

# OG 6.20: DDR and Transitional Justice

## Objectives

This module will:

- ✓ explore the linkages between DDR processes and transitional justice measures;
- ✓ contribute to DDR programmes that comply with international standards and promote transitional justice objectives;
- ✓ provide a legal framework and set of guidelines and options to consider when designing, implementing, and evaluating DDR programmes.

## 1. Introduction

Transitional justice refers to measures used by a society to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past human rights abuses in order to facilitate accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation. Transitional justice measures may include judicial and non-judicial responses such as prosecutions, truth commissions, reparations programmes for victims, and tools for institutional reform such as vetting. Whatever combination is chosen must be in conformity with international legal standards and obligations.

### Box 6.20.1: Guiding principles

**Do no harm:** A first step in creating a constructive relationship between DDR and transitional justice is to understand how transitional justice and DDR can interact in ways that, at a minimum, do not obstruct their respective objectives of accountability and reconciliation and maintenance of peace and security.

**Balanced approaches:** While the imperative to maintain peace and security often demands a specific focus on ex-combatants in the short-term, long-term strategies should aim to provide reintegration opportunities to all war-affected populations, including victims.

**Respect for international human rights law:** DDR programmes shall respect and promote international human rights law. This includes supporting ways of preventing reprisal or discrimination against, or stigmatization of those who participate in DDR programmes as well as to protect the rights of the communities that are asked to receive ex-combatants, and members of the society at large. DDR processes shall provide for a commitment to gender, age and disability specific principles and shall comply with principles of non-discrimination.

**Respect for international humanitarian law:** DDR programmes shall respect and promote international humanitarian law, including the humane treatment of persons no longer actively engaged in combat. United Nations Peacekeeping Forces, including military members involved in administrative DDR programmes, are also subject to the fundamental principles and rules of international humanitarian law, and in cases of violation, are subject to prosecution in their national courts.

DDR and transitional justice measures increasingly coexist in the post-conflict period. The overlap of transitional justice measures with DDR can create tension. Yet the coexistence of these two types of initiatives in the immediate aftermath of conflict may also contribute to achieving the long-term shared objectives of reconciliation and peace. DDR may contribute to the stability necessary to implement transitional justice initiatives; and the implementation of transitional justice measures for accountability, truth redress, and institutional reform can strengthen the legitimacy of the DDR programme from the perspective of the victims of violence and their communities, and contribute in this way to their willingness to accept returning ex-combatants.

The relationship between DDR and transitional justice measures can vary widely depending on the country context, the manner in which the conflict was fought and how it ended, and the level of involvement by the international community, among many other factors. In situations where DDR and transitional justice measures coexist, both stand to benefit from a better understanding of their respective mandates, as well as more systematic and improved coordination, so as to best facilitate the successful transition from conflict to sustainable peace.

#### **Box 6.20.2: Primary approaches to transitional justice**

**Prosecutions** – are the conduct of investigations and judicial proceedings against an alleged perpetrator of a crime in accordance with international standards for the administration of justice. For the purposes of this module, the focus is on the prosecution of individuals accused of criminal conduct involving gross violations of international human rights law, serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations of international criminal law. Prosecutions initiatives can vary. They can be broad in scope, aiming to try many perpetrators, or they can be narrowly focused on those that bear the most responsibility for the crimes committed.

**Reparations** – are sets of measures that provide redress for victims of gross violations of international human rights law, serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations of international criminal law. Reparations can take the form of restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition. Reparations programmes have two goals: first, to provide recognition for victims because reparation are explicitly and primarily carried out on behalf of victims, and; second, to encourage trust among citizens, and between citizens and the state, by demonstrating that past abuses are regarded seriously by the new government.

**Truth commissions** – are non-judicial or quasi-judicial fact-finding bodies. They have the primary purpose of investigating and reporting on past abuses in an attempt to understand the extent and patterns of past violations, as well as their causes and consequences. The work of a commission is to help a society understand and acknowledge a contested or denied history, and bring the voices and stories of victims to the public at large. It also aims at preventing further abuses. Truth commissions can be official, local or national. They can conduct investigations and hearings, and can identify the individuals and institutions responsible for abuse. Truth commissions can also be empowered to make policy and prosecutorial recommendations.

**Institutional reform** – is changing public institutions that perpetuated a conflict or served a repressive regime to be transformed into institutions that support the transition, sustain peace and preserve the rule of law. Following a period of massive human rights abuse, building fair and efficient public institutions play a critical role in preventing future abuses. It also enables public institutions, in particular in the security and justice sectors, to provide criminal accountability for past abuses.

In the UN System, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has the lead responsibility for transitional justice issues. DDR programmes supported by the UN may be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) or a combination of the above. OHCHR representatives can coordinate directly with DDR practitioners on transitional justice. Human rights officers who work as part of the staff of UN peacekeeping missions may also be appropriate focal points or liaisons between a DDR programme and transitional justice initiatives.



*DDR practitioners should be aware that there is an international legal framework for transitional justice, which includes The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law and international refugee law. In recognition of these international instruments, transitional justice mechanisms seek to ensure support the right to justice, the right to truth, the right to reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition.*

## 2. Transitional justice and DDR

There are potential positive and negative aspects of the relationship between DDR and transitional justice measures. Understanding these aspects will provide an informed basis for future strategies that aim to minimize tensions and build on opportunities.

- **Criminal prosecutions and DDR:** Criminal investigations and DDR have potentially important synergies. In particular, information gathered through DDR processes may be very useful for criminal investigations. Such information does not need to be person-specific, but might focus on more general issues such as structures and areas of operation. Since criminal justice initiatives in post-conflict situation would often only be able to deal with relatively small number of suspects, most prosecution strategies ought to focus on those bearing the greatest degree of responsibility for crimes committed. As such, these objectives must be effectively communicated in a context of DDR processes to ensure that those participating in DDR understand whether or not they are likely to face prosecutions. Effective communications campaigns may diminish potential tensions between investigations and prosecutions initiatives and DDR efforts. A successful prosecutorial strategy in a transitional justice context requires a clear, transparent and publicized policy indicating what kind of cases will be prosecuted and what kind of cases will be dealt with in an alternative manner.
- **Truth commissions and DDR:** Truth commissions, when accompanied by appropriate public information and outreach initiatives, including tailored responses such as in-camera hearings for survivors of sexual violence, may help break down rigid representations of victims and perpetrators by allowing ex-combatants to tell their own stories of victimization and by exploring and identifying the roots of violent conflict.

- **Reparations and DDR:** Reinsertion assistance is offered to demobilized combatants in order to assist with their immediate civilian resettlement prior to longer-term support for reintegration. Support to ex-combatants is motivated by the concern that without assistance, ex-combatants will re-associate themselves with armed groups as a means of supporting themselves or become frustrated and threaten the peace process. Victims rarely represent the same kinds of threat, and reparations programmes may be politically challenging and expensive to design and implement. The result is that ex-combatants participating in DDR often receive aid as part of the benefits of DDR programmes, while in most cases no programmes to redress the violations of the rights of victims are established.

Providing benefits to ex-combatants while ignoring the rights of victims may give rise to new grievances and increase their resistance against returning ex-combatants, in this way becoming an obstacle to their reintegration. The absence of reparations programmes for victims in contexts in which DDR programmes provide various benefits to ex-combatants grounds the judgment that ex-combatants are receiving special treatment. Such outcomes are not merely inequitable; they may also undermine the possibilities of effective reintegration. The provision of reparations for victims may contribute to the reintegration dimension of a DDR programme by reducing the resentment and comparative grievance that victims and communities may feel in the aftermath of violent conflict.

- **Institutional reform and DDR:** Institutional reform that transforms public institutions that perpetuated human rights violations is critical to peace and

#### **Box 6.20.3: Vetting\***

One important aspect of institutional reform efforts in countries in transition is vetting processes to exclude from public institutions persons who lack integrity. Vetting may be defined as assessing integrity to determine suitability for public employment. Integrity refers to an employee's adherence to international standards of human rights and professional conduct, including a person's financial propriety. Public employees who are personally responsible for gross violations of human rights or serious crimes under international law reveal a basic lack of integrity and breach the trust of the citizens they were meant to serve. The citizens, in particular the victims of abuses, are unlikely to trust and rely on a public institution that retains or hires individuals with serious integrity deficits, which would fundamentally impair the institution's capacity to deliver its mandate. Vetting processes aim at excluding from public service persons with serious integrity deficits in order to re-establish civic trust and re-legitimize public institutions.

In many DDR programmes, ex-combatants are offered the possibility of reintegration in the national armed forces, other security sector positions such as police or border control. In these situations, coordination between DDR programmes and institution reform initiatives such as SSR programmes on vetting strategies can be critical. A coordinated strategy shall aim to ensure that individuals who have committed human rights violations are not employed in the public sector.

\* This text is summarized from the OHCHR Rule of Law Tools for Post-Conflict States, *Vetting: an operational framework* (Geneva and New York: OHCHR, 2006)

reconciliation. For example, vetting processes contribute to dismantling abusive structures by excluding from public service those who have committed gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law. As security sector institutions are sometimes implicated in past and ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, there is a particular interest in reforming security sector institutions. SSR efforts may sustain the DDR process in multiple ways, for example by providing employment opportunities. Yet DDR programmes are seldom coordinated with SSR. The lack of coordination can lead to further violations, such as the reappointment of human rights abusers into the legitimate security sector. Such cases undermine public faith in security sector institutions, and may also lead to distrust within the armed forces.



**See IDDRS Module 6.10 for a detailed discussion on the relationship between DDR and SSR.**

- **DDR and locally-based processes of justice:** Locally-based justice processes may complement reintegration efforts and national level transitional justice measures by providing a community-level means of addressing issues of accountability of ex-combatants. When ex-combatants participate in these processes, they demonstrate their desire to be a part of the community again, and to take steps to repair the damage for which they are responsible. This contributes to building or renewing trust between ex-combatants and the communities in which they seek to reintegrate. Locally based justice processes have particular potential for the reintegration of children associated with armed forces and groups.

Creating links between reintegration strategies, particularly community reintegration strategies, for ex-combatants and locally-based justice processes may be one way to bridge the gap between the aims of DDR and the aims of transitional justice. Before establishing a link with locally based processes, DDR programmes must ensure that they are legitimate and that they respect international human rights standards, including that they do not discriminate, particularly against women and children.

- **Justice for women associated with armed forces and groups:** Women associated with armed forces and groups are potential participants in both DDR programmes and transitional justice measures, and both are faced with the challenge of increasing and supporting the participation of women. Both DDR and transitional justice should work towards a better understanding of the motivations, roles and needs of women ex-combatants and other women associated with armed forces and groups by directly engaging women in planning for both programmes and ensuring they are adequately represented in decision-making bodies, in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Sharing information on their respective lessons learned in terms of facilitating the participation of women may be a first step. The ways in which women victims articulate their need for reparations, for example, might be considered in developing specific reintegration strategies for women. Additionally, DDR programme managers may coordinate with transitional justice measures on community approaches that include women.



*Great care must be taken to ensure that women who choose to participate are well-informed as to the purpose and mandate of the truth commission, that they understand their rights in terms of confidentiality, and are protected from any possible harm resulting from their testimony.*



**See Module 5.10 for a detailed discussion of Women, Gender, and DDR.**

- **Justice for children recruited or used by armed forces and groups:** DDR and transitional justice represent two types of initiatives among a range of interventions that are (at least partly) aimed at reintegrating children associated with armed forces and groups. Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG) represent a special category of persons protected under international law and should be subject to a separate DDR process from adults. Transitional justice processes can play a positive role in facilitating the long-term reintegration of children, but can also create obstacles to their reconciliation and reintegration. The best interest of the child should always guide decisions related to children’s involvement in transitional justice mechanisms. Children who have been illegally recruited and used by armed groups or forces are victims and witnesses and may also be alleged perpetrators.

Joint coordination on the reintegration of children is possible in at least three broad areas:

- 1) DDR and transitional justice actors may coordinate on a strategy to identify and hold accountable those who are recruiting children—in order to make sure that the welfare of children is considered as the highest priority in that process.
- 2) Both kinds of measures may work together on approaches to reintegrating children who may be responsible for violations of international humanitarian law or human rights law. Children associated with armed forces or armed groups who may have been involved in the commission of crimes under international law should be considered primarily as victims, not only as perpetrators. Accountability measures for alleged child perpetrators should be in the best interests of the child and should be conducted in a manner that takes into account their age at the time of the alleged commission of the crime, promotes their sense of dignity and worth, and supports their reintegration and potential to assume a constructive role in society. Wherever appropriate, alternatives to judicial proceedings should be pursued. Truth commissions and locally based truth and reconciliation processes may contribute to the reintegration of children. In all cases, local processes must adhere to international standards of child protection. At a minimum, a clear DDR and TJ policy should be developed as to the criminal responsibility of children that takes adequate account of their protection and social reintegration.
- 3) If a reparations programme is under consideration, DDR and transitional justice actors may work together to ensure a balance between what kind of DDR benefits are offered to CAAFG as former combatants and what is offered to them as reparations as victims.

#### Box 6.20.4: Integrating information on transitional justice measures into the field assessment

Information about transitional justice measures is an important component of DDR assessment and design. Critical questions for the field assessment should include questions that relate to the overall human rights situations, the specific components of transitional justice and DDR agreed to in the peace agreement, and questions related to possibilities for coordination between DDR and transitional justice measures, for example:

- What crimes involving violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law were perpetrated by the different protagonists in the armed conflict?
- Was amnesty offered as part of the peace process? What type of amnesty? And for what abuses (forced recruitment of children, sexual violence etc)?
- Were there any transitional justice measures mandated in the peace agreement such as a truth commission, prosecutions process, reparations programme for victims, or institutional reform aimed at preventing future human rights violations?
- Is there any form of conditionality that links DDR and justice measures, for example, amnesty or the promise of reduced sentences for combatants that enter the DDR programme?
- What are the criteria for admittance into the DDR programme? Do the criteria take into consideration the varied roles of women and children associated with armed forces and groups?
- What office in the United Nations peacekeeping mission and/or what UN agency is the focal point on transitional justice, human rights, and rule of law issues?
- What government entity is the focal point on transitional justice, human rights and rule of law issues?
- Will the planned timetable for the DDR programme overlap with planned transitional justice measures?
- Are there opportunities to coordinate information strategies around DDR and transitional justice measures?



*In this process, particular attention needs to be given to girls. Gender inequality and cultural perceptions of women and girls may have particularly negative consequences for the reintegration of girl children associated with armed forces and groups. Targeted efforts by DDR and TJ may be necessary to ensure that girls are protected, but also that girls are given the opportunity to participate and benefit from these programmes.*



**IDDRS 5.30 on Children and DDR**



**A list of critical questions related to the intersection between transitional justice and DDR is available in Module 6.20 on DDR and Transitional Justice, Annex B. For more information on conducting a field assessment see Module 3.20 on DDR Programme Design.**

### 3. Coordinating transitional justice measures and DDR

Coordination between transitional justice and DDR programmes begins with an understanding of how transitional justice and DDR may interact positively in

the short-term in ways that, at a minimum, do not hinder their respective objectives of accountability and stability. The following action points for DDR and TJ practitioners aim at designing DDR programmes that “Do No Harm”:



*DDR must be designed and implemented with reference to the country context, including the existing justice provisions.*

- **Integrate information on transitional justice measures into the field assessment:** Information about transitional justice measures is an important component of DDR assessment and design. Transitional justice measures and their potential for contributing to or hindering DDR objectives should be considered in the integrated DDR planning process, particularly in the detailed field assessment.
- **Identify a transitional justice focal point in the DDR programme and plan regular briefing and meetings with UN and national authorities working on transitional justice measures:** Identification of individuals that may serve as formal focal points within the DDR programme, within the UN Country Team working on transitional justice, and within relevant national institutions, may facilitate regular communication between DDR and transitional justice measures. DDR administrators and international and national actors working on transitional justice initiatives should plan for regular meetings as opportunities for exchange, to proactively deal with any possible tensions, and to explore the possibilities for effective coordination.
- **Coordinate on public information and outreach:** DDR and transitional justice should seek ways to coordinate their public information efforts. Increased consultation and coordination concerning what and how information is released to the public may reduce the spread of misinformation and reinforce the objectives of both transitional justice and DDR. The designation of a transitional justice focal point in the DDR programme, and regular meetings with other relevant UN and national actors may facilitate discussion on how to better coordinate public information and outreach to support the goals of both DDR and transitional justice. Civil society may also play a role in public information and outreach. Working with relevant civil society organizations may help the DDR programme to reach a wider audience and ensure that information offered to the public is communicated in appropriate ways, for example in local languages or through local radio.
- **Integrate information on transitional justice into the ex-combatant pre-discharge sensitization process:** Ex-combatants need information about provisions for justice, particularly if it could affect their reintegration process. Clearly communicated information may decrease anxiety that ex-combatants may feel about transitional justice measures. The discharge awareness raising process is an opportunity to work with UN colleagues or national authorities to develop a briefing on transitional justice measures ongoing in the country and to discuss how, or if, this will have an impact on ex-combatants.
- **Involve and prepare recipient communities:** Community tension around reintegration processes will be eased if recipient communities are involved

and prepared for returning ex-combatants. Recipient communities should be included in the public information and outreach strategy and should have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the reintegration process before ex-combatants return, including issues related to ex-combatant accountability. In some cases, DDR programmes have encouraged the organization of community committees to deal with ex-combatant reintegration. These committees may serve as a forum for exploring ex-combatant participation in locally-based justice processes as well as for dispute resolution and problem solving if problems arise between community members and ex-combatants (also see IDDRS 4.30 on Social and Economic Reintegration).

- **Consider community-based reintegration approaches:** Compared to targeted assistance programmes for ex-combatants, community-based reintegration approaches have advantages that may provide broader benefits within the community. Such approaches have more potential for sustainability as ex-combatants are located in the communities and work together with other community members for local development. Such an approach may also promote community reconciliation as ex-combatants are not seen as the sole beneficiaries of assistance. Additionally, reintegration activities, apart from community recovery and reintegration, may link into other development programmes. It also promotes closer collaboration with other development actors. Finally, community-based reintegration promotes community empowerment, transparency and accountability as beneficiaries are selected through community-based approaches.
- **Transitional justice initiatives should designate a focal point for DDR:** Transitional justice practitioners working on prosecutions processes, truth commissions, reparations programmes, and institutional reform initiatives should communicate with the DDR programme, identify a focal point for DDR as part of their outreach activities, and actively seek opportunities for information exchange and collaboration, including possible coordination on public information strategies as proposed above.
- **Integrate information on DDR in conflict analysis, assessments and evaluations undertaken to support or advance transitional justice initiatives:** Transitional justice practitioners should also be aware of the impact of DDR on their goals and objectives by considering the DDR programme in their analytical tools for design, assessment and evaluation.

Coordination between transitional justice and DDR practitioners should, however, aim beyond that. The following efforts can provide the basis for constructively connecting these two processes in ways that contribute to a stable, just and long-term peace.

- **Consider sharing DDR information with transitional justice measures:** Both DDR and transitional justice initiatives engage in gathering, sharing, and disseminating information. National authorities may consider sharing information gathered through DDR with the latter process, if appropriate.

This need not necessarily include sharing information relating to particular individuals. Information about the more structural dimension of combating forces, none of which needs to be person-specific, may be very useful for transitional justice measures. Socio-economic and background data gathered from ex-combatants through DDR programmes can also be informative. Similarly, transitional justice initiatives may obtain information that is important to DDR programmes, for example on the location or operations of armed groups. DDR programmes may also accommodate procedures that include gathering information on ex-combatants accused or suspected of gross violations of international human rights law and serious violations of international humanitarian law. This could be done for example through the information management database, which is essential for tracking the DDR participants throughout the DDR process. Sharing information with truth commissions and national reparations programmes may also be important.

- **Consider developing a common approach to gathering information on children who leave armed forces and groups**

DDR programmes, UNICEF, child protection NGOs and the relevant child DDR agency in the Government often develop common individual child data forms, and even shared databases, for consistent gathering of information on children who leave the armed forces or groups. Child DDR and child protection actors may examine DDR information management databases, with appropriate consideration for issues of confidentiality, disclosure and consent, with a view on their potential value for justice or vetting purposes regarding perpetrators of child recruitment, as well as other transitional justice purposes.

- **Consider screening of human rights records of ex-combatants**

DDR programmes may include a variety of screening procedures. This included screening procedures designed to put in place measures that avoid providing benefits to known or suspected violators of human rights or international humanitarian law. At a minimum, those ex-combatants against whom judicial investigations are pending or against whom credible allegations of perpetrating violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law have been raised should not receive benefits until these allegations are resolved.

- **Collaborate on sequencing DDR and TJ efforts**

DDR donors, administrators and transitional justice practitioners may also collaborate more effectively in terms of sequencing their efforts. Prosecutors, for instance, may inform DDR administrators of the imminent announcement of indictments of certain commanders so that there is time to prepare for the possible negative reactions. Alternatively, in some cases prosecutors may take into account the progress of the disarmament and demobilization operations when timing the announcement of their indictments. UN Staff working on DDR programmes should encourage their national interlocutors to coordinate on sequencing with truth commissions and reparations programmes.

- **Collaborate on strategies to target spoilers**

National DDR commissions (or other officials charged with DDR) and prosecutors may collaborate on prosecutorial strategies, for example focused on those most responsible for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, that may help to remove spoilers and allow for the DDR of the combat unit or group. Such an approach requires an accompanying public information strategy that indicates a clear and transparent criminal policy.

- **Encourage ex-combatants to participate in transitional justice measures**

Ex-combatants are often simultaneously fighters, witnesses, and victims of an armed conflict. Their testimonies may be valuable for a prosecutions initiative or a truth commission. DDR programmes may encourage ex-combatant participation in transitional justice measures by offering information sessions on transitional justice during the demobilization process and working collaboratively with national actors working on transitional justice measures in their outreach to ex-combatants.

- **Consider how DDR may connect to and support legitimate locally based justice processes**

- **Consider how DDR and transitional justice measures may coordinate to support the reintegration of women associated with armed forces and groups**

- **Consider how DDR and transitional justice measures may coordinate to support the reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups (CAAFG)**

- **Consider how the design of the DDR programme contributes to the aims of institutional reform, including vetting processes.**

Consideration should be given to how the design of the DDR process relates to institutional reform efforts. For example, DDR programmes may coordinate with vetting procedures, providing information to ensure that ex-combatants who are responsible for gross violations of human rights or serious crimes under international law are not reintegrated into public institutions, particularly the armed forces or other national security institutions (see IDDRS 6.10 on DDR and Security Sector Reform).

## 4. Summary of key guidance on DDR and transitional justice

- ✓ DDR programmes supported by the UN should respect, ensure respect for, and implement international humanitarian and human rights law. This means protecting the rights of those who participate in DDR programmes, as well as the rights of the members of the communities who are asked to receive and integrate ex-combatants. DDR programmes that respect and

promote human rights law and international humanitarian law and hold accountable those who violate the law are likely to be perceived as more legitimate processes by both the ex-combatants who are their immediate beneficiaries and the society as a whole.

- ✓ DDR and transitional justice processes stand to benefit from a better understanding of their respective mandates, as well as more systematic and improved coordination, so as to best facilitate the successful transition from conflict to sustainable peace. Increased understanding of the potential positive and negative aspects of the relationships between DDR and transitional justice measures will provide an informed basis for future strategies that aim to minimize tensions and build on opportunities. This understanding can be facilitated by small steps such as integrating transitional justice questions into the field assessment and identifying a focal point on transitional justice.
- ✓ DDR and transitional justice represent two types of initiatives among a range of interventions that are aimed at reintegrating children associated with armed forces and groups. Children associated with armed forces or armed groups who may have been involved in the commission of crimes under international law should be considered primarily as victims, not only as perpetrators. Both DDR and transitional justice actors should work together on a strategy that takes this into account.
- ✓ Women associated with armed forces and groups are potential participants in both DDR programmes and transitional justice measures, and both are faced with the challenge of increasing and supporting the participation of women. Both DDR and transitional justice should work towards a better understanding of the motivations, roles and needs of women ex-combatants and other women associated with armed forces and groups by directly engaging women in planning for both programmes and ensuring they are adequately represented in decision-making bodies, in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.