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Acronyms

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
EU	European Union
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNDPKO	United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

Acknowledgements

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We would also like to thank Dessislava Roussanova for all the logistics and general organisation of the meeting and for sharing some aspects of the facilitation, Yvonne Shanahan and Gevork Ter-Gabrielian for their advice and strategic thinking, Eugenia Piza-Lopez for her support and members of the Women Building Peace campaign team for their input into the agenda. We are grateful to Ancil Adrian-Paul for her facilitation of the meeting and Marina Pagava, Natella Akaba and Magdalena Frichova for their support and the excellent interpretation skills of Ms Elena Cook combined with her understanding of the issues.

Part 1. Introduction

For many years women's roles in war and other types of violent conflict have been perceived as marginal throughout the world. Accounts of war tended to cast men as the 'doers' and women as passive, innocent 'victims'. However, through time and the experiences of different women, the ways in which women live through wars as fighters, community leaders, social organisers, farmers, traders and welfare workers has become clearer. Women in the Caucasus region have, like women elsewhere in conflict regions, had similar experiences that have arisen out of their political, social, cultural and economic context.

The Current Political and Economic Situation in the Caucasus

The South Caucasus exists as a political concept referring to three independent states (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) and three break away territories (i.e. Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno Karabakh). Currently the three conflicts in the region (in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno Karabakh) are still politically unresolved and thus adversely affect the political and economic situation in the region. Despite the different status of the states, there are commonalities existing across the entire region. Soviet era style of political leadership is still common within the governmental structures of all of the states, social inequality is growing within the societies, the public sector is still dominant and the lawlessness and all-powerfulness of criminal mafia structures continues to threaten the everyday security of the people. This is compounded by poverty, continuing insecurity and the lack of a clear vision for the future throughout the region.

Today, more than 10 years after the end of the communist regime, the process of democratisation in the countries in the region is still problematic with an authoritarian mentality being the overwhelming feature of the political life. The authoritarian ruling elite in the region is not willing to transfer their power to the new political or civil society leaders. Thus, the capacity of civil society to participate in policy making remains a challenge.

Women, Peace and Security

Women have less capacity and opportunities to participate in the political life of their individual countries. Their security is compromised and they are among the groups most affected by the economic crises. During the conflict women were followers and supporters of the escalating process of proclaiming war, but they did not have any control over it. There were very few women in leadership positions or in the decision-making bodies of the armed forces during the pre-conflict months. In many parts of the South Caucasus women supported violent actions

and nationalist movements believing that it would result in a fairer and more open society. Today, women are still fighting for their rights despite the existence of internationally agreed standards protecting and promoting those rights and women's empowerment.

With the unanimous adoption of Resolution 1325 by the UN Security Council in October 2000, women and issues affecting them have been placed firmly on the international agenda. Building on this momentum, International Alert's global campaign *Women Building Peace: From the Village Council to the Negotiating Table* has taken Resolution 1325 as its framework for engaging in two-way advocacy channelling. This involves communicating the policy to the field, organising consultations to contextualise issues and elicit views and recommendations for the effective implementation of the Resolution. These concerns and recommendations are then disseminated to policy makers at the national, regional and international levels in order to better inform and underpin policies affecting women's peace and security. It is with this background that the regional consultation for the Caucasus was held in Sochi, The Russian Federation (March 2002).

Part II. Pre-Consultation Activities

The national and regional consultations are part of a broader Gender Peace Audit project that involves a number of preparatory stages as outlined below:

2.1. Visits

Five field trips were made to the region by the campaign staff in order to present the project, identify organisations in the field working on related issues and interested in collaboration and to determine their interest in the issues.

2.2. Meetings/Workshops

Workshops and bi-lateral meetings with relevant organisations and individuals including EU, UN and OSCE personnel were also organised to present the project.

2.3. Preliminary mapping of the issues

The information collected through the visits, workshops and bi-lateral meetings as well as desk research resulted in a preliminary mapping of the issues affecting women's peace and security. The Feasibility Study report¹ provides information on the historical, political and economic context of the region, the status of women, current security issues and recommendations for engaging in a longer term project involving selected organisations including women's groups and academic institutions.

¹. Copies of this document are available upon request.

Part III. The Consultation

3.1. Objectives

The regional consultation in the Caucasus was a six-day event held jointly by International Alert's Eurasia programme, which has been working in the regions for over six years and the Women Building Peace campaign based in the Global Issues Department. The objectives were to:

- ❖ provide an opportunity for women's organisations from the Caucasus to share experiences and to discuss and analyse issues affecting their peace and security;
- ❖ present and unpack the concepts of advocacy, policy and security and to contextualise their relevance for the women in the Caucasus;
- ❖ unpack and analyse UNSC Resolution 1325 and elicit women's views and perspectives on its relevance to women in the Caucasus;
- ❖ provide women an opportunity to develop recommendations for governments and international policy makers on how to implement the Resolution to best benefit women in the Caucasus;
- ❖ facilitate the process of designing a Plan of Action for the Caucasus Women's League and other women's organisations so that women's groups could engage at the decision making levels in processes affecting their peace and security.

3.2. Methodology

The methodology included working with partner organisations to:

- ❖ identify participants from both recognized and unrecognized territories to attend the meeting;
- ❖ develop the agenda and programme of action based on the needs of participants;
- ❖ organise the logistics including identifying and booking the venue, travel, accommodation and subsistence for participants;
- ❖ prepare background documents in Russian where possible.

The Women Building Peace campaign adheres to IA's Code of Conduct, which stresses that impartiality and neutrality are key to the functioning of IA's conflict transformation work. These principles were crucial to the effectiveness of the regional consultation in the Caucasus. It was for this reason that the meeting brought together 30 women representatives of organisations from Abkhazia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, South Ossetia, Georgia, Nagorno Karabakh and the

Russian Federation² in the neutral venue of Sochi, in the Russian Federation. The choice of venue facilitated the participation of women from both the North and South Caucasus as well as from Russia.

To make the consultative process more effective and responsive to the needs of the participants, the consultation was inclusive and participatory, employing a mixture of presentations and small group exercises interspersed with general discussion. It was organised around the following topics:

- a) Training on Advocacy and Policy;
- b) International Human Rights Standards and Humanitarian Law affecting women's rights and empowerment and the place of Resolution 1325;
- c) Presentation and analysis of UN SC Resolution 1325;
- d) Identification of issues currently affecting women's peace and security and how they are dealt with in Resolution 1325;
- e) Recommendations for policy makers on effective implementation of Resolution 1325 both for the geographical context and globally;
- f) Strategies for disseminating the Resolution to other target constituencies following the consultation.

Day one of the consultation introduced the concepts of policy and advocacy and examined their relevance within the Caucasus region. Participants looked at the importance of advocacy, the link between policy and advocacy and provided training on different types of advocacy, the process of identifying advocacy targets and what needs to be done to engage in effective advocacy, including evaluation and monitoring processes.

On the second day, participants were introduced to the existing body of human rights and humanitarian laws affecting women's peace and security and to the key organs of the United Nations responsible for their development, implementation and monitoring. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was used as the benchmark for examining how such instruments were constructed and the manner in which they addressed women's rights and empowerment. It was also used as a tool to consolidate the training on policy and advocacy as well as a comparative counterfoil to Resolution 1325. During the third and fourth days of the consultation, participants were introduced to Resolution 1325 focusing specifically on the relevance of the tool for their work. Key issues that women experienced and perceived as currently affecting their peace and security in the region were

² Russia, Cherchyna, North Ossetia and Dagestan.

identified. The sessions were completed with a discussion linking the issues highlighted to Resolution 1325 and identifying any gaps. Participants then listed a number of steps that they and others could take to ensure the effective dissemination of the Resolution in their differing contexts. Additionally, they developed recommendations that were then disseminated to national, regional and international policy makers on how the Resolution could be implemented in a gender-sensitive manner to benefit women in the Caucasus region.

Part IV. Key issues affecting women's peace and security

Participants commented on the clarity of Resolution 1325 and its accessibility, which they felt was lacking in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). They also felt that it resonated significantly with the concerns and issues affecting women's peace and security in the Caucasus. However, for those participants from the break away territories of South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno Karabakh, the problems were particularly acute. Generally, this group confessed to lacking clarity as to how they could use the tool to promote and protect women's rights in their context of break away territories. They also questioned the usefulness of the Resolution for them when they were unable to access funds to engage in the most basic of projects and could not hold their governments accountable to international norms. The situation is further complicated by the fact that Abkhazia is perceived among the group as being in somewhat of a better position to the other two break away territories (South Ossetia and Nagorno Karabakh) as representatives from the territory are often included in meetings and consultations while the other two `states` are not.

The overwhelming consensus of the participants is that Resolution 1325 is an historic document needed by women affected by conflict. After comprehensive discussions on the Resolution and group work paragraphs 1, 8, and 16 were identified as particularly important for the current political context in the region. Key issues, categorised under five different themes (i.e. conflict and conflict prevention, gender specific issues, causes and results of conflict, political factors and economic issues) were then identified by the participants as affecting women's peace and security in the Caucasus.

4.1. Conflict and conflict prevention

- ❖ continuing and overarching conflict across the region;
- ❖ frozen conflicts leading to despair;
- ❖ lack of conflict early warning and mechanisms to prevent conflict.

4.2. Gender-specific issues

- ❖ violence against women;
- ❖ lack of profile of women's situation and needs in the media;
- ❖ lack of attention to the specific security needs of pregnant women, widows, displaced and other war affected women in conflict areas;

- ❖ women's exclusion from political negotiations to advance the peace process and from political participation generally;
- ❖ lack of protection of the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations;
- ❖ trafficking of women;
- ❖ survival prostitution.

4.3. Causes and results of conflict

- ❖ proliferation of small arms.

4.4. Political factors

- ❖ non-recognition of territories leading to loss of protection through established norms;
- ❖ lack of access to international decision makers;
- ❖ apparent lack of interest in women's specific situation and needs by UN departments especially in the breakaway territories;
- ❖ lack of adequate mechanisms for protecting the civilian population in this region;
- ❖ clash of geopolitical interests in the region;
- ❖ inability of the women from the break away territories to participate in the peace process in the region, to receive and share information, to travel and to access international policy makers and donor agencies;
- ❖ corruption and clan-system in the politics.

4.5. Economic issues

- ❖ economic interests underpinning the conflicts and perpetuating the conflicts;
- ❖ poverty impacting the physical and psychological security of women.

Part V. Priorisation of the issues highlighted

5.1. Exclusion of the women from the political processes in the region

Today women in the South Caucasus remain very much disconnected from the political processes. There are few women in positions of power in the region. The example of the recently concluded elections in Abkhazia was discussed and it was noted that not a single woman was elected as a member of the new Abkhazian Parliament. Similarly, no women participate in the ongoing political negotiations between the official parties involved in the three conflicts in the region. The lack of political experience and the gender bias was highlighted as an obstacle excluding women from decision-making in the Caucasus.

5.2. Women's protection and security in break away territories

In the South Caucasus region, the break away territories of Abkhazia and South Ossetia do not recognise the law of the Georgian state and Nagorno Karabakh does not recognise the law of the state of Azerbaijan. Thus, they do not feel accountable to the international instruments and agreements signed or ratified by the Georgian or Azeri states. On the other hand, as break away territories, they have not signed or acceded to any of the international instruments for the protection of human rights and gender equality. Women highlighted the issue of how to protect their rights and guarantee their security in such political contexts.

5.3. Displacement: The situation of women

The problem of displaced persons has affected the entire region since the conflicts broke out in the beginning of the 1990s yet today it remains one of the most pressing social, economic, and political issues facing the Caucasus region. This has led to extremely poor living conditions for the displaced, the majority of them women. Many of the displaced women have had to give up their professions and are forced by the circumstances to engage in low-status unskilled and low paid jobs, as they have become the sole income providers for their large families. Their access to income-generating activities is usually limited to informal labour.

Poor health status is also a serious issue affecting displaced women. The rate of illness and death of pregnant women in the region is three times higher than the international standard. Infectious, cardiovascular and gynaecological diseases have become widespread.

5.4. Poverty and economic crisis

The last decade has been a transitional time for the states in the South Caucasus. Due to the conflicts and the transition from a planned to a market economy, the economic situation in the countries of the South Caucasus has had a devastating effect on the status and the security of women. More than 60 per cent of the unemployed in the region are women. Women earn about 75 per cent of a man's wage. Gender bias in the recruitment, the lack of appropriate employment opportunities and an existence below the poverty line are issues of serious concern for women and that affects their peace and security.³

5.5. Gender inequality in all the states in the region

Traditions and traditional roles in the society are highly valued in the Caucasus and this is very much reflected in the stereotyped vision of men and women's roles. Research shows that men and women in the Caucasus enjoy different rights in all spheres of life (work, home, social life). The Caucasian states (apart from the break-away territories) have signed up to all the international instruments relating to human rights and gender equality. They have also adopted local laws and have put in place machineries for implementing these policies. However, the fact that the laws do not deprive women of different rights does not mean that their fathers, mothers, husbands, society or the taboos and stereotypes imprinted in women's psyche will allow them to appreciate and enjoy the rights and freedom they have been given by the law. Women pointed out that the discrimination is rooted in the traditions and hence – socially and culturally accepted as normal, which is one of the main obstacles for them in their struggle for gender equality.

³ Study of Gender Stereotypes and Hidden Female Discrimination, Caucasus Women's Network, 1999

Part VI. Issues affecting women's peace and security not reflected in Resolution 1325

The participants welcomed the adoption of Resolution 1325 by the UNSC and recognised the importance of the Resolution as a policy instrument and advocacy tool. The main criticism expressed was that there is a huge gap between the policy work at the global level and the reality faced by women's groups on the ground. Several issues affecting women's peace and security in the region, but that have not been included in the Resolution were identified:

- ❖ lack of conflict early warning and conflict prevention;
- ❖ the absence of mechanisms for the protection of civilians (particularly women, children, displaced persons) in conflicts;
- ❖ no specific mention of the security of displaced women and girls;
- ❖ no mention of landmines;
- ❖ lack of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Resolution and benchmarks for this process;
- ❖ no mechanisms for protection of women and girls in territories not recognised by the international community;
- ❖ lack of attention to illegal activities and crimes prevalent in a conflict economy and the impact of these on women children;
- ❖ no mention of socio-economic problems which emerge after conflicts particularly those affecting women (i.e. trafficking, survival prostitution);
- ❖ absence of mechanisms for protection of women and children of minority ethnic groups involved in conflicts.

Part VII. Recommendations

The participants made a number of recommendations for each of the main focus themes:

7.1. Women's inclusion in peace processes including peace negotiations

- ❖ The international community should urge the governments in the Caucasian region to include women peace activists in the official delegations participating in peace negotiations.
- ❖ All international and regional parties involved in the resolution of the conflicts in the Caucasus should take concrete and effective measures to support and ensure women's participation in peace negotiations.
- ❖ UN and the UN representatives in the region that participate in the facilitation of the peace negotiation should ensure that women are included and given the opportunity to play a key role in the official delegations participating in the negotiations.

7.2. Inclusion and participation of women from break away territories

- ❖ Context specific and relevant mechanisms should be developed to enable women from break away territories to be fully involved in peace processes.

7.3. Women's participation in the implementation of peace agreements

- ❖ Women should participate in the development of practical mechanisms for the implementation of the peace agreements in countries affected by the conflicts.

7.4. Support for women's peacebuilding initiatives in the region

- ❖ Specific measures should be considered to support women's peacebuilding initiatives in the region and especially in the break away territories. The United Nations should show tangible commitment and provide concrete support for women's peacebuilding activities in the region regardless of the status of the territories.

7.5. Impact of the conflict on the status of women in the Caucasus

- ❖ A comprehensive study on the impact of armed conflicts on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding and the gender dimension of peace processes and conflict resolution should be carried out in all the conflict and post-conflict zones in the region. Women from the region should participate actively in conducting the study and the results should be widely disseminated at a national, regional and international level.

7.6. Publicising and monitoring Resolution 1325

- ❖ Mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Resolution in the break away territories should be developed, as well as standards and benchmarks for its implementation.
- ❖ UNSC Resolution 1325 should be broadly publicised among both women's groups and policy makers. Women's groups should be supported in popularising the instrument at different levels of the society in the Caucasian states.

Part VIII. Action Plan resulting from the consultation

Participants used the last two days of the meeting consolidating what they had learnt and putting it into effect. They developed an *Action Plan* for working towards raising women's status and for ensuring women's inclusion at all decision-making levels in peace processes in the region. Proposed activities included:

1. Producing and disseminating a letter with recommendations for the implementation of Resolution 1325 in the Caucasus to local governments and the media, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, UNSC, the current President of the Security Council, the Russian Federation and all the Member States, as well as the regional desks of UNIFEM, UNDP, UNDPKO, UNDP, among others.
2. Encouraging governments in the region to agree to a campaign entitled "A Day Without War" to focus attention on how important it is for the benefit of all to find urgent solutions to the conflicts in the Caucasus. This involved engaging local governments and urging them to proclaim International Children's Day (1 June 2002) a day without war.
3. To raise awareness of UNSC Resolution 1325 in the region and to urge local policy makers to implement it in all states in the Caucasus.
4. To organise in October 2002 or Spring 2003, a regional consultative meeting bringing together women's groups and policy makers to discuss ways of addressing gender equality, peace and security issues in the region

Part IX. Concrete outcomes

Participants highlighted three critical issues and developed projects focusing on each issue, they included:

- ❖ Women and political participation in the Caucasus
- ❖ Women and peacebuilding in the Caucasus
- ❖ The status of women in the states in the Caucasus

Additionally, participants collaborated to write a letter to UNSG Kofi Annan, UNSC and relevant UN agencies appealing to the international community to support women in the Caucasus in their efforts to be included in the political negotiations and in the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 in the region. A second letter proposing “A Day Without War” was sent to the Presidents and the governments of the states in the region appealing for International Children’s Day (1 June 2002) to be proclaimed as “a day without war” in the region.

Part X. Conclusion

The momentum and level of interest generated by Resolution 1325 has created a unique opportunity to place women firmly at the centre of contemporary international peace and security discourse. But words and even UN resolutions alone are not enough to make women's concerns heard. The fact remains that in the mainstream debate and policy development around issues of peace, security, prevention and reconstruction, women's voices and gender issues are still largely ignored. The work done at the grassroots is not fully recognised nor appreciated by major institutions and policy makers.

The regional consultation in the Caucasus was thus a unifying event that has created a desire and a momentum for women to take action locally to ensure that they are included when policies and decisions affecting their peace and security are discussed. The women were determined that the consultation would not result in further rhetoric but in strategic actions that would promote their rights and empowerment. Participants are currently engaged in developing a region wide research project on the status of women in the Caucasus. Additionally, plans for a follow-up consultation with policy makers are well advanced and the meeting is due to take place within the first quarter of 2003.

What women want now is recognition of the issues they have highlighted and practical support to engage in advocacy activities at the national, regional and international levels. International Alert as an international NGO with access to the international community can assist this process by disseminating women's views and recommendations widely to policy makers. International Alert is also facilitating women talking directly to the policy makers. However, at the national level women themselves must take the initiative, for while UN Resolutions are the starting point, the challenge to bring about awareness and change lies with women themselves.

Appendix 1: The Agenda

REGIONAL CONSULTATION IN THE CAUCASUS WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Women, Peace and Security in the Caucasus Issues and Existing Instruments Affecting Women, Peace and Security in the Region UNSC Resolution 1325 Policy and Advocacy: Learning and Using It

Objectives:

- 1.To provide an opportunity for women's organisations from the Caucasus to share experiences and to discuss and analyse issues affecting their peace and security. .
- 2.To present and unpack the UNSC Resolution 1325 and elicit women's views and perspectives on it's relevance to women in the Caucasus
- 3.To provide women an opportunity to develop recommendations for governments and international policy makers on how to implement the resolution to best benefit women in the Caucasus
- 4.To present and unpack the concepts of advocacy and policy and to contextualise their relevance for the women in the Caucasus
5. To facilitate the process of designing a further plan for action for the Women's Caucasus League so that the women's groups in the region can advocate for their needs and right at local, regional and global levels.

Participants:

Twenty-five representatives of the women's groups and relevant civil society organisations from the South and the North Caucasus.

Agenda:

03 March 2002 (Sunday)

09.00 - 15.00 Arrival of the participants

15.00 – 17.00 Registration

18.00 Reception

04 March 2002 (Monday)

Objectives:

1.To present and unpack the concepts of “advocacy”, “policy” and “security” and to contextualise their relevance for the women in the South Caucasus

9.00 – 10.30 Welcome

Marina Pagava and Natella Akaba

Getting to know each other

Facilitated by Ancil Adrian-Paul

Clarification of expectations

Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova

10.30 – 11.00 *Refreshments*

11.00 – 13.00 **Introduction to policy and advocacy. Unpacking the terms**

Ancil Adrian-Paul

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 **Introduction to policy and advocacy. Unpacking the terms**

Ancil Adrian-Paul

15.30 – 16.00	<i>Refreshments</i>
16.00 – 18.00	Women, Peace and Security <i>Ancil Adrian-Paul</i>
	Group work <i>Facilitated by Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova y, Marina Pagava and Natella Akaba</i>
19:30	Dinner

05 March 2002 (Tuesday)

Objectives:

1. To provide an opportunity for women's organisations from the Caucasus to share experiences and to discuss and analyse issues affecting their peace and security.
2. To present and unpack the UNSC Resolution 1325 in the context of existing international instruments and elicit women's views and perspectives on its relevance to women in the Caucasus

09.00 – 11.00	Group Work: Women, Peace and Security. Identifying the issues of concern to women in the Caucasus <i>Facilitated by Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova , Marina Pagava and Natella Akaba</i>
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Refreshments</i>
11.15 – 13.00	Women's Rights and International Instruments <i>Ancil Adrian-Paul</i>
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
14.00 – 15.30	Introducing and unpacking the UNSC Resolution 1325 <i>Ancil Adrian-Paul</i>

15.30 – 16.00	<i>Refreshments</i>
16.00 – 18.00	<i>Group work : Linking the Previously Identified Issues of Concern in the Region to the UNSC Resolution 1325 Facilitated by Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova , Marina Pagava and Natella Akaba</i>
19.00	Dinner

06 March 2002 (Wednesday)

Objectives:

1. To elicit the perspectives of the women in the Caucasus on the relevance of UNSC Resolution 1325 in their regional context and identify existing gaps
2. To provide women an opportunity to develop recommendations for governments and international policy makers on how to implement the resolution to best benefit women in the Caucasus
3. To facilitate the process of designing a further plan for action for the Women's Caucasus League so that the women's groups in the region can advocate for their needs and right at local, regional and global levels.

09.00 – 11.00	<i>Group Work Identifying the gaps in the UNSC Resolution 1325 Facilitated by Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova , Marina Pagava and Natella Akaba</i>
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Refreshments</i>
11.15 – 13.00	<i>Perspectives of Women in the Caucasus on the Relevance of UNSC Resolution as an Advocacy Tool Ancil Adrian-Paul</i>
13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>

14.00 – 16.00	<p>Recommendation on UNSC Resolution 1325 <i>Ancil Adrian-Paul</i></p> <p><i>Group Work: Developing Recommendations.</i> <i>Facilitated by Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova , Marina Pagava</i> <i>and Natella Akaba</i></p>
16.00 – 16.15	<i>Refreshments</i>
16.15 – 18.00	<p>Discussing and Developing Plan of Action <i>Ancil Adrian-Paul and Dessy Roussanova</i></p>
20.00	<i>Dinner</i>

Appendix 2: List of Participants

1. Zalicha Tachirova
Baku, Azerbaijan
Human Rights Defence Centre of Azerbaijan

2. Larisa Sotieva
Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia
Caucasus NGO Forum

3. Gajane Armaganova
Yerevan, Armenia
Association of University Women

4. Aishat Mogamedova
Mahachkala, Dagestan
League for Protection of Mother and Child

5. Fatima Bzasso
Maykop, Republic of Adigeja
Union of Women of Republic of Adigeja

6. Ljudmila Pavlichenko
Novocherkassk, Russian Federation
Union of Don Women

7. Valentina Chrevatenko
Novocherkassk, Russian Federation
Union of Don Women

8. Larisa Jangolenko
Novocherkassk, Russian Federation
Union of Don Women

9. Natella Akaba
Sukhumi, Abkhazia

Association of Women of Abkhazia

10. Irina Adleiba
Sukhum(i), Abkhazia
'Nuznaja' Newspaper

11. Ljudmila Lolua
Pitsunda, Abkhazia
Association of Women of Pitsunda

12. Svetlana Korsaja
Sukhum(i), Abkhazia
Association of Women of Abkhazia

13. Irina Gregorian
Stepanakert, Nogorno Karabakh
Institute of People's Diplomacy

14. Marina Pagava
Tbilisi, Georgia
Assist Yourself

15. Manana Darzanja
Tbilisi, Georgia
Centre for Conflict Transformation and Negotiations

16. Nino Durglishvili
Tbilisi, Georgia
Tbilisi State University

17. Lela Gaprindashvili
Tbilisi, Georgia
Women's Initiative for Equality

18. Anna Chochieva
Zhinval(i), South Ossetia
Women's Public Movement 'Mady Arm'

19. Aza Hachirova
Zhinval(i), South Ossetia
Agency for Promotion of Community and Social Development
20. Marifa Tahilgova
Nazran, Ingushetia
Women's NGO 'Gorjanka'
21. Zainap Gashaeva
Grozny, Chechya
NGO 'Echo Vojny'
22. Naid Vardanjan
Yerevan, Armenia
Union Democracy
23. Risa Tsindeliani
Tbilisi, Georgia
Association of Women of Abkhazia 'Sabinebi'
24. Ija Markviladse
Tbilisi, Georgia
Women's Resource Centre 'Satnoeba', Caucasian House
25. Larisa Kozaeva
Zhinval(i), South Ossetia
Women of South Ossetia for Democracy and Human Rights
26. Zisa Gumba
Sukhum(i), Abkhazia
Association of Women of Abkhazia; Member of the Parliament of Republic of Abkhazia
27. Meri Thagusheva
Gudauta, Abkhazia
Association of Women of Gudauta

28. Tamam Dzafarova
Baku, Azerbaijan
Association of University Women

29. Rafiga Azimova
Baku, Azerbaijan
Women's NGO 'Sevil'

30. Sevda Mamedova
Baku, Azerbaijan
Society for Defence of Women's Rights Named After D. Aliaeva

31. Asthikh Avetisjan
Yerevan, Armenia
Armenian Youth Fund

32. Narine Aramjan
Yerevan, Armenia
Foundation Against Arbitrariness

33. Dessislava Roussanova
Programme Development Officer
International Alert, London, UK

34. Magdalena Fricova
Eurasia Programme Officer
International Alert, London, UK

Facilitator

35. Ancil Adrian-Paul
Manager Women Building Peace Campaign
International Alert, London, UK

Interpreter

Elena Cook
London, UK

Appendix 3: Organisations collaborating on the consultation

International Alert (IA)

International Alert is a non-governmental organisation based in the UK. The organisation was set up in 1985 by human rights advocates including Martin Ennals, former Secretary General of Amnesty International. The creation of the organization was a response to the rise in internal violent conflict and the subsequent abuse of individual and collective human rights in conflict situations. IA has a multi-national team of around 60 staff including volunteers and interns. IA seeks to strengthen the ability of people in conflict situations to make peace by: facilitating dialogue at different levels and sectors of society in conflict, helping to develop and enhance local capacities, facilitating peace-oriented development work amongst grassroots organisations and local peacebuilding initiatives and encouraging the international community to address the structural causes of conflict.

IA also has a Global Issues Department that engages in advocacy and policy analysis to generate international awareness of the issues and concerns arising out of their field work give voice to critical issues raised by regional and local organisations and address issues relating to the deep-seated causes of conflict. This includes cross-cutting thematic concerns such as analysing gender perspectives with regard to small arms and light weapons, conflict-sensitive development, the impact of private military companies, and the role of women in peacebuilding. We also have a programme that addresses the role of corporations in conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Assist Yourself

The organisation *Assist Yourself* was established in 1994 as a non-governmental organisation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Abkhazia in Georgia. It assists IDP women affected by the military conflict in Georgia in the early 1990s to adapt to a new life as displaced and aims to assist IDP women who live in untenable conditions, suffer physical assaults, unemployment and other problems. *Assist Yourself* focuses on reconciliation and peacebuilding. Not long after its establishment, the organisation became one of the leading NGOs engaged in initiatives for the resolution of the Georgian/Abkhazian conflict. Today the work of *Assist Yourself* is devoted to reconciliation, conflict transformation and women's participation in these processes within the whole Caucasus region. As a result of the historical conference on peacebuilding facilitated by the founder of Assist Yourself and her colleagues, the participants of the conference decided to establish a Caucasus Women League, a network

of women's organisations based on the idea of peacebuilding, non-violence and mutual understanding.

Appendix 4: Letter to UN Secretary General

**Letter to UN Secretary General Agreed and Adopted by the Participants to the
Consultative Meeting on UNSC Resolution 1325**

Sochi, The Russian Federation

March 9, 2002

To: Kofi Annan
United Nations Secretary-General
UN Secretariat
New York

9th March, 2002

Dear Secretary-General

Congratulations on your sterling efforts to raise the visibility of women and ensure women's effective participation in issues of peace and security. We particularly welcome the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council 1325 in October 2000.

Secretary-General, it has been more than 10 years since the outbreak of conflicts in the Caucasus that are as yet unresolved. These conflicts have resulted in the extreme suffering of the population including economic blockades, displacement of the population, aggravation of the socio-economic problems, destruction of the unique identity of the Caucasus region and much more. The cost has been enormous and especially to women.

Despite being foremost among those affected by the loss and the difficulty of the social burden, women continue to be marginalized and excluded from decision-making processes at the highest levels. These realities deeply contradict the spirit and the letter of Resolution 1325, which unambiguously calls for more active involvement of women in all areas of political and social life, including the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

During a consultative meeting of women's groups from the North and South Caucasus and the Russian Federation and other organisations that was collaborative organised in Sochi (March 3-

10, 2002) by International Alert, the London based conflict prevention non-governmental organisation, we discussed in minute detail the tenets of the document.

The Caucasus Women's League (CWL), formalised during this meeting to unite non-governmental organisations from different areas in the region developed the following recommendations and agreed that they should be shared with you for your urgent attention.

1. Paragraph I of the resolution `urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. In accordance with this paragraph, the CWL requests that you take action to include members of women's peace-building organisations in the region on official delegations for peace negotiations and in the development of the peace processes on-going in the region.

2. In accordance with paragraph 8 and its concerns, we urge the Secretary-General to ensure that the UN system provides adequate and sustainable resources for women's peace-building initiatives in the region i.e. equal treatment for both recognised states and non-recognised entities. We believe that such action will contribute to the strengthening of the civil society and reinforce women's confidence to continue their activities.

3. Paragraph 16 invites you to undertake a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and all that this entails. The CWL is aware that the study is already underway and we offer our congratulation and support. We believe that a generalised and systematic analysis of the results of this study will be important for the Caucasus and that it will contribute to better conflict transformation and post-conflict rehabilitation work.

The Caucasus Women's League expresses its hope that this letter will result in the UN Security Council as well as the UN system as a whole will pay more specific attention to the status of women in the Caucasus and to their political, social, economic and civil rights.

*Agreed and Adopted by
the participants to the Consultative meeting on resolution 1325
Sochi, The Russian Federation
March 9, 2002*