



Government of Sierra Leone

# **Sierra Leone Third Generation National Action Plan for the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Instruments (2024–2029)**



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



Foreword: .....	02
Acknowledgement: .....	03
Acronyms and Abbreviations: .....	04
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.0 Introduction: .....	05
1.1 General Background- United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related frameworks: .....	05
1.2 Sierra Leone’s Women, Peace and Security Context: .....	06
<b>2 SITUATIONAL CONTEXT</b>	
2.0 Situational Context - Implementation of WPS Agenda (SiLNAP II) Progress and Challenges: .....	07
<b>3 SILNAP III</b>	
3.0 SiLNAP III: .....	11
3.1. Development of SiLNAP III: .....	11
3.2 Alignment with WPS-related Legal and Policy frameworks: .....	11
3.3 Goal, Strategic Objectives and Actions: .....	12
3.4 SILNAP III Action Matrix: .....	15
3.5 Implementation and Coordination Mechanism: .....	19
<b>4 ANNEXES</b>	
4.0 Annexes: .....	27
4.1 Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework: .....	27
4.3 ToR for National Steering Committee: .....	27
4.5 ToR for Technical Working Group: .....	29

1

2

3

4



## FOREWORD

The Third Generation National Action Plan for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (SiLNAP III) is a five (5) years Strategic Plan (2024 -2029) that provides a multi-sectoral national framework for the full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and instruments that relate to the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sierra Leone.

The development of SiLNAP III reflects a multi-stakeholder process that promote inclusivity and national ownership through nationwide consultations facilitated by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs with support from the WPS National Steering Committee.

The SiLNAP III aligns with existing national and international frameworks on WPS and seeks to build on progress made during the implementation of SiLNAP II. Whilst acknowledging the challenges experienced during the implementation of SiLNAP II, it is important to highlight the gains made especially in strengthening legislative, policy and institutional frameworks and mechanisms and the corresponding increased participation and representation of women in governance and decision-making bodies (including Security Sector Institutions); improvement in sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response among others.

The SiLNAP III articulates 4 strategic objectives that mirror the 4 Pillars of UNSCR 1325:

- Prevent conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls;
- Increase participation and leadership of women in security sector institutions, political and public offices at national and sub- national levels
- Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence
- Addressing women and girl's relief and recovery needs during and post- conflict, natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemics.

SiLNAP III includes an Action Matrix and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan with clearly defined outputs, activities, indicators, time frame and responsible partners.

This NAP could not have come at a better time than now especially when Sierra Leone is a member of the United Nations Security Council on a Non-Permanent Category as a consequence of His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Bio's global standing as a champion of the Women. Peace and Security Agenda.

The Women Peace and Security Agenda (WPS Agenda) will therefore form part of the building blocks and priority engagement throughout Sierra Leone's tenure in the Security Council. The development of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy 2020 and the enactment of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Bill 2022 is a testament of Sierra Leone's resolve as a Member State to enhance prevention mechanism, participation, protection and relief and recovery.

As we look forward to the continued partnership and collaboration with UN Agencies, Development partners, MDAs, CSOs and other stakeholders in promoting the WPS Agenda, I wish to affirm the Government of Sierra Leone's commitment to the full and effective implementation of the SiLNAP III.

**Isata Mahoi (PhD.)**  
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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The development of the Third Generation National Action Plan for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security (SiLNAP III) is a testament to the unwavering commitment of His Excellency Dr. Julius Maada Julius Bio to the promotion of the Women' Peace and Security Agenda.

SiLNAP III further demonstrates the existing collaboration and partnership with United Nations Agencies, Development Partners, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Civil Society in promoting the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Sierra Leone.

I am indebted to thank the Exclusive Management Team of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs for providing leadership and guidance throughout the development of the SiLNAP III. The technical and day to day coordination by the Planning and Gender Affairs Directorates of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs is especially acknowledged.

We especially thank UN Women and the Embassy of the Republic of Ireland to Sierra Leone for their financial support and technical inputs.

The Ministry also extends appreciation to the National Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security, Security Sector Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Community based Organizations for their insightful contributions.

**Zainab F Buya-Kamara (Mrs.)**  
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**Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs**

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATION

<b>APPWA</b>	All Political Parties Women Association
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CGG</b>	Campaign for Good Governance
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women
<b>DRM</b>	Disaster Risk Management
<b>ECSL</b>	Electoral Commission Sierra Leone
<b>GBV</b>	Gender Based Violence
<b>GBVIMS</b>	Gender Based Violence Information Management System
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>GFOs</b>	Gender Focal Officers
<b>INGRADO</b>	Institute of Gender Research and Documentation
<b>MARWOPNET</b>	Mano River Union Women Peace Network
<b>MDAs</b>	Ministries Departments and Agencies
<b>MoGCA</b>	Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs
<b>MoH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MoSW</b>	Ministry of Social Welfare
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NDMA</b>	National Disaster Management Agency
<b>NEWMAP</b>	Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Government Organizations
<b>NOW</b>	National Organization of Women
<b>NPHA</b>	National Public Health Agency
<b>ONS</b>	Office of National Security
<b>OSC</b>	One Stop Centre
<b>PPRC</b>	Political Parties Regulation Commission
<b>RSLAF</b>	Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual, Gender Based Violence
<b>SiLNAP</b>	Sierra Leone National Action Plan for Implementation of UNSCR 1325
<b>SLP</b>	Sierra Leone Police
<b>SSI</b>	Security Sector Institutions
<b>STATSL</b>	Statistics Sierra Leone
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>WANEP</b>	West Africa Network of Peace builders
<b>WPS</b>	Women, Peace and Security

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.2 General Background- United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related frameworks

Efforts towards peace and security cannot be achieved without the meaningful participation and leadership of women. The need to bring a gender perspective into peace and security matters led to the development of the normative framework on women, peace and security.

The normative framework on women, peace and security owes its origin to various historical developments that include the shift from state security to human security.

In 1969, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) discussed the question of the protection of women and children in emergency and conflict situations during its 22nd session, where it agreed to request the United Nations Secretary-General to submit a report to the CSW on the status of women in conflict situations during its 23rd session.

In 1974, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict.

In 1979, the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The CEDAW comprehensively address issues of discrimination against women at all levels and in all spheres.

At the Fourth world Conference of Women held in Beijing in 1985, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted with women and armed conflict as one of the 12 critical areas.

Prior to the adoption of landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000, the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action was adopted in May 2000.

UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security recognize three key issues:

- disproportionate number of women and girls affected by armed conflict and the need to protect them in conflict and post-conflict settings;
- under-representation of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities and the value of promoting women's participation in peace and security processes; and
- importance of mainstreaming gender perspectives in peacekeeping and in the peace and security architecture and processes.

The Resolution calls on United Nations Member States to:

- actively prevent conflict, protect women from violence, specifically gender-based violence (GBV),
- increase the active participation of women at the decision-making level of all processes of conflict prevention, management and peacebuilding.
- adopt a gender perspective when designing and implementing peace processes, including peace agreements and peacekeeping, and
- support to be provided to local women's peace initiatives

UNSCR is anchored in 4 Main Pillars:

1. Prevention of conflict and all forms of violence against women and girls:
2. Participation Women's participation and leadership in peace and security processes
3. Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence
4. Relief and Recovery: Addressing women's and girls' relief and recovery needs during conflict and post-conflict situations

## Subsequent Resolutions

Pursuant to the adoption of UNSCR 1325, the United Nations Security Council adopted other resolutions on women, peace and security:

**Resolution 1820**, adopted in 2008, notes the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and calls upon Member States, armed groups and international organizations to actively protect women from Gender Based Violence during conflict.

**Resolution 1888**, adopted on 30th September 2009, reiterates that sexual violence exacerbates armed conflict and impedes international peace and security. It additionally provides for the establishment of mechanisms to address sexual violence in conflict, including the appointment of a United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence, as well as the inclusion of female peacekeeping personnel in missions.

Resolution 1889, adopted on 5th October 2009, focuses on post-conflict peacebuilding and on women's participation in all stages of peace processes. It further calls for the development of indicators to measure the implementation of UNSCR1325 (2000).

**Resolution 1960**, adopted in 2010 reiterate the importance of ending sexual violence in conflict

**Resolution 2106**, adopted in 2013, provides the operational details for combating sexual violence.

**UNSCR 2122**, adopted in 2013, focuses on stronger implementation measures and monitoring mechanisms to enable women to engage in conflict resolution and recovery.

**UNSCR 2242**, adopted in 2015, brings attention back to UNSCR 1325 and acknowledges the obstacles to attaining its provisions. It further emphasizes the critical role that women play in efforts to counter violent extremism.

**Resolution 2272**, adopted in 2016, establishes measures to address sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers. It provides for repatriation of any military unit or police formed units that are credibly accused of sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, it calls on all deploying States to take measures to investigate sexual exploitation and abuse and hold perpetrators accountable.

**UNSCR 2467**, adopted on 23rd April 2019, recognizes national ownership and responsibility in addressing root causes of sexual violence, and names structural gender inequality and discrimination as a root cause. It further urges member states to strengthen access to justice for victims including via reparations and strengthened criminal law, including removing procedural impediments to justice.

## 1.2 Sierra Leone's Women, Peace and Security Context

Since the end of the devastating 11 years civil conflict (1991- 2002) with its attendant impacts on women, peace and security, the country has not experienced any nationwide security issue save for isolated incidences of political disturbances and emerging climate induced disasters and disease outbreaks.

Sierra Leone tropical climate and topography leave the population exposed to both natural hazards such as floods, landslides, as well as infectious disease outbreaks such as Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), Meningitis and Malaria Fever. Available evidence from recent disease outbreaks and disasters indicates severe economic damage and loss of lives with disproportionate effects on the poorest and most vulnerable particularly women, children, aged and persons living with disabilities. The differential impact is attributed to socially prescribed gender norms and behavior that perpetuate gender inequality; gendered division of labour between men and women; and gender-related differences in decision-making, access to and control over productive resources.

For instance, during EVD, more women (56.7%) than men (43.3%) were affected[1]. This is also evident in the August 2019 flood and mudslide in Freetown as out of 1,817 affected households, 968 are female headed, 754 males headed and 95 children – headed.

Gender based violence (GBV) remains a major WPS issue affecting women across all ages and socio-economic statuses. For the period 2020- 2023, a total of 2,453 incidences of GBV were reported across the 7 One Stop Centres (OSCs). 1,908 (77.8%) are cases of sexual penetration (child survivors/ victims) and 201 (8.1%) are rape (adult victims/ survivors).

It is worthy to note the progress in addressing GBV including the passage of the Sexual Offences Amendment Act in 2019; establishment of 7 One Stop Centres; Setting up of a Sexual Offences Model Court, introduction of Free Rape Help Line (116); adoption of National Sexual , Gender Based Violence (SGBV ) Response Strategy and National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV Prevention; Revision of the National SGBV Referral Pathway ; introduction of the Gender Based Violence information Management System and e-Referral Pathway among others.

There has also been breakthrough in terms of strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks for gender equality and women's empowerment. Several progressive legislations and policies have been formulated to enhance women's political participation and public decision-making, access to finance and gender mainstreaming among others. Such groundbreaking legislations and policies include the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Policy (2020), GEWE Act (2022); Public Elections Act, (2022); Customary Land Rights Act (2022) among others.

## 2.0 SITUATIONAL CONTEXT – IMPLEMENTATION OF WPS AGENDA (SiLNAP II): PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

In 2009, Sierra Leone became the 4th country in West Africa and 7th in Africa to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The first NAP (SiLNAP I) was a five-year plan (2009-2014) with five thematic pillars. Following the expiration of SiLNAP I in 2014, the Second-Generation NAP (SiLNAP II) was formulated in 2019.

SiLNAP II builds firmly on the Final Evaluation of SiLNAP I, In-country Monitoring and Evaluation reports of achievements and gaps, as well as emerging issues. The formulation of the SiLNAP II was an all-inclusive process led by the then Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs (MSWGCA) with support from a National Steering Committee constituted to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the WPS Agenda

SiLNAP II was aligned with two significant national priorities: National Gender Strategic Plan and Sierra Leone's Medium-Term National Development Plan, 2019-2023: Cluster 5: Empowering Women, Children, and Persons with Disability); and built around six pillars:

- Prevention of conflict in communities and addressing the roots causes at all levels;
- Protection and support of women, girls, and SGBV survivors and other vulnerable person
- Prosecute and punish perpetrators of SGBV effectively and safeguard women's adolescents' and girls' rights at all times as well as rehabilitate perpetrators
- Participation and representation of women in leadership at all levels of decision making in peace building and development processes
- Promote peace culture and empower communities to generate and sustain their own well-being, environmental security and early response to health emergencies (Human Security Perspectives)]
- Promote effective implementation, monitoring, evaluation, coordination, and reporting of the Sierra Leone National Action Plan

[1] Multi-sector Impact Assessment of Gender Dimensions of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

## Progress/ Key Achievements

Within the period under review (2019-2023), Sierra Leone has made remarkable strides in implementing the WPS Agenda across all Pillars of the National Action Plan (NAP). The following are the key accomplishments.

### Adoption/ review of WPS Policies, Strategies and Institutional mechanisms:

The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, Sierra Leone Police, ONS and other Security Sector Institutions (SSIs) have adopted/ reviewed policies, strategies and mechanisms for promoting WPS.

#### Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF)

The RSLAF reviewed its Gender (Equal Opportunities), Fraternalization and Sexual Harassment Policies. The 3 policies prescribe and provide accountability mechanisms to address sexual harassment, exploitation, abuse and violence against women in service and dependents with sanctions including administrative discharge from the armed forces. In addition to the operations of the Gender Directorate, an additional 72 Gender Focal Officers (GFOs) have been designated/ assigned with the responsibility for reporting all gender related issues to the Gender Directorate and Units' commanders for necessary actions as prescribed in the policies. Moreover, the RSLAF convened Annual Conference of all GFOs to assess the effectiveness of the policies' Implementations. Likewise, a Gender Advisor has been appointed to the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff.

#### The Sierra Leone Police (SLP)

The SLP initiated review of its Gender Mainstreaming, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Harassment Policies; established a Gender Directorate and assigned Regional and Divisional Gender Focal Persons in all 36 Police Divisions of the country. In collaboration with the Cooperate Affairs Directorate, the Gender Directorate periodically conducts monitoring and evaluation of the WPS related policies.

#### Office of National Security (ONS)

In September 2021, the ONS established a Gender Affairs Unit to coordinate WPS efforts in the security sector. As part of its efforts, the Unit formulated a Gender Policy in 2022 with core commitments that are relevant to WPS:

- ensure the gender perspective is mainstreamed throughout ONS and the security sector
- ensure that every activity/programme undertaken are gender sensitive and gender friendly
- equal participation of male and female personnel at all levels
- male and female personnel shall enjoy or benefit equally in all opportunities
- personnel's rights upheld and justice served where necessary.

### **Electoral Commission Sierra Leone (ECSL)**

In 2018, the Electoral Commission adopted its 5 years Gender Policy (2018-2023) with the following WPS commitments:

- Ensuring increased employment opportunities for women for both permanent and temporary positions.
- Expanding EC-SL's efforts to improve access to ECSL's services for women, including gender mainstreaming in all ECSL policies, procedures, and activities.
- Promoting the right for women's inclusion and maintaining collaborative linkages with organizations particularly those working directly on gender issues throughout the electoral cycle.
- Ensuring equal opportunities in development and empowerment of women employees.
- Ensuring that during the discharge of their duties, ECSL will continue to provide a safe and secure working environment for Commissioners and Staff more especially Women.

Additionally, in 2020, the Commission developed its Strategic Plan (2020- 2024) with commitments in Pillar 8 to 'ensure election and electoral processes are participatory and inclusive of all groups of society'. The Gender and Disability Unit has been upgraded to a Department of Electoral Inclusion; and Gender Stakeholders Coordination Groups formed at national and district levels.

### **Increased Participation and Representation of Women in Governance and Decision-making bodies (including Security Sector Institutions)**

The passage of the GEWE Act, 2022 and Public Elections Act 2022 ensured minimum 30% representation of women in political and public decision-making bodies.

The GEWE Act passed in 2022 provides inter alia for the minimum 30 percent female representation in elective and appointive public offices. The GEWE Act is complemented by the Public Elections Act 2022 which provides that for every 3 candidates nominated for public elections at least one must be a woman. Provisions in the GEWE and Public Elections Acts were effectively applied during and following the 2023 general elections resulting in 30% elected female ordinary members of Parliament; 41% elected female Mayors/ Chairpersons and 34 elected female Councilors; 34.5% and 33% appointed Ministers and Deputy Ministers respectively.

In terms of representation and participation in SSIs, there has been an increase across the core security sector institutions. In the SLP, female personnel constitute 23% (3216) and 39% female personnel serving in Peace Keeping Missions. In the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, affirmative action was implemented in 2019 with the recruitment of 300 all-female (commissioned and non-commissioned officers). This action increased representation of female personnel in the RSLAF to 13%. Moreover, female RSLAF personnel serving in peace keeping missions constitute 27%.

### **Strengthened Prevention and Protection from Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). In the period under review, there has been increased efforts to prevent and respond to GBV including the following:**

- Sexual Offences Amendment Act (2019) strengthened punishment for perpetrators with maximum life imprisonment.
- Adoption of National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV Prevention, 2020
- Toll-Free Rape Help Line (116) launched in 2020
- One Stop Centres established in 7 districts to provide comprehensive SGBV Response services.
- Adoption of National Sexual Gender Based Violence Response Strategy
- Establishment of Sexual Offences Model in 2020 to fast-track cases of SGBV

- Set up of Presidential Task Force on Rape and Sexual Violence
- Establishment of GBV Case Management system to improve the quality of care to SGBV survivors.
- Introduced and piloting the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS +) in 4 districts with plans to expand this year to additional districts.
- Reviewed the GBV referral pathway to integrate school related incidences of GBV.
- Developed the GBV e-referral pathway as complimentary system to GBV Case Management and GBVIMS. The e-referral inter alia provide a directory of GBV service provider across the country.
- New Anti- Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Bill, 2022.
- Revised National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2021- 2023)

## Key Challenges

Notwithstanding the gains made, the implementation of SiLNAP II is affected by the following:

### 1 Inadequate budgetary resources

Even though SiLNAP II was fully costed, the required budgetary resources to fully implement the Plan was not generated. Consequently, some critical actions were not undertaken within the period under review.

### 2 Coordination

SiLNAP II established National and Regional Steering Committees to coordinate and monitor implementation of the Plan. The Plan further define the membership and responsibilities of the Committees. The work of the Committees was facilitated through Bi-monthly meetings which were hardly held due to logistics and administrative challenges.

### 3 Limited Knowledge and awareness of SiLNAP II

Plans to roll out the SiLNAP II through nationwide awareness raising activities including workshops and media engagements were not effectively undertaken. Awareness and knowledge of the SiLNAP II was low and limited to mostly members of the Steering Committee and few personnel in the security sector.

## 3.0 SILNAP III

### 3.1. Development of SiLNAP III

The development of SiLNAP III reflects a multi-stakeholder process that promote inclusivity and national ownership of the NAP. Led by the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs with support from the WPS National Steering Committee, it involved the following processes:

I

Regional Consultations – 5 regional consultative workshops held to review/ assess implementation of the previous NAP (SiLNAP II) and identify priorities for SiLNAP III. The consultations attracted the participation of SSIs, local authorities and CSOs with WPS focus.

II

Technical Review Meeting- 1 technical review meeting held with mostly members of the National Steering Committee to review and consolidate the reports from the Regional Consultations

III

Drafting of NAP – under the leadership of the Planning Directorate of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, the SiLNAP III was drafted.

IV

Validation of Draft NAP III – Draft Plan was validated at a National Validation workshop that attracted the participation of the WPS Steering Committee, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Security Sector Institutions (SSIs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), women's groups, local and traditional authorities.

V

Launch of the SiLNAP III- Plan was officially launched at an official event that attracted the participation of Senior government functionaries, United Nations Agencies, Development Partners, MDAs and CSOs.

### 3.2 Alignment with WPS related Legal and Policy frameworks

The SiLNAP III is align with existing National and International frameworks on WPS.

#### 3.2.1. International Frameworks

At international level, the SiLNAP III is aligned with the following frameworks

- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted in 1979
- Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action adopted 1995
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (5 &16)
- African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) 2003
- The African Union Heads of States Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality 2005

### 3.2.2 National Legislative, Policy and Strategic Frameworks:

Include

- Sexual Offence Act as amended 2019
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, 2022
- Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Bill Act passed in 2022
- Public Elections Act, 2022
- Customary Land Rights Act, 2022
- Political Parties Regulation Commission Act, 2022
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy, 2022
- Medium Term National Development Plan (2024-2030)
- Employment Act, 2023
- Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2024

### 3.3 Goal, Strategic Objectives and Actions

#### Goal

Provide a multi-sectoral national strategic framework for the full and effective implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and instruments that relate to the promotion of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sierra Leone within the period 2024 – 2029.

#### Strategic Objectives

The strategic Objectives of the SiLNAP III reflect the 4 Pillars of UNSCR 1325 and emerging WPS issues relating to climate induced disasters and disease outbreaks.

The SiLNAP III articulate the following Strategic Objectives with corresponding actions:

#### Strategic Objective 1: Prevent Conflict and all forms of Violence against women and girls

##### Actions:

- Adopt/review laws and policies that integrate a gender perspective into peace and security
- Allocate adequate budgetary resources and roll out gender responsive budgeting to SSIs and MDAs implementing WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels.
- Adopt and implement measures to increase women in decision making positions in institutions for peace and security
- integrate a gender perspective into existing early warning and response mechanisms
- adopt and implement measures to prevent and reduce incidents of GBV against women and girls
- review and implement the National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV prevention
- Revise National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons, especially women and Children (2021-2023)
- Train border communities and village parent groups (VPGs) in TIP vulnerable communities on how to detect trafficking, identify potential victims and refer them for protective services.
- facilitate community dialogues and stakeholders' engagement on conflict prevention

### **Strategic Objective 2: Increase participation and leadership of women in Security Sector institutions, political and public offices at national and sub- national levels**

#### **Actions**

- Implement national policies and laws that promote women's participation and representation in governance and public offices: GEWE Act 2022 and Presidential Accent In 2023 and GEWE Policy, 2020, Public Elections Act, 2023, Political Parties Registration Act, 2022; Customary Land Rights Act, ECSL Gender Policy.
- Adopt/review and implement gender equality/ gender mainstreaming policies that aim to promote women's participation and leadership in security sector institutions
- Establish and support networks/ coalition of women focused CSOs (including CBOs) working on women, peace and security initiatives at national and community level.
- Build capacity of women to participate in political processes as electorates and candidates for public elections.
- Revive the operations of women in Security Sierra Leone (WISSL)
- Re-establish and support the Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NEWMAP) and Network of Female Councilors

### **Strategic Objective 3: Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (Pillar 3)**

#### **Actions**

- Review legal frameworks that protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence: Sexual Offences Amendment Act, 2019 and Matrimonial Causes Act ().
- Review and implement the National SGBV Response Strategy
- Conduct nation-wide situational analysis of SGBV prevalence
- Establish and fully operationalize One Stop Centres in all districts of the country
- Build capacity of security and justice sector personnel to protect women's rights, including the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence
- Roll out/ implement Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in all districts of the country
- Train SGBV service providers on GBVIMS, Revised SGBV referral Pathway (including e-referral)
- Support GBV Steering / Coordination Committees at National Regional and District levels
- Establish safe homes for the provision of temporary shelter for survivors of SGBV
- Establish Sexual Offences Model Court's at Regional Headquarter districts
- Establish a national forensic laboratory for medical investigation of SGBV related cases

#### **Strategic Objective 4: Address women and girl's relief and recovery needs during and post- conflict, natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemics**

##### **Actions**

- Facilitate women's participation and inclusion in structures and processes relating to peace-building and post – conflict recovery: legal /constitutional review, electoral reform and peace and national cohesion.
- Review existing policies and Strategic plans in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Public Health emergency sectors to integrate a gender perspective into DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response.
- Establish and support gender units in National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) and Public Health Agency
- Train NDMA and Public Health sector staff on gender -responsive DRM and public health emergency preparedness and response
- Develop and disseminate a standardized risk communication messages to address the specific needs and concerns of different genders and engagement with diverse community groups
- Support women's participation and inclusion in national and sub-national structures establish for DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response
- Establish Protection Desk to prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV during disasters and disease outbreaks.
- Provide livelihood and psycho-social care and support to women, children and persons with disability affected by conflict, disasters and disease outbreaks.

### 3.4 SILNAP III Action Matrix

Strategic Objectives	Output	Actions	Implementation Period	Responsible Institution(s)
Prevention of conflict and all forms of Violence against women and girls (including trafficking of women and girls)	Legislative and policy frameworks adopted / reviewed	Adopt / review laws and policies that integrate a gender perspective into peace and security	2024- 2028	SSIs, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
	Adequate budgetary allocation provided for effective implementation of WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels	Allocate adequate budgetary resources to SSIs and MDAs implementing WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels	2024-2029	Ministry of Finance
		Roll out gender responsive budgeting to SSIs and MDAs implementing WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels	2024-2026	Ministry of Finance
	Increased representation of women in decision making positions in institutions for peace and security	Adopt and implement measures to increase women in decision making positions in institutions for peace and security	2024-2029	SSIs, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
	Gender perspective integrated into existing early warning and response mechanisms	Integrate a gender perspective into existing early warning and response mechanisms	2024-2025	ONS, National Early Warning Response Mechanism Coordinating Office
	GBV prevention enhanced with reduced incidents	Adopt and implement measures to prevent and reduce incidents of GBV against women and girls	2024-2029	MoGCA
	National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV prevention reviewed and implemented	Review and implement the National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV prevention	2024 -2029	MoGCA
	Strengthened national capacity to prevent and respond to Trafficking in Persons especially women and girls	Revise National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2021- 2023)	2024-2024	MoSW
Train border communities and village parent groups (VPGs) in TIP vulnerable communities on how to detect trafficking, identify potential victims and refer them for protective services.		2024-2026	MoSW	

Strategic Objectives	Output	Actions	Implementation Period	Responsible Institution(s)
Increase participation and leadership of women in Security Sector institutions, political and public offices at national and sub- national levels	Community stakeholders' engagement on conflict prevention enhanced	facilitate community dialogues and stakeholders' engagement on conflict prevention	2024-2029	CSOs/ NGOs
	Strengthened implementation of existing national laws and policies that promote women's participation and representation in governance and public offices	Implement existing national laws and policies that promote women's participation and representation in governance and public offices.	2024-2029	MoGCA, PPRC, ECSL, CSOs/ NGOs
	Gender mainstreaming / gender equality policies adopted/ reviewed to enhance women's participation and leadership in SSIs	Adopt / review and implement gender equality/ gender mainstreaming policies that aim to promote women's participation and leadership in security sector institutions.	2024-2025	SSIs, MoGCA
	Increased representation and participation of women in Security sector institutions	Facilitate recruitment of women in security sector institutions	2024-2029	SSIs
		Revive the women in Security Sierra Leone (WISSL)	2025	MoGCA, SSIs, CSOs/ NGOs
	Capacity of women strengthened for participation in political processes	Build capacity of women to participate in political processes as electorates and candidates for public elections	2025-2028	MoGCA, PPRC, APPWA, ECSL, CSOs/ NGOs
		Re-establish and support the Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NEWMAP) and Network of Female Councilors	2024-2029	MoGCA, APPWA, Ministry of Local Government, CSOs/ NGOs

Strategic Objectives	Output	Actions	Implementation Period	Responsible Institution(s)	
Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence (Pillar)	Legal frameworks reviewed / amended to strengthened protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence:	Review legal frameworks that protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence: Child Rights Act, SOAA, Matrimonial Causes Act	2024-2026	Ministry of Justice, MoGCA	
	Evidence generated to inform policy actions on SGBV prevention and response	Conduct nation-wide situational analysis of SGBV prevalence and services	2024-2025	STATSL, MoGCA, INGRADOC	
	Strengthened SGBV response service provision	Establish and fully operationalize One Stop Centres in all districts of the country (staffing, logistics and training)		2024- 2029	MoGCA, CSOs/ NGOs/MoHs/F SU
		Build capacity of security and justice sector personnel to protect women's rights, including the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence		2024-2029	Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, MoD/RSLAF, SLP
		Roll out/ implement Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in all districts of the country		2024-2029	MoGCA
		Train SGBV service providers on GBVIMS, Revised SGBV referral Pathway (including e-referral)		2024-2025	MoGCA, CSOs/ NGOs
		Support GBV Steering / Coordination Committees at National and District levels		2024-2025	MoGCA, Local Council, CSOs/ NGOs
		Establish safe homes for provision of temporary shelter for survivors of SGBV		2024-2028	MoGCA, Development Partners
		Establish Sexual Offences Model Court's at Regional Headquarter districts		2024-2029	Ministry of Justice, Judiciary
		Establish a forensic laboratory for medical investigation of SGBV related cases		2024-2025	MoGCA, MoH, SLP, Development Partners

Strategic Objectives	Output	Actions	Implementation Period	Responsible Institution(s)
Addressing women and girl’s relief and recovery needs during and post- conflict, natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemicsActions	Increased participation and inclusion of women in structures and processes relating to peace-building and post – conflict recovery.	Facilitate women’s participation and inclusion in structures and processes relating to peace-building and post – conflict recovery: legal /constitutional review, electoral reform and peace and national cohesion	2024-2026	MoGCA,
	Gender perspective integrated into DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	Review existing policies and Strategic plans in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Public Health emergency sectors to integrate a gender perspective into DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	2024-2025	MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/ NPHA
		Establish and support gender units in NDMA and Public Health Agency	2024-2029	MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/ NPHA
		Train NDMA and Public Health sector staff on gender -responsive DRM and public health emergency preparedness and response	2024-2025	MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/ NPHA
	Increased participation and inclusion of women in national and sub-national structures established for DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	Support women’s participation and inclusion in national and sub-national structures established for DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	2024-2026	MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/ NPHA, CSOs
	Increased capacity to prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV during disasters and disease outbreaks	Establish Protection Desk to prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV during disasters and disease outbreaks	2024-2026	MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/ NPHA, CSOs
	Increased access to livelihood, psycho-social care and support to women, children and persons with disability affected by conflict, disasters and disease outbreaks	Provide livelihood and psycho-social care and support to women, children and persons with disability affected by conflict, disasters and disease outbreaks	2024-2029	NaCSA, MoGCA, MSW, CSOs/ NGOs

### 3.5 Implementation and Coordination Mechanism

The SiLNAP III will be implemented through a multi-sectoral coordination mechanism established under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender and Children’s Affairs with support from a Technical Working Group and Steering Committees established at National and Regional levels. Composition, roles and responsibilities of the Technical Working Group and respective Committees detailed in the Terms of Reference (See Annexes 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5).

Efforts will be made to popularize the NAP through training and high-level policy engagement workshops, media and community awareness raising sessions.

#### Annex 1: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Prevention of conflict and all forms of Violence against women and girls (including trafficking of women and girls)	Legislative and policy frameworks adopted / reviewed	Number of legislative and policy frameworks reviewed	Adopt / review laws and policies that integrate a gender perspective into peace and security							SSIs, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
	Adequate budgetary allocation provided for effective implementation of WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels	Percentage of GoSL budget allocated for WPS initiatives and programmes	Allocate adequate budgetary resources to SSIs and MDAs implementing WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels							Ministry of Finance
		Number of SSIs and MDAs implementing Gender Responsive budgeting	Roll out gender responsive budgeting in SSIs and MDAs implementing WPS initiatives and programmes at national and sub-national levels							Ministry of Finance

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Prevention of conflict and all forms of Violence against women and girls (including trafficking of women and girls)	Increased representation of women in decision making positions in institutions for peace and security	Percentage of women in decision making positions in the RSLAF, SLP, ONS	Adopt and implement measures to increase women in decision making positions in institutions for peace and security							SSIs, Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
	Gender perspective integrated into existing early warning and response mechanisms	Early warning and response mechanisms with gender perspective	Integrate a gender perspective into existing early warning and response mechanisms							ONS, National Early Warning Response Mechanism Coordinating Office
	GBV prevention enhanced with reduced incidents	Number of reported GBV cases	Adopt and implement measures to prevent and reduce incidents of GBV against women and girls							MoGCA
	National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV prevention reviewed and implemented	Adoption of a Revised National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV prevention	Review and implement the National Male Involvement Strategy for SGBV prevention							MoGCA

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Prevention of conflict and all forms of Violence against women and girls (including trafficking of women and girls)	Strengthened national capacity to prevent and respond to Trafficking in Persons especially women and girls	Adoption of a Revised National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	Revise National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2021-2023)							MoSW
		Number of border communities and village parent groups (VPGs) in TIP established in vulnerable communities	Train border communities and village parent groups (VPGs) in TIP vulnerable communities on how to detect trafficking, identify potential victims and refer them for protective services.							MoSW
	Community stakeholders' engagement on conflict prevention enhanced	Number of community dialogues and stakeholders' engagement on conflict prevention organized	facilitate community dialogues and stakeholders' engagement on conflict prevention							CSOs/ NGOs
Increase participation and leadership of women in Security Sector institutions, political and public offices at national and sub- national levels	Strengthened implementation of existing national laws and policies that promote women's participation and representation in governance and public offices	Implementation of GEWE Act, 2022 and GEWE Policy, 2020, Public Elections Act, 2022, Political Parties Registration Act, 2022; Customary Land Right Act.	Implement existing national laws and policies that promote women's participation and representation in governance and public offices: GEWE Act, 2022 and GEWE Policy, 2020, Public Elections Act, 2022, Political Parties Registration Act, 2022; Customary Land Rights Act.							MoGCA, PPRC, ECSL, CSOs/ NGOs

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Increase participation and leadership of women in Security Sector institutions, political and public offices at national and sub- national levels	Gender mainstreaming / gender equality policies adopted/ reviewed to enhance women’s participation and leadership in SSIs	Number of gender equality/ gender mainstreaming policies adopted/ reviewed	Adopt / review and implement gender equality/ gender mainstreaming policies that aim to promote women’s participation and leadership in security sector institutions							SSIs
	Capacity of women strengthened for participation in political processes	Number of women trained and supported to participate in political processes as electorates and candidates	Build capacity of women to participate in political processes as electorates and candidates for public elections							MoGCA, PPRC, APPWA, ECSL, CSOs/ NGOs
Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence	legal frameworks reviewed / amended to strengthened protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence:	Number of legal frameworks reviewed to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based	Review legal frameworks that protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence: Child Rights Act, Sexual Offence Amendment Act; Matrimonial Causes Act							Ministry of Justice, MoGCA
	Evidence generated to inform policy actions on SGBV prevention and response	Report of Situational analysis of SGBV prevalence and services	Conduct nationwide situational analysis of SGBV prevalence and services							STATSL, MoGCA, INGRADOC

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence	Strengthened SGBV response service provision	Proportion of SGBV survivors that received comprehensive services	Establish and fully operationalize One Stop Centres in all districts of the country (staffing, logistics and training)							MoGCA, CSOs/ NGOs
			Build capacity of security and justice sector personnel to protect women's rights, including the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence							Ministry of Justice, Judiciary, MoD/RSLAF, SLP
		Number of districts implementing the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)	Roll out/ implement Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in all districts of the country							MoGCA
		Number of service providers trained on GBVIMS, Revised SGBV referral Pathway	Train SGBV service providers on GBVIMS, Revised SGBV referral Pathway (including e-referral)							MoGCA, CSOs/ NGOs
		Number of GBV Steering / Coordination Committee meetings held at National and District levels	Support GBV Steering / Coordination Committees at National and District levels							MoGCA, Local Council, CSOs/ NGOs

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Protection of women and girls from violence, including sexual and gender-based violence	Strengthened SGBV response service provision	Number of safe homes established for provision of temporary shelter for survivors of SGBV	Establish safe homes for provision of temporary shelter for survivors of SGBV							MoGCA, Development Partners
		Number of Sexual Offences Model Courts established at Regional Headquarter districts	Establish Sexual Offences Model Court's at Regional Headquarter districts							Ministry of Justice, Judiciary
		Number of forensic laboratories established for medical investigation of SGBV related cases	Establish a forensic laboratory for medical investigation of SGBV related cases							MoGCA, MoH, SLP, Development Partners
Addressing women and girl's relief and recovery needs during and post-conflict, natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemicsActions	Increased participation and inclusion of women in structures and processes relating to peace-building and post – conflict recovery.	Proportion of women in peace-building and post – conflict recovery structures.	Facilitate women's participation and inclusion in structures and processes relating to peace-building and post – conflict recovery: legal /constitutional review, electoral reform and peace and national cohesion							MoGCA,

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Addressing women and girl's relief and recovery needs during and post-conflict, natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemicsActions	Gender perspective integrated into DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	Number of DRM and public health emergency policies and plan revised to integrate a gender perspective	Review existing policies and Strategic plans in the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Public Health emergency sectors to integrate a gender perspective into DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response							MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/NPHA
			Establish and support gender units in NDMA and Public Health Agency	2024-2029						MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/NPHA
		Proportion of NDMA and Public Health sector staff trained on gender-responsive DRM and public health emergency preparedness and response	Train NDMA and Public Health sector staff on gender-responsive DRM and public health emergency preparedness and response							MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/NPHA
	Increased participation and inclusion of women in national and sub-national structures established for DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	Proportion of women in national and sub-national structures established for DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response	Support women's participation and inclusion in national and sub-national structures established for DRM and Public Health emergency preparedness and response							MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/NPHA, CSOs

Strategic objectives	Output	Indicators	Actions	Time frame						Responsible Institution(s)
				2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	
Addressing women and girl’s relief and recovery needs during and post-conflict, natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemicsActions	Strengthened SGBV prevention and response during disasters and disease outbreaks	Number of Protection Desks established to prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV during disasters and disease outbreaks	Establish Protection mechanisms (including Protection Desk) to prevent, mitigate and respond to SGBV during disasters and disease outbreaks							MoGCA, NDMA, MoH/NPHA, CSOs

## Annex 2

### Terms of Reference National Steering Committee

#### Background

In 2009, Sierra Leone became the 4th country in West Africa and 7th in Africa to develop a National Action Plan (SiLNAP I) for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325. The first NAP expired in 2014 and a Second-Generation NAP (SiLNAP II) was adopted in 2019. The Plan builds firmly on the Final Evaluation of SiLNAP I (2009-2014), and In-country Monitoring and Evaluation reports of achievements and gaps, as well as emerging issues.

The Second-Generation NAP (SiLNAP II) expired in December 2023 and a Third Generation NAP (SiLNAP III) adopted in 2024.

These Terms of Reference (TORs) relate to the Duties and Responsibilities of the National Steering Committee.

#### Objective

The overall objective of the establishment of the National Steering Committee for the implementation of the SiLNAP is to:

- Ensure effective co-ordination of the implementation process including resource mobilization, monitoring and evaluation and reporting on the SiLNAP III and related national frameworks.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the National Steering Committee shall include the following:

- I. Coordination of all stakeholders to ensure focused interventions
- II. Mobilize technical, financial and logistical support for the implementation of the SiLNAP III
- III. Establish regional WPS steering committees to supervise and facilitate coordination at regional, districts and chiefdom levels.
- IV. Submit report on the implementation of the SiLNAP to the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs on a half yearly basis.
- V. Monitor the implementation of the SiLNAP III.

#### Composition and Structure

The National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the SiLNAP III shall be inclusive of Institutions, Organizations and Agencies with focus on Women, Peace and Security. The committee shall be chaired by the Chief Director, Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs with rotational co-chairs (Representatives from Security Sector Institutions and CSOs). The Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs shall serve as the Bureau/Secretariat. The following shall constitute the membership of the National Steering Committee

- Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs
- Ministry of Social Welfare
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Office of the Chief Minister
- UNWOMEN
- Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces
- Sierra Leone Police
- Office of National Security
- Sierra Leone Correctional Service
- National Early Warning Response Office
- Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion
- National Disaster Management Agency
- National Public Health Agency
- National Commission for Social Action
- Women's Forum – Sierra Leone
- Mano River Women Piece Network (MARWOPNET)
- West Africa Network of Peace Builders (WANEP)
- Campaign for Good Governance
- 50-50 Group
- Rainbo Initiative
- National Organization of Women, Sierra Leone Chapter

With the exception of the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, each institution, Organizations or Agency shall be represented by One (1) Senior Policy level official.

### **Meeting**

The National Steering Committee Meeting shall be held Quarterly. The meeting shall be conducted in-person or virtually. The Chief Director and Director of Planning shall respectively serve as Chairperson and Secretary to the National Steering Committee.

### **Reporting**

The National Steering Committee shall report to the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs which shall in turn report on the implementation of SiLNAP III to relevant global, regional and national authorities.

## Annex 3

### Terms of Reference (TOR) Technical Working Group

#### Background

In 2009, Sierra Leone became the 4th country in West Africa and 7th in Africa to develop a National Action Plan (SiLNAP I) for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1325. The first NAP expired in 2014 and a Second-Generation NAP (SiLNAP II) was adopted in 2019. The Plan builds firmly on the Final Evaluation of SiLNAP I (2009-2014), and In-country Monitoring and Evaluation reports of achievements and gaps, as well as emerging issues.

The Second-Generation NAP (SiLNAP II) expires in December 2023 and Third Generation NAP (SiLNAP III) developed in 2024.

The Technical Working Group is constituted to inter alia coordinate and provide technical support to the National Steering Committee vis-à-vis implementation, monitoring and reporting on the Third Generation NAP.

#### Core Functions of the Technical Working Group

The Technical Working (TWG) will provide technical support to the National Steering Committee in respect of the following:

- Awareness raising and sensitization on the SiLNAP III and related frameworks \
  - Creation and updating of a database of stakeholders involved in Women, Peace and Security and related fields;
  - technical support to WPS focused institutions
  - Collection of data on relevant indicators in the SiLNAP III
- Documentation of best practices and shared learning on Women, Peace and Security  
Submission of periodic report to the National Steering Committee on the implementation the SiLNAP III.

#### Membership

Members of the TWG are drawn from the general membership of National Steering Committee. The TWG shall comprise of the following members:

1. Deputy Chief Director – Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs
2. Director of Planning – Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs
3. Director of Gender – Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs
4. Representative – UNWOMEN
5. Dr Nana Pratt – National Organization for Women-Sierra Leone Chapter
6. Representative – Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces
7. Representative – Sierra Leone Police
8. Representative – MARWOPNET
9. Representative – Office of National Security

#### Meeting

The Technical working Group Meeting shall be held monthly on the last Thursday of the Month. The meeting shall be conducted in-person or virtually. The Deputy Chief Director and Director of Planning shall respectively serve as Chairperson and Secretary to the Technical Working Group.

#### Reporting

The Technical Working Group shall report to the National Steering Committee.

