



TECHNICAL LEARNING SERIES

Finding greater synergy between externally and internally facing National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security

CONCEPT NOTE

5 July 2022, 8:30am -10:00am (EST)

Zoom Registration:

https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvcuqsqzlsG9Ztu82AI4_Olw7PLsggHzDO

1. Context

As of May 2022, 103 UN Member States and territories countries have adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) to implement UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security (WPS). Additionally, twelve regional and subregional organizations have developed Regional Action Plans and strategies as one of the chief ways to realize the WPS agenda. There is wide variation in the extent to which NAPs are implemented and institutionalized across countries. NAPs developed by donor countries are characteristically outward-looking and tend to implement WPS provisions through their foreign policy, while post-conflict and conflict-affected countries are more likely to focus on implementing the WPS agenda in their domestic context, with the NAP typically being led by the Ministry of Gender or Social Affairs or a similar Agency.

However, growing concerns arising from insecurity and extremism, as well as new threats such as natural disasters, climate change, population growth and refugee migrations that do not fit easily within the constraints of national borders, have demonstrated the need for a more holistic effort that goes beyond the binary inward/outward approach. To address these new threats, research and lessons learned show that it is important to include both domestic and international elements that reinforce each other in NAPs.

2. Recent developments and avenues for action

Donor countries have started to recognize the importance of addressing domestic priorities related to peace and security, extending NAP commitments beyond just the foreign policy realm. In addition, an increasing number of NAPs, including in East Asia and Latin America, have adopted a combination of both inward-looking and outward-looking approaches to advance implementation of the WPS agenda. This includes contributions to UN Peacekeeping Missions, which typically require working domestically to recruit, train and promote women in military and police.

These experiences provide a learning opportunity to develop a WPS NAP that speaks to both international engagements and domestic opportunities. Although “looking inward” will have a different meaning depending on the national context, inward-focused NAPs can provide a valuable opportunity for increased national engagement on the WPS agenda, which civil society has been repeatedly calling upon donor countries to do. At the same time, the more foreign policy-oriented NAP model provides helpful lessons for inward-looking NAPs that have yet to develop or lack strategic focus and specific plans to strengthen their international and/or regional cooperation and engagement on women, peace, and security.

3. Session objectives and guiding questions

This session aims to explore diverse ways to facilitate cross-learning on NAP development and implementation between countries that speak to both international engagements and domestic challenges.

Guiding questions

1. What lessons can Focal Points draw from recent practices at the local, national, and regional levels to apply the WPS agenda to issues that transcend borders (e.g., health crises, natural disasters, climate change, irregular migration, human trafficking)?
2. What actions can Focal Points recommend to national governments and their counterparts to ensure that the NAP becomes an instrument for domestic change?
3. What suggestions can Focal Points make to national governments and their counterparts to ensure that the NAP guides the country's cooperation with international and regional partners and strengthens international and regional development cooperation in the areas of WPS?

4. Format

Interactive discussions in plenary and breakout format with short presentations. This is a closed session and by invitation only. Participants are encouraged to sign up to the [WPS Focal Points Network Members Forum](#) to post questions and comments on the topic, before and after the session.

Under the troika leadership of Switzerland and South Africa, Canada and Uruguay, this meeting is part of a series of technical learning sessions hosted by the WPS Focal Points Network Secretariat, in partnership with UN Women and Gender Associations, to enable the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on implementing the WPS agenda and to provide technical capacity and support to WPS focal points.

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