



SECRETARY GENERAL  
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

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*Dear Sir,*

Thank you very much for the opportunity to underline the importance of gender awareness and respective policies in peacekeeping and post-conflict processes from a NATO point of view.

The seminar "Gender and Civil-Military Relations: Moving Towards Inclusion" indeed touches an essential part of our day-to-day activities in all peacekeeping missions and post-conflict reconstruction. I am therefore happy to inform you that Mrs. Petra BENDER, our officer for gender balance and diversity at NATO will be able to attend the seminar and underline the importance of the gender aspect in our work.

It is my strong belief that if we embed a good standard of gender awareness in policy, training and operations, we will substantially influence and enhance effectiveness.

I wish your seminar and all participants constructive and interesting discussions and hope that initiatives like this one will continue. They contribute and influence to an informed decision making process and will in the end lead to a better understanding of post conflict reconstruction and hopefully to a better conflict prevention.

*Yours sincerely,*  
  
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer

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