

Introduction to Gender and Human Rights in the context of Security Sector Governance

Monitoring Ukraine's Security Governance Challenges:
Security Sector Governance: The Role of Democratic Institutions
& International Best Practices

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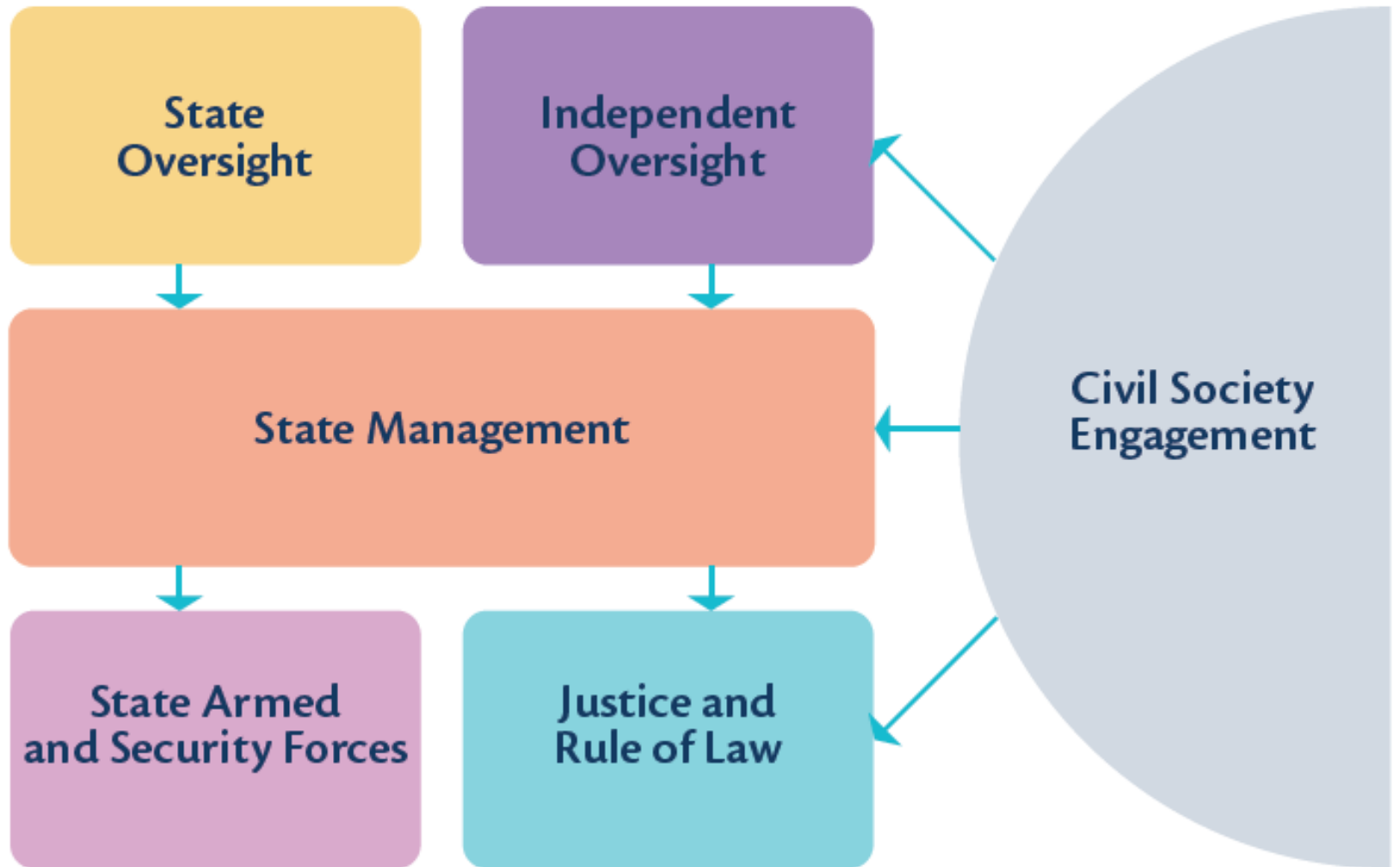


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Governance and Security Sector

Governance is an umbrella term that can be applied to security generally to explain how **international, national and local actors all play a role** in shaping decisions about security and their implementation.

Security Sector Actors



Security Sector and Human Rights

The security sector has a crucial responsibility within society **to support democracy and human rights and to protect citizens, including those most vulnerable.** This considerable responsibility underpins the essential compact that exists between security forces and the societies they are meant to protect and defend.

Principles of Security Sector Governance

- Security, human rights and development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing conditions for sustainable peace;
- Effectiveness, accountability and democratic governance are mutually reinforcing elements of security;
- **Men and women have different experiences of insecurity and have specific security needs;**
- SSR can only be achieved within the broad framework of the rule of law (RoL) and that strengthening the RoL is the purpose of SSR;
- SSR is a multi-stakeholder process, which goes beyond traditional military elements and involves a much wider range of national institutions and actors.

SEX ≠ Gender

Sex is biological

Sex refers to the biological, physiological and anatomical features with which people are born.



Gender is learned

Girls and boys are taught and assigned different social roles, behaviours and activities within a particular socio-cultural context on the basis of their sex.

Gender Equality

Gender equality is an international norm that stipulates the equal rights of women and men to opportunities and resources irrespective of their gender or the sex with which they were born.

When gender equality is not considered, SSR will fail

A security sector that doesn't reflect the needs of particular segments of the population is **neither accountable nor effective.**

Gender equality is a constituent part of national and local ownership of SSR

SSR is only successful when led by national authorities and widely supported at the community level.

Legitimate ownership requires **that women and men have equal opportunity to influence decisions** about SSG and their implementation, including through public oversight.

Fair and equitable representation in security institutions

Women's participation in promoting governance of security institutions should not be limited to representation at the working level of the institutions but should extend to active participation at the **senior management and strategic policymaking levels.**

Conventions

Because **gender equality is a human right protected under international law**, incorporating the aims of gender equality into SSR may be a legal obligation according to international instruments such as :

CEDAW (1979)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) contains several legal obligations related to SSR, including:

- the adoption of legislative and other measures **prohibiting discrimination against women;**
- **women's participation** in the formulation of government policy on equal terms with men;
- the elimination of discrimination against women in **employment;**
- measures to ensure the **full development and advancement of women** for the purpose of guaranteeing them equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

identifies specific actions to be taken by governments, international and national organizations and other relevant stakeholders **to combat gender-based violence and achieve gender equality** in all spheres of society, including the security sector.

Regional instruments with provisions protecting gender equality include:

- the African Union's Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);
- the Organization of American States' Inter American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para) (1994);
- the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Decision No. 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-conflict Rehabilitation (2005);
- the European Union Equal Treatment Directive (2006).

UN Security Council Resolutions (SCRs) 1325

In the context of UN-mandated SSR processes, the UN Security Council Resolutions (SCRs) on women, peace and security define minimum standards related to gender equality that are legally binding. **UN SCR 1325, adopted in 2000, is the most influential resolution**, as many member states subsequently adopted national action plans detailing how it should be implemented.

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming means promoting the **equal participation of men and women in every part of the security sector** and everything it does.

Gender mainstreaming in security



Oversight

- aims to ensure that women, men, girls and boys **enjoy equal protection** as afforded to them under the law



Provision

- aims to provide all women, men, girls and boys with **equal levels of security** by addressing the different gender-specific security threats they face



Management

- aims to facilitate the **equal participation of women and men** in the security sector

Security services based on, and responsive to, people's needs

Security must be provided as a public good: ensuring the security of all citizens



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