you are wondering if the mission leadership of MINUSMA is willing to take more action to fulfil the provisions of UNSCR 1325. The final responsibility and accountability for integrating gender into the mission lies with the mission leadership but the question is: how much do they do about it?

You have just heard that you will get the opportunity to meet with the new Force Commander whom you never met before. You have been told that you can only speak to him for 5 minutes because he has to go to Timbuktu. You are eager to talk to him and convince him that more action has to be taken to fulfil the provisions of UNSCR 1325 (to fully integrate the gender perspective into the mission).

He will arrive in 1 hour.

SYNDICATE TASK:

Prepare with your syndicate, a brief, persuasive speech that you use to create interest in your ideas on how gender should be better integrated into the mission.

Be specific about:

- **Why is it so important** to integrate gender into all the operations in MINUSMA?
- **HOW** can gender be properly integrated into the mission?

(Give at least 3 practical examples what can/should be done.)

Remember: your task is to convince the Force Commander to take action and make a (gender) difference!

FEEDBACK SESSION:

One spokes person of your syndicate gives the speech (max 5 minutes) to the Force Commander.