

**“Implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325:  
Lessons-Learned by the  
United States’ Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)”**  
(as of 3 May 2013)

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your very warm reception. I visited with several of you yesterday and as I am from the United States Department of State’s Bureau for Political-Military Affairs, I am absolutely delighted to be among fellow political-military affairs professionals to discuss a topic of such cogent interest.

As you know from the introduction you just heard, I lead the United States’ Global Peace Operations Initiative—or “GPOI” as we call it. What I would like to do today is share some of the U.S.’ lessons-learned on implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, and, in the true spirit of this Forum, I very much want to listen and learn from the dialogue we will have following my remarks.

I’d like to lead-off with a brief overview of GPOI; then identify the components of Resolution 1325 that GPOI focuses on; explain how GPOI implements these components; and then conclude by sharing the challenges, opportunities, lessons-learned, and best practices associated with our efforts.

**Overview of GPOI**

**[Slide 1, “Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)—Global Overview”]**

GPOI is a U.S. government-funded security assistance program intended to enhance international capacity to effectively conduct United Nations’ and regional organizations’ peace operations by: (1) building partner country capabilities to train and sustain peacekeeping and peace enforcement proficiencies; (2) increasing the number of capable military troops and formed police units available for deployment; and (3) facilitating the preparation, logistical support, and deployment of military units and formed police units to peace operations.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs manages the GPOI program. We work in close coordination with several other U.S.

government Departments and agencies to administer the program; especially the Department of Defense which is our partner in the day-to-day management and implementation of the program. That is why their seal is displayed with the Department of State's seal on the slide you see in front of you.

GPOI's primary peace operations capacity building activities include training, educating, conducting research, providing technical expertise, equipping, building facilities, refurbishing facilities, and providing logistical support. GPOI has 64 partner countries, including 15 OSCE participating States, and two partner regional organizations—they are depicted on the slide.

**[Slide 2, "Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)  
Objective 3: Support to Deploying Units]**

To date, GPOI implementers have directly trained 174,807 peacekeepers and additionally enabled the training of at least 49,202 peacekeepers by partner country trainers that GPOI has trained. Through GPOI-funded training and equipping activities, the program has facilitated the deployment of more than 179,000 personnel from 38 countries to 25 peace operations around the world—they are depicted on the slide.

GPOI further funds a variety of regional capacity building initiatives, to include the provision of technical assistance, staff training, equipment, and building refurbishments for the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States, and 45 national and regional peace operations training centers.

**United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and GPOI**

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the subsequent resolutions which strengthened the foundation and mandate for women, peace, and security are critically important to the United States. You'll recall that UNSCR 1820, approved in 2008, acknowledged sexual violence as a "tactic of war" linked with the maintenance of international peace and security. UNSCR 1888, approved in 2009, operationalized the demands made in 1820 by calling for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General to coordinate UN efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). UNSCR 1889, also

approved in 2009, addresses obstacles to women's participation in peace processes and peacebuilding and calls for tracking of the implementation of UNSCR 1325. UNSCR 1960, approved in 2010, provides an accountability, monitoring, and reporting system for implementation of UNSCRs 1820 and 1888. The U.S. introduced and drafted three of these resolutions: 1820, 1888, and 1960.

So, given the themes that I described in the aforementioned resolutions and GPOI's *raison d'être*, it's no surprise that GPOI would be called upon to undertake concrete actions to implement UNSCR 1325 and its supporting resolutions.

GPOI, in accordance with the United States' National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security—a plan that, though I'm not the author, I'll admit I am tremendously proud of—focuses on two lines of effort: the participation of women in conflict prevention, management, and resolution activities—especially in leadership and decision-making positions; and the protection of women and girls in armed conflict environments.

We pursue these goals in five ways, by (1) encouraging women's participation and leadership in peace operations; (2) initiating and supporting efforts to increase the participation and leadership of women in peace operations including mobilizing men as allies in support of this objective; (3) training female peacekeepers; (4) supporting UN and regional organizations' efforts to develop, update, distribute, and implement standardized training tools; and (5) facilitating and strengthening multilateral collaborations.

Here are a few illustrative, concrete examples of what we've accomplished in these five areas:

- Worked with partners to train 3,485 female peacekeepers;
- Provided instruction to tens of thousands of peacekeepers, from our partner countries, on Women, Peace and Security-related issues which include, but are not limited to, gender topics, protection of civilians (POC) including prevention/remediation of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), conduct and discipline including prevention/remediation of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), human rights, international law, humanitarian affairs, rule of law, and use of force;
- Provided financial support to the UN on five POC projects which address SGBV. Four of these projects are part of the "G8 Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Experts Group Work Plan for Furthering the Protection of Civilians in UN-Authorized Peacekeeping Operations", an effort undertaken during the U.S.'s chairmanship of the 2012 G8 Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Experts Group;

- Provided support for the meeting of the G8 Women, Peace, and Security Experts Group, under the United States' Chairmanship of the G8, in December 2012. GPOI assisted in the development of the agenda and other planning activities associated with conduct of the meeting;
- Promoted, through training efforts, workshops, and engagement with partners, a culture of acceptance and inclusion with procedures that enable incorporation and acceptance of female participation, professional development, and leadership;
- In partnership with the government of Italy, we provide financial and logistical support to a POC, Prevention and Remediation of SGBV course at Italy's Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units, or COESPU;
- In partnership with the government of Japan, we conduct a UN Senior Mission Leader course which prepares women for leadership and decision-making roles in conflict management activities and provides men and women participants with instruction on the WPS-related issues that I articulated just a moment ago.

Though we're encouraged by our progress, I cannot stress enough how clearly we see the enormous magnitude of the WPS requirements that still lie before all of us.

### **Challenges, Opportunities, Lessons-Learned, and Best Practices**

**Challenges.** Please allow me to share a few of the challenges we sense we face in trying to address these women, peace and security requirements.

The first challenge, and it's an important one, is that there's not an agreed knowledge base or data base of pertinent information. Nor is there an agreed analysis of such collections of data to help explain what the myriad facts mean. As a result many questions exist in this realm. Some key ones are, "Will increasing the number of women in leadership and decision-making positions really make things better? Would a mixture of women and men in these positions be more effective? What role does training and education play in effectiveness? Without the analyses I referred to earlier, there will always be some questions in the background about some of the underlying assumptions in UNSCR 1325.

A second challenge is the media popularity of all-female units which deploy to peacekeeping operations. GPOI recognizes that in order to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping it is sometimes necessary, based on cultural, logistical, and other realities, to train all-female units as opposed to

individual women peacekeepers. A large percentage of our partners have only recently incorporated women into militaries and are still tackling what some might consider basic gender integration issues. GPOI tries to meet these partners where they are in the gender integration process and promotes integration through activities that our partners are comfortable with. However, organizing and deploying units by gender (male or female) for the desired end-state of calling attention to the unit and/or to demonstrate, statistically, support for policy goals to increase women's participation can ultimately serve as an obstacle to the achievement of longer-term goals. We sense that considerations of gender, and/or organizing and deploying units by gender, should be based on specific mission requirements as well as cultural realities.

**Opportunities.** We've noted that as countries develop their National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security there is an increasing acceptance of that more must be done to enhance the participation of women in leadership and decision-making positions in conflict prevention, management, and/or resolution activities. So, now is a good time to pursue efforts which enable this level of participation. Wherever we find such an orientation in our partner countries and regional organizations, we plan to explore what type of support our partners might find helpful and effective.

**Lessons-Learned and Best Practices.** With regard to lessons-learned and best practices, the United States looks to our outstanding and comprehensive National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. The collaborative way in which it was developed and the thoroughness of its implementation have given it great credibility and legitimacy within the U.S. government and have thus made it a very effective guide. GPOI has used the National Action Plan to develop its "Strategy for Implementing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security." Having a plan at the national level and supporting implementation plans at lower levels is a helpful practice and normally leads to greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving objectives, so it is a model we recommend to others.

Finally, I'll mention the importance of having a metrics and evaluation regime to assess and measure progress. Systematically thinking through and tracking inputs, outputs, and importantly, outcomes and impacts, will enable efficient use of resources, effective program management and planning, and accountability.

### **Conclusion**

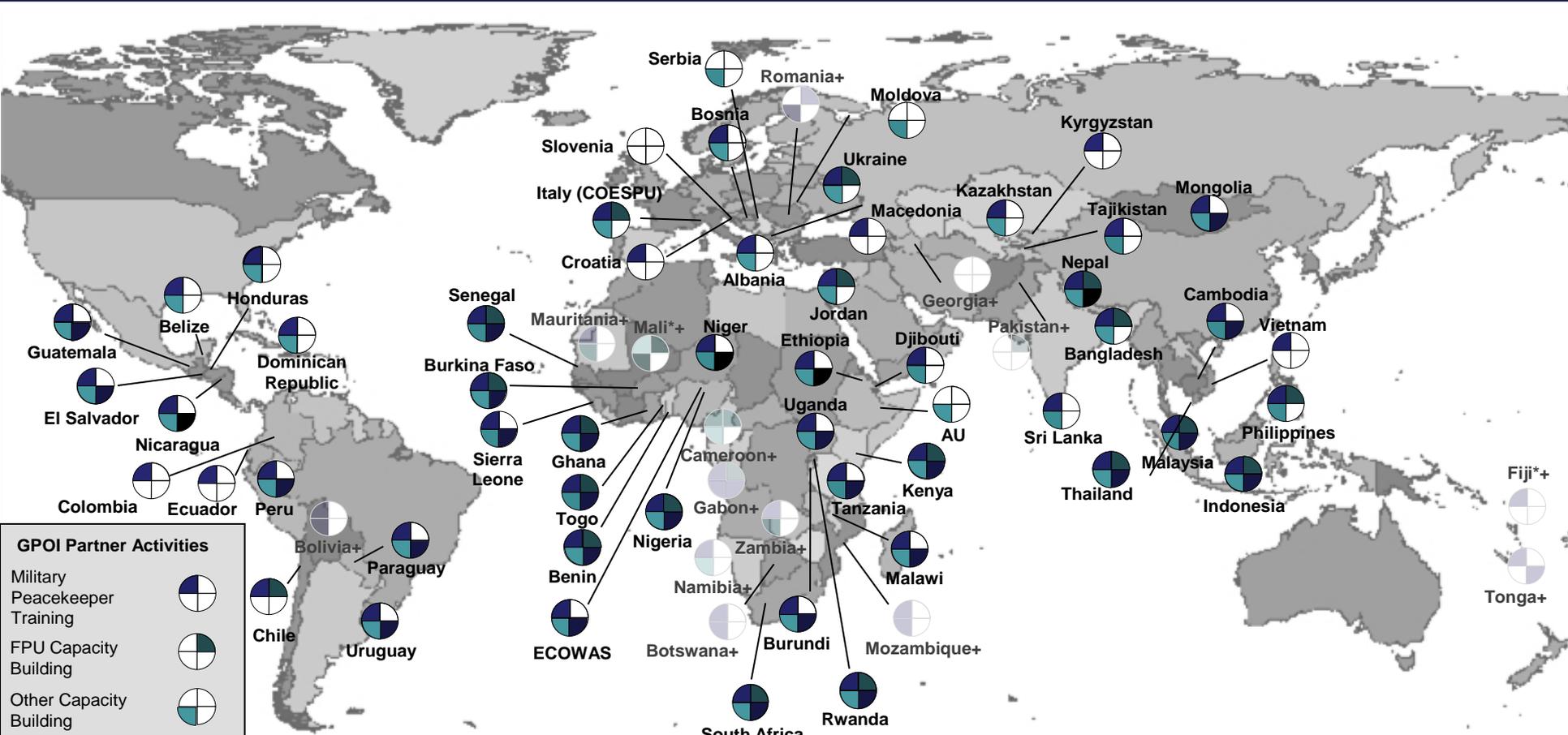
Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your interest in Women, Peace, and Security, and the kind attention you have paid to my remarks. In the 13 years since United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was passed, we've had far too many reminders that our work in this area is not close to being done. Your interest in discussing this important topic in such an august forum as the OSCE-FSC is at once very reassuring and very inspiring as well. I encourage all of you to share your government's lessons learned in implementing UNSCR 1325. What has been successful for your country in practice? I know we all have much to be gained by learning from each other's experiences. Again, thank you for your attention, and I look forward to a good discussion on this issue.



# Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)

## Global Overview

(as of 30 April 2013)



To date, GPOI implementers have facilitated the training of 174,807 peacekeepers and enabled the indigenous training of 49,202 peacekeepers for a total of 224,009 peacekeepers trained; supported 45 national and regional peace operations training centers and 2 regional headquarters; and facilitated the deployment of 179,063+ personnel from 38 countries to 25 operations around the world. A key objective of Phase II GPOI (FYs 2010-2014) is to support attainment of full training capability (FTC) in 37 countries to effectively conduct peace operations training without foreign assistance. Interim progress towards this goal is captured on slides 4 and 5.

+ Additionally, 5,754 personnel are in a deployment sequence

**GPOI Partner Activities**

- Military Peacekeeper Training
- FPU Capacity Building
- Other Capacity Building
- Support for Deploying Units

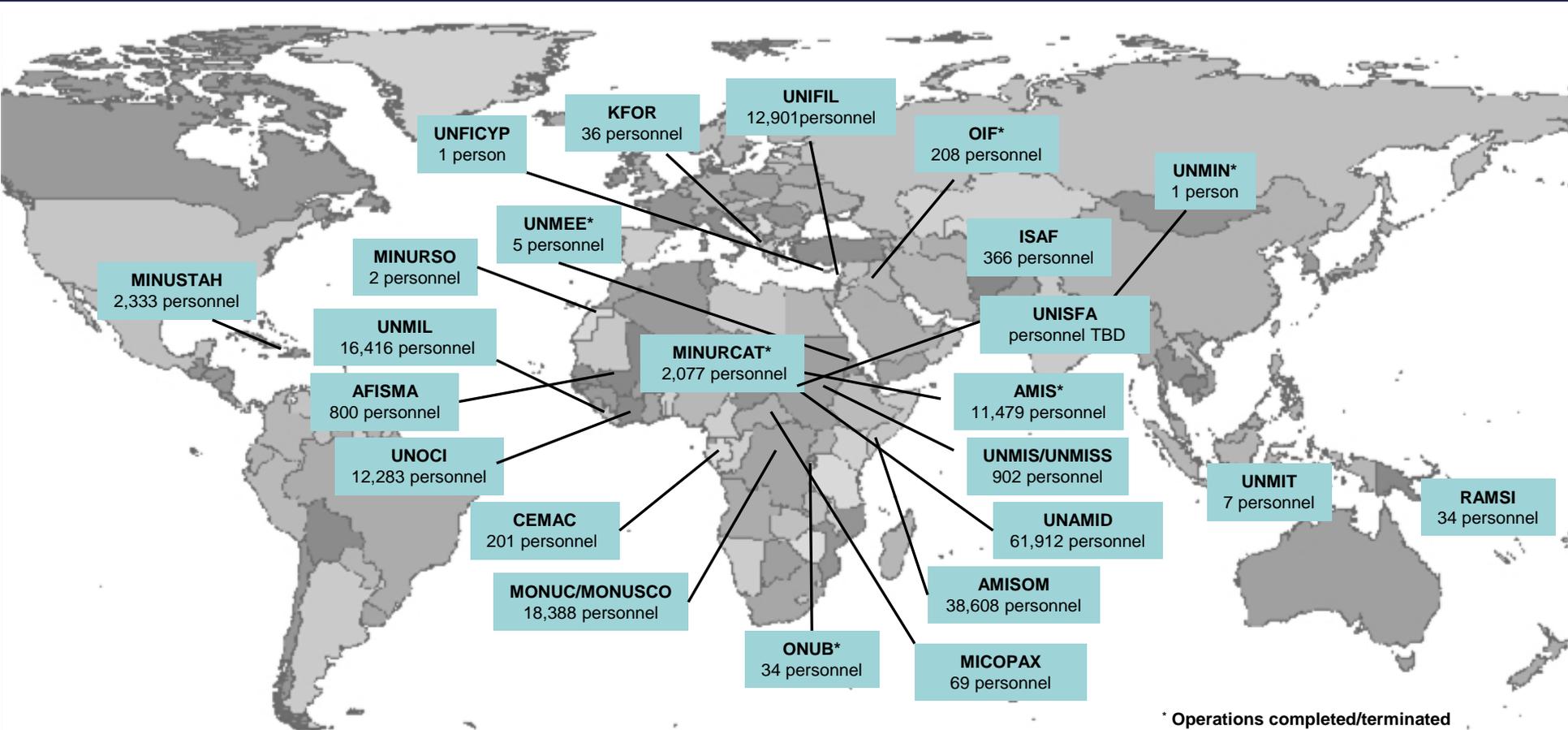
\*Suspended/Restricted

+Countries which appear transparent on this map are inactive GPOI partners



# Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI)

## Objective 3: Support Deploying Units (as of 30 April 2013)



\* Operations completed/terminated

- Since 2005, GPOI has facilitated the deployment of 179,063+ personnel from 38 countries to 25 operations around the world: AFISMA, AMIS, AMISOM, CEMAC, ISAF, KFOR, MICOPAX, MINURCAT, MINURSO, MINUSTAH, MONUC/MONUSCO++, OIF, ONUB, RAMSI, UNAMID, UNFICYP, UNIFIL, UNISFA, UNMEE, UNMIL, UNMIN, UNMIS, UNMISS+++, UNMIT, UNOCI
  - Support may include technical assistance, pre-deployment training, equipment, logistical support, deployment-related facilities upgrades, limited transportation assistance, and in-mission supplemental training
- + Additionally, 5,754 personnel are in a deployment sequence.  
 ++ As of June 2010, MONUC's mandate was adjusted and the mission was renamed MONUSCO.  
 +++ As of July 2011, UNMIS ended its operations and a successor mission, UNMISS was established