Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium

National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security
UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), unanimously adopted in October 2000, stressed the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security. In the years since, seven additional resolutions on women, peace and security (WPS) have been adopted. That created a robust framework for implementing the WPS agenda and reinforced global commitments, treaties and conventions on women’s rights, including the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

To deliver these commitments at the national level, the United Nations has encouraged Member States to adopt National Action Plans on WPS (NAPs-WPS) to implement the resolutions and monitor the progress of the WPS agenda. As of October 2016, 64 countries had adopted NAPs-WPS, including nine in the Asia-Pacific region. Several other countries in the region are currently developing NAPs-WPS.

From 11 to 13 July 2016, UN Women and the Government of Japan jointly convened an Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in Bangkok, Thailand. Participants included people from 17 countries and over 80 experts including representatives of regional governments, Ministers and senior Parliamentarians, leading academics, and civil society members, as well as representatives of United Nations agencies. The aim was to lay the groundwork for implementation of all stages of the NAP-WPS cycle and to consider measures to ensure that NAPs-WPS actually benefit women affected by conflict.

“Women are powerful actors in accelerating economic recovery after conflict, increasing the sustainability of peace and building a culture of tolerance and inclusion. We must "step it up for gender equality" with concrete commitments, resources, political will and greater accountability to succeed in achieving our goal of a “planet 50/50 by 2030.”

– Roberta Clarke, Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.
The symposium built on the key findings and recommendations of UN Women’s landmark 2015 Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, as well as the 2013 Global Technical Review Meeting on “Building accountability for implementation of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.” It provided a forum to reflect on the development, implementation and review process of NAPs-WPS, and to share experiences with countries in the region that are in the process of, or intend to start, developing a NAP-WPS. In addition, the conference considered regional thematic priorities and tools for effective NAP-WPS implementation, including monitoring and evaluation frameworks, dedicated and sustainable budget allocations, as well as localization strategies that local and provincial governments can use for implementation.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security aimed to:

- Promote sharing of knowledge and lessons learned on the development, implementation, monitoring and review of NAPs-WPS.
- Review the thematic priorities for the Asia-Pacific region on WPS with regard to emerging issues including the prevention of violent extremism, climate change and displacement.
- Develop joint strategies for strengthening NAP-WPS implementation in order to improve benefits for conflict-affected women. These include localization initiatives, ensuring that NAPs-WPS are adequately financed, and involving civil society members in all stages of the NAP-WPS cycle in order to improve benefits for conflict-affected women.

“Japan recognizes the need for women to be leaders in preventing conflict and in 2015 launched its own National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.”

– Hideo Fukushima, Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission and Permanent Representative of Japan to ESCAP, Embassy of Japan in Thailand.

“This symposium is a groundbreaking opportunity to reflect on emerging trends and look to future action that can benefit National Action Plan processes and the advancement of the international women, peace and security agenda.”

– Kyoko Hokugo, Director, Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.
National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security (NAPs-WPS) are designed to provide a coherent national approach to the implementation of women, peace and security (WPS) objectives and commitments under UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. NAPs-WPS integrate WPS resolutions into national policy. They have been adopted both by conflict-affected countries and regions, and by those countries that focus their WPS activity on maintaining international peace and security and preventing internal conflicts through conflict resolution, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, and post-conflict recovery initiatives.

NAPs-WPS are a framework for governments and their partners to identify priorities, determine responsibilities, allocate resources, and initiate strategic actions within a defined timeframe. The priorities and actions identified commonly integrate the four pillars of the WPS agenda.

Snapshot
National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security

Number of WPS NAPs, by year of Adoption

These pillars are: ensuring women’s participation in all levels of decision-making on peace and security; incorporating a gender perspective into conflict prevention initiatives; protecting the rights of women and girls; and ensuring that their needs and concerns are integrated into relief and recovery efforts.

Since the first NAP-WPS was adopted in 2005, many lessons have been learned about the common elements necessary to develop a NAP-WPS that will lead to coherent, targeted and impactful action. These elements include: strong leadership and coordination to promote implementation; inclusive processes that enable the participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) at all stages of the NAP-WPS cycle; predictable and sustainable financing through costing and allocating budgets for NAP-WPS delivery; robust frameworks for monitoring, reporting and evaluation; and flexibility to adapt to emerging situations.

These lessons give countries that are developing their first NAP-WPS (or a second-generation plan) valuable guidance on how to ensure that the plan will deliver real benefits to women and girls affected by conflict.

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Hanny Cueva-Beteta, Governance, Peace and Security Adviser, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

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“These is a pivotal time - we now have a unique opportunity to align efforts and design an enhanced roadmap to realizing the WPS agenda.”

Paivi Kannisto, Chief - Women, Peace and Security, UN Women HQ.
In the Asia-Pacific as elsewhere, the context of peace and security is rapidly changing. The global WPS framework has traditionally focused on the four pillars of protection, participation, prevention, and relief and recovery to address the gender-specific impacts of conflict. But emerging issues threaten the well-being of women and girls and require consideration of whether the WPS agenda is responding to these new concerns.

UN Women’s Global Study on UNSCR 1325 and the recent adoption of UNSCR 2242 highlight this changing context and the need to consider the emerging issues of violent extremism, displacement and climate change from the perspective of the cross-cutting WPS agenda.

From the perspective of the WPS framework, these three issues have many common features. Each directly threatens women’s human rights and freedoms. Each drives conflict, with its root causes in structural gender discrimination and inequalities. It is underappreciated how women’s participation and resilience can prevent violent extremism and promote a culture of tolerance, enhance disaster preparedness, mitigate the effects of climate change, and promote policies that respect women’s legitimate right to make decisions that affect their own lives. Additionally, gender-inclusive knowledge and gender-responsive solutions need to be developed in all three areas, to strengthen counter-extremism and disaster risk reduction responses through prevention and early warning reduction of risks, and in relief and recovery efforts.

An integrated, practical WPS agenda could help in the design of new-generation NAPs-WPS in the Asia-Pacific that incorporate the challenges of violent extremism, displacement and climate change.

Strategies to integrate these challenges include:

• Focusing NAPs-WPS on violence prevention.
• Recognizing women’s diverse roles in prevention.
• Developing an early warning approach to rising religious fundamentalism.
• Recognizing the agency of women in disaster risk reduction and climate change responses.
• Using a more expansive approach that deals with all the causes of women’s insecurity.
• Building the knowledge base in order to increase evidence-based opportunities for local and national governments to better coordinate their local initiatives.
Displacements and mass movements of people significantly worsen gender inequality. Issues such as social fragmentation, armed violence, tribal and ethnic fighting, and natural disasters hamper recovery and community development and increase the insecurity of women and girls. Humanitarian responses must ensure that women’s rights to education, health, land and a role in decision-making are guaranteed, and that they can access basic rights and services.

Conflict prevention is a powerful WPS pillar that integrates approaches to both persistent and emerging threats to peace and security. It provides the opportunity to harness and strengthen women’s formal and informal conflict prevention efforts across the Asia-Pacific, including their participation in early warning systems that prevent unrest and violence from escalating. Ways to address the root causes of conflict can also be integrated into NAPs-WPS. The Philippines’ NAP-WPS integrates language on arms control, a recognition that arms proliferation is a pressing global and regional concern that needs to be linked to the WPS agenda in order to mitigate violence.

Ideas from the Symposium: Conflict Prevention

- Strengthen peace infrastructure, including peace councils.
- Increase programmes and national processes for social rehabilitation to prevent relapses into conflict.
- Strengthen access to justice initiatives and approaches to dealing with the past, in order to build trust among parties in conflict.
- Ensure support for women’s organizations to engage in conflict prevention.
- Use cultural activities and traditional structures to build peace.
- Develop peace curriculums for young people in order to build their understanding of the past.
- Address the root causes of conflict to ensure no one is left behind.

“Peace will not prosper if there is armed violence - in order to create a climate of peace and security, the tools of direct violence, like guns, should be controlled.”

– Jasmin Nario Galace, Miriam University, Philippines.

Ideas from the Symposium: Displacement and Humanitarian Issues

- Ensure participation and inclusiveness of civil society and NGOs in displacement response.
- NAPs-WPS should be designed so that displaced women and girls receive real benefits.
- Allocate designated budgets.
- Integrate the needs of displaced people including women and girls in NAPs-WPS by using a participatory approach that promotes national ownership.
- Maintain an achievable scope in including the needs of displaced women and girls in NAPs-WPS as NAPs cannot capture everything.
- Engage both women and men to work on WPS and displacement.
- Align NAPs-WPS with existing gender equality and women’s empowerment frameworks.

“We have many conflicts in Asia, however we are not always answering the root causes of these conflicts.”

Climate change poses an overwhelming threat to the human security of all, but creates unique challenges and hardships for women and girls. Agricultural and rural communities are particularly vulnerable to climate-related resource scarcity and natural disasters. Women and girls must be included in designing, implementing and monitoring strategies to deal with climate change and natural resources to harness their local knowledge, mitigate conflict, and provide inclusive solutions.

A range of successful initiatives to prevent violent extremism have been implemented across the region. Tailored to be highly sensitive to the specific local contexts, countries including Indonesia, Afghanistan and the Philippines have adopted programmes that train religious leaders and teachers in prevention strategies, monitor early warning signs of extremism, and build dialogue between governments and insurgent groups. Successful activities that have made use of women’s ability to maintain and promote peace include the formation of cross-ethnic women’s peacekeeping teams, and economic empowerment initiatives that allow women to negotiate with family and community members who show signs of radicalization. A particularly effective strategy across a range of contexts in the Asia-Pacific has been the development of “counter-narratives” that promote peaceful interpretations of religious texts.

Ideas from the Symposium: Climate Change

• Consider including a natural disaster and humanitarian approach in line with CEDAW in NAPs-WPS that includes the state and other actors.
• Implement policies and actions on climate change at both the district and national levels and incorporate participation, protection and recovery.
• Resource management must enable women to build their leadership roles and authority.
• NAPs-WPS should include provision for women’s participation in evacuation centre management, to reduce exploitation and SGBV.
• The success of relief and recovery efforts is strongly linked to participation, so women must be included in designing these efforts.
• Prioritize resilience and leadership so that women have the resources to develop and implement immediate responses to disasters and humanitarian crises.
• Support from regional actors and aid agencies is fundamental if we are to approach relief and recovery from a human peace and security perspective.

“I UNSCR 1325 for too long has been seen as ‘women in post-conflict situations’. But if we are not talking about prevention of conflict, if we are not really affirming the nexus between peace and development, we are going to keep seeing the recurrence of these problems.”

- Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, femLINKPACIFIC, Fiji.

Ideas from the Symposium: Preventing violent extremism (PVE)

• Carry out initiatives in education, including revising school and early childhood textbooks to reflect values of gender equality.
• Develop and integrate PVE narratives into NAPs-WPS and link them with other national policies including those on gender equality and counter-terrorism.
• Strengthen the role of academia in supporting PVE efforts.
• Adopt transnational and cross-border approaches to PVE work.
• Address root causes of violent extremism including social, economic and political issues.
• Establish technical groups to review NAPs-WPS and to recommend ways to analyze how these emerging issues affect local communities.
• Empower the women’s movement, including by empowering women economically so they would be less likely to join in extremist activity.
• Build consensus on the language to be used in PVE efforts.

“When violent extremism is at different levels of the community, you can’t approach it by kinetic force. You need to work with communities at all those levels.”

- Mossarat Qadeem, PAIMAN, Pakistan.
Women’s Needs and Priorities in National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security

The Asia-Pacific’s NAPs-WPS integrate the four WPS pillars of protection, prevention, participation, and relief and recovery; some include a focus on promoting normative WPS work. But there has been limited analysis of whether the initiatives implemented under these plans are actually meeting the needs and priorities of women and girls.

These initiatives comprise those 1) focused on practical needs and rights, and 2) those focused on strategic needs and rights. Practical needs and rights are immediate needs, especially access to essentials for survival. Strategic needs and rights are longer-term and address inequalities and structural obstacles to equality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practical</th>
<th>Strategic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to shelter, water, food, health and reproductive health care</td>
<td>Reform of discriminatory legislation / policy; creation of specific initiative tackling inequalities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to state welfare and development programming</td>
<td>Tackling structural inequalities; tackling &amp; preventing VAW; reproductive rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to income generating opportunities</td>
<td>Sustainable independent livelihoods (beyond basic income generating or micro - credit schemes).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to appropriate clothing</td>
<td>Child care provisions; addressing the burden of care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe access to transport</td>
<td>Equal participation in public sphere fora &amp; decision making power over public - sphere systems.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Aisling Swaine’s Presentation, July 12th 2016, on strategic and practical needs.

Of the nine NAPs-WPS in the Asia-Pacific:

• Activities that target both practical and strategic needs are found in eight plans. (New Zealand’s does not include practical needs.)
• Practical needs form the majority of activities in one: Indonesia’s.
• Strategic needs form the majority of activities in two: Afghanistan’s and Nepal’s.
• Gender mainstreaming and capacity-building activities are found in all nine plans. They form the majority of activities in five: those of Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Philippines, and Timor-Leste.
• NAPs-WPS from conflict and non-conflict states differ in focus, with conflict-affected states having more actions focused on women and girls’ well-being.

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4. This analysis of the impact of NAPs-WPS is derived from the presentation of Aisling Swaine’s, George Washington University, 12 July 2016, and the accompanying discussion paper, “The potential for impact of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in addressing women’s needs and priorities”. The paper was commissioned by UN Women and the Government of Japan for the Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security.
In the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, political, social, economic, health, food and environmental security, and gender and development planning are identified as critical to women and the development of the NAP-WPS. In Bougainville, women are on the frontlines of peacekeeping and peace negotiations. Peer-to-peer training in conflict early warning systems and conflict reconciliation is crucial to strengthen their ability to lead peace dialogues and to educate others.  

In Timor-Leste, meeting the practical needs of conflict-affected women requires ensuring that women, including veterans, can access shelters, mental and physical health services, and primary education for their children. It is critical to recognize that single mothers and widows often experience discrimination and stigma that prevents them from accessing these essential services.  

One strategic priority for NAPs-WPS is to increase efforts to achieve economic justice and to recognize the link between conflict and the economic vulnerability of women in post-conflict situations. Sri Lanka has an estimated 40,000 female-headed households, largely the result of loss of husbands and male kin during the civil war. As widows, mothers, or ex-combatants, these women are more exposed to sexual violence, and face severe disadvantages in claiming and keeping control of property, and in securing the few available jobs and receiving the same wages as men.  

In Myanmar, women’s strategic needs are a national focus. For women’s voices to be heard in the national peace process, a 30 per cent quota for women’s participation in line with CEDAW recommendations must be implemented. To accomplish this, practical barriers to women’s participation must also be lowered by allocating funds for travel, stipends, accommodation, childcare support and other needs.  

“Basic needs came out as the primary issue of women. Quality of education was another. Freedom of movement was key, and harmony and peace in the family was important to women.”

– Dr. Karuna Onta, DFID, Nepal, speaking about research in Nepal on the psychosocial well-being of women affected by conflict

Many of the women grappling with harm associated with disappearance, killings, rape, torture, displacement, and militarization are also grappling with poverty, low incomes, indebtedness or insecure livelihoods and employment.”

– Vagisha Gunasekara, CEPA, Sri Lanka.

Ideas from the Symposium: Women’s needs and priorities at the center of NAPs-WPS

• Increase focus on economic justice.
• Create demilitarization programmes to train community members to contribute to the reconstruction and restoration of their communities.
• Address mental health in the recovery phase in NAPs-WPS.
• Provide economic opportunities and livelihoods.
• Integrate reconciliation programmes with leadership programmes.
• Create approaches to alleviate inter-generational trauma from conflict.
• Use holistic approaches to reconstruction at the community level.

5. Presentation of Rose Pihei, Bougainville Women’s Federation, 11 July 2016.
8. Presentation of Mi Kun Chan Non, AGIPP, Myanmar, 11 July 2016.
In developing NAPs-WPS that meet the needs of conflict-affected women, it is crucial to reflect the diversity of women’s experiences. Each of the NAPs-WPS in the Asia-Pacific identify the multiple identities and roles of women. In Timor-Leste, for example, women are referred to as “heroines” and “veterans”.

Using an inclusive approach, NAPs-WPS can be developed to ensure the experiences of a diverse range of women are highlighted and given priority when formulating solutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity</th>
<th>Narrative</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“women combatant”; “fighters” (4/9)</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Nepal, Philippines, Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“detainees”; “former political prisoners” (2/9)</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“peace promoters”; “builders”; “negotiators”; “steward of peace” (2/9)</td>
<td>Philippines, Timor-Leste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“single mothers”; “unmarried mothers”; “single women” (3/9)</td>
<td>Timor-Leste, Nepal</td>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“women experts”; “activists” (2/9)</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Philippines, Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“family”; “community contributors” (2/9)</td>
<td>Philippines, Timor-Leste</td>
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Ideas from the Symposium: Women Heads of Households

- Women heads of households should be engaged in every step of the NAP-WPS process.
- A post-conflict needs assessment should be carried out prior to the development of the NAP-WPS.
- Interventions for women heads of households should be multi-sectoral and integrated.
- Interventions may include social security schemes for widows of combatants, tax rebates for procurement of property by widows, salaries of fallen servicemen and compensation paid directly to widows, low interest housing loans and loan concessions via micro-finance banks.
- Recovery should not be the end goal of the NAP-WPS but should enable a gradual progression from recovery, to prevention, to protection and participation.
One of these groups is women heads of households. This group includes those who have lost husbands or been abandoned by husbands, never-married mothers, single mothers, widows, ex-combatants, de facto heads of households, those who care for the elderly or a disabled husband, and migrant workers. Women heads of households can face particular barriers to economic opportunities: social stigma; threats to personal security; lack of quality childcare; limited access to services; problems obtaining citizenship for children born out of wedlock; cultural barriers to joining the labor force; lack of access to property; limited decision-making opportunities; and restrictions based on religious beliefs.

Solutions include the establishment of an Association of Women Heads of Households in Indonesia and a dedicated CSO in Nepal, development grants given specifically to households headed by women; and pension schemes for widows in India.

NAPs-WPS should also tailor interventions to the needs of survivors of sexual-and gender-based violence and their children. Conflict-related sexual violence victims can face stigma and discrimination, and such crimes are commonly committed with impunity. NAPs-WPS can design initiatives for responding to such violence, particularly the provision of psychomedical and psychosocial services, and data collection. Governments and CSOs can collaborate in providing social services. For example, in Nepal, social relief packages are provided for survivors of sexual violence.

Other groups of women that have been placed in vulnerable situations should also be included in NAP-WPS interventions. They include internally displaced people such as those in Myanmar who have been driven away by landmines; women affected by natural disasters; women with disabilities; women affected by the caste system; ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous women such as those from Bangladesh; women persecuted for their political beliefs; pregnant women; and elderly women such as those mentioned in Japan’s NAP-WPS.

Another group of women that are in a vulnerable situation are women ex-combatants. In Nepal, 22 percent of the ex-combatants recorded in the preliminary registration process were women. Yet women ex-combatants have been excluded from policy guidelines that would enable them to fully re-integrate into society and participate in peacebuilding. Nepal is currently developing a second-phase NAP-WPS that may allow women ex-combatants to participate in all stages of the process and may integrate their priorities into the plan. 10

The planning of new and next-generation NAPs-WPS should use a framework that includes the diverse experiences of women and girls, and should achieve a balance between practical and strategic needs that reflects the link between those needs.

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**Ideas from the Symposium: SGBV survivors and their children**

- NAP-WPS interventions need to address the underreporting of sexual violence and survivors.
- Statutes of limitations for reporting sexual violence offenses in both conflict and post-conflict settings should be removed.
- Efforts must be made to enable women to report SGBV even if they do not have identification papers.
- NAPs-WPS must include the needs of children born out of rape in conflict and ensure they receive access to social welfare services and pension and reparations schemes.
- CSOs can lead initiatives on SGBV, including through collating documentation and creating memorials that document women’s experiences of sexual violence in conflict.

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**Ideas from the Symposium: Women placed in vulnerable situations**

- Treat vulnerable groups as decision-makers and enable them participation in policy and programme development and implementation.
- Include provisions in NAPs-WPS that strengthen localization and tailored interventions for diverse groups of women.
- Collect disaggregated data for groups in vulnerable situations.
- Integrate provisions for ensuring both the basic needs of vulnerable groups including tailored psycho-social programmes and the strategic needs of vulnerable groups that build their decision-making capabilities and roles.

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10. Presentation of Leela Sharma, Chairperson, Ex-People’s Liberation Army Women’s Academy, Nepal, 11 July 2016.
Asia-Pacific countries are at various stages in their NAP-WPS development cycles. Thailand and Sri Lanka are currently developing their plans. Timor-Leste, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea and Afghanistan are making progress in the implementation phase. Indonesia is localizing its plan. Australia, Nepal and the Philippines are monitoring and reviewing their plans, with the aim of adding new initiatives to their second NAPs-WPS.

The first stage of this cycle, NAP-WPS development, relies on building a sense of national ownership that helps sustain commitment and action. In Timor-Leste, the public participated in formulating the plan, ensuring that it reflected their concerns and needs. Participants from the Government and civil society groups held a national consultation to define priority issues. This required trained staff and political will.

In Afghanistan, identifying the priorities led to development of a multisectoral plan emphasizing access to education, services, economic security and political participation, as well as the elimination of violence against women. The plan also commits the Government to increase women’s representation in the civil service.

In Japan, a comprehensive development phase produced a plan focused on both domestic and international peace and security. It covers not just conflict situations but also natural disasters, expanding WPS priorities to humanitarian and emerging issues.

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### Structure of Japan’s NAP and major goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pillars</th>
<th>Major Goals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Ensure equal participation of women in all stages in the field of peace and security with the intent of achieving gender mainstreaming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conflict Prevention</td>
<td>Promote women’s participation and leadership in all processes of prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and in decision making while strengthening a gender equal perspective.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection</td>
<td>Protect various aid recipients including women and girls from violence and other human rights infringements during or after conflict or under humanitarian crisis such as a large scale disaster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanitarian and reconstruction assistance</td>
<td>Provide humanitarian and reconstruction assistance while reflecting circumstances and needs unique to women and girls, promoting women’s empowerment, and ensuring women’s participation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framework for monitoring, evaluation and review</td>
<td>Build a framework to effectively monitor, evaluate and review the National Action Plan at an appropriate time and revise the NAP regularly.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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11 Presentation of Anacleto Ribeiro, Office of the Prime Minister, Timor-Leste, 12 July 2016.
12 Presentation of Mohibullah Taib, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan, 12 July 2016.
13 Presentation of Kyoko Hokugo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, 12 July 2016.
Asia-Pacific countries also have made sure to align their NAPs-WPS with national policies and plans on gender equality, women’s empowerment, gender-based violence. In Timor-Leste, alignment of the NAP-WPS with the NAP-GBV and other national action plans has ensured that national security includes development security. In Sri Lanka, the NAP-WPS is being developed to work alongside the NAP-GBV, which focuses on mobilizing women’s groups to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, and to work with men and boys to promote positive, non-violent values. Coordination of NAPs-WPS with existing policies also helps in identifying the areas where the NAP-WPS affects those policies. Additionally, NAPs-WPS should be developed in alignment with the country’s international obligations and commitments, including CEDAW.

In developing a NAP-WPS, it is vital to coordinate the work of the government and the ministries in a way that encourages strong leadership. In Indonesia, individual accountability for NAP-WPS processes lies with the Prime Minister. Building partnerships within the government ensures that the ministries have the same understanding of the value of the NAP-WPS. Plan development also benefits from the strong involvement of civil society from the start. An exchange of knowledge within the region has also proved useful in developing the plans. Policymakers and stakeholders from countries developing NAPs can travel to learn from countries that have progressed to implementation.

In countries that have completed the implementation phase of their NAPs-WPS, a range of achievements and lessons learned have been identified. Since implementation of the NAP-WPS in Nepal, a new Constitution has been adopted that guarantees women a 33 per cent representation in the federal and provincial Parliaments, in addition to the mandatory 33 per cent participation of women in local peace committees. An SGBV unit has been established in the Office of the Prime Minister. Women and Child Service Centers have been set up in over 50 districts. Safehouses for victims of domestic violence have been established. More women have been joining the armed forces, and military personnel departing on peacekeeping missions are given training on WPS. Additionally, local bodies have started allocating budgets for WPS to ensure the sustainability of the NAP-WPS.

In the Philippines, the NAP-WPS had to be implemented amid ongoing conflict, so localization targeted both the national and provincial levels. Adequate financing was critical to ensure that the objectives of the plan could be met. The law mandates that of the total budget given to local governments, 5 per cent must be used on gender-responsive programmes. Other strategies for financing NAPs-WPS include partnerships, bilateral and multilateral cooperation including through “twinning”, North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and with civil society.

Coordination and collaboration between civil society and the government is critical in the implementation phase. Women must be supported to lead these processes, and the role of civil society should be to find women the space to take the lead.

In Indonesia, engagement by the National Commission on Violence against Women demonstrates how national institutions can better implement NAPs-WPS by supporting civil society, advocacy initiatives, and transitional justice initiatives including reparations and creation of memorials of the crimes.

NAPs-WPS in the region have been successfully localized at the district level. District coordination committees and action plans have been set up. Funds have been allocated to local bodies to help members of the community. CSOs and conflict-affected women have been mobilized to form networks. Bottom-up planning involving conflict-affected communities and capacity-building to promote women’s participation have also led to effective localization of NAPs-WPS. Engaging civil society and women through community media and related initiatives has significantly raised awareness of the plans and built a sense of local ownership.

Ideas from the Symposium: Development of NAPs-WPS

- Emphasize the involvement of civil society from the beginning, through participation in government-led mechanisms such as NAP-WPS steering committees.
- Identify NAP champions in government ministries, including in security and defence.
- Coordination should build on existing partnerships and linkages among ministries. Relationships among agencies should be formalized so that the framework for NAP-WPS development can be discussed throughout the whole government.
- Aligning foreign policy approaches to WPS enhances effective implementation.

Ideas from the Symposium: Implementation, localization and financing of NAPs

• When implementing the NAP-WPS, make use of services already being provided by existing policies, instead of just simply creating new services.

• Develop models for sustainability in case of changes in government or in public sector personnel.

• Champions of NAPs-WPS at the highest levels of government are needed to ensure that commitments to implementation are achieved.

• Clear structures for implementation are key, including constructive partnerships with civil society.

• Existing resources to finance NAPs-WPS should be maximized, such as by using local peace committees for NAP implementation.

• Integrate data collection on WPS into NAP-WPS implementation, to inform the development of second-generation NAPs-WPS.

Rigorous monitoring and evaluation is needed to assess the impact of the NAP-WPS and to promote government accountability. This requires clear timeframes for action, indicators to measure success, and timelines on the frequency of reporting. A monitoring body should be established, and adequate financing for monitoring activities must be secured. Results from monitoring and evaluation can be used to determine the priorities of second-generation NAPs-WPS.

Civil society plays an important role in NAP-WPS monitoring as it helps to identify and share best practices and lessons learned and improves the efficacy of new interventions and strategies. In Australia, civil society shadow reports and report cards promote a higher level of accountability by the Government; identify any gaps between what the Government has committed to and what it has delivered; highlight WPS issues absent from official reporting; critique the Government’s performance; and recommend changes. They also raise the sector profile and community awareness of the NAP-WPS.

Civil society engagement in National Action Plans

• Establish mechanisms for including civil society in formal NAP-WPS processes

• Eliminate barriers to civil society participation in consultations and review processes including practical barriers faced by women from rural areas and women of different ethnic groups.

• Explore financing opportunities, including gender-responsive budgeting, for civil society monitoring mechanisms.
It is essential for countries in the Asia-Pacific region, both those with and without NAPs-WPS, to enhance implementation of the WPS agenda in order to address persistent and emerging issues. Globally and across the region, many countries experience fragile law and order situations or local insurgencies that are not recognized as conflicts at the state level. The WPS agenda should integrate local-level approaches to minimize the impacts on women and encourage their participation in peacebuilding.

WPS priorities in the region are strongly focused on increasing the role of women in the security sector. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are among countries without NAPs-WPS that have committed to implement WPS objectives locally through military and peacekeeping activities.

The promotion of a gender-sensitive security sector is also integrated into NAPs-WPS within the region. New Zealand’s plan highlights the country’s regional police peacekeeping in fragile, conflict and post-conflict settings.

Australia’s plan emphasizes the significant contributions of the defence forces and the police to WPS objectives. It reflects the importance of gender balance and a gender perspective to the operational effectiveness of the security sector.

Efforts to meet WPS obligations on persistent and emerging issues can also be promoted by integrating WPS concerns with global frameworks and commitments.

The implementation of CEDAW General Recommendation 30 on Women, Peace and Security can complement WPS commitments in countries with a NAP-WPS. It also provides an alternative way of implementing the WPS agenda in those countries that have not yet developed a NAP but have ratified CEDAW. This promotes the implementation of WPS commitments on dealing with violations of CEDAW-enshrined rights in conflict and post-conflict situations, in addition to conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. International frameworks such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals can also provide links between CEDAW and other WPS tools such as NAPs-WPS.

WPS objectives can also be strengthened through peacebuilding initiatives such as working with the media. The Global Media Monitoring Project reported that in the Pacific Islands in 2015 across seven major news topic categories women were the central focus in only 16 per cent of stories.

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20. Presentation of Senior Sergeant Claire Bibby, New Zealand Police, 12 July 2016.
22. Presentation of Aisling Swaine, George Washington University, 13 July 2016.

Enabling women’s engagement through media allows them to generate content, improve the portrayal of women, and inform policymaking. Initiatives have included granting broadcast licenses to community radio stations operated by women’s organizations, as has been done in Republic of the Marshall Islands, Tonga and Fiji, linking women peace activists regionally, and using media initiatives to collectively advocate for WPS objectives.44

Activists also can work with diverse media platforms to engage young people through appropriately and strategically utilizing diverse platforms to engage on issues including violent extremism, violence against women and conflict prevention.

Ideas from the Symposium: Beyond NAPs – advancing the WPS agenda

• Continue to conduct quantitative and qualitative analysis of gender portrayals in the media.
• Support women’s media networks that are inclusive of disability rights and LGBTIQI rights, to ensure that women of all diversities are seen and heard defining their peace and human security concerns.
• Adopt language and strategies to engage in WPS activities that promote positive, meaningful and impactful outcomes in sensitive contexts.
• Identify opportunities to engage men and boys in the effort.
• Engage with youths, including by developing their skills in conflict mapping, negotiation and conflict resolution.
• Develop community mechanisms for conflict early warning and early response systems.
• Adopt culturally-sensitive initiatives to memorialize and document conflict experiences.
• Reporting to the CEDAW Committee and the UPR should include updates on WPS implementation, both in the State report and civil society shadow reports.
• Consider using the SDGs as a framework for interlinking CEDAW and NAPs-WPS.

Meeting conclusion from the Asia-Pacific regional symposium on National action plans on women, peace and security


In the spirit of the Regional Symposium during which we have come together in commitment to the objectives of gender equality and women’s empowerment and the promotion of a culture of peace:

We, participants from 17 countries in the Asia Pacific, representing government, civil society, independent institutions, academia and international organizations, joined the Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security (NAPs-WPS) convened by UN Women and the Government of Japan from 11 to 13 July 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand.

In this Symposium we reviewed the successes and challenges in the implementation of the 9 NAPs-WPS44 adopted in the region. We recognized the need for national peace and security processes to be more gender responsive and to take account of emerging issues and thematic areas.

We consider that the development and implementation of NAPs-WPS in the region reflects strong political will to uphold the obligations of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, as well as CEDAW General Recommendation 30 on WPS. In particular, NAP-WPS initiatives have provided national security institutions and government implementing bodies with a pathway to more gender mainstreamed institutions and processes. We especially note the efforts in awareness raising, capacity building and specialized training that NAP-WPS have promoted.

However, we recognize that our NAPs-WPS have yet to deliver the practical and strategic outcomes that are most needed by women and girls affected by conflict. Persistent and emerging issues including disruptions to environmental security, displacement, and violent extremism, threaten the security of all, and especially women and girls. Conflict prevention and the promotion of a culture of peace have been underserved priorities. Attention to the root causes of conflict and structural inequalities must be addressed by practical responses, including changing social norms.

Access to gender-sensitive basic services and protection measures for women and girls in post conflict and humanitarian and disaster contexts needs to be guaranteed. Equally important is strengthening women’s agency and ensuring women’s engagement as active participants, decision makers and leaders in recovery and peace processes. Measures to accelerate economic justice for sustainable livelihoods and access to decent work and equal and fair wages must be enhanced throughout the peace and development continuum. The principle of “leaving no one behind” as enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals requires specifically designed and targeted interventions for addressing the diverse needs and priorities of women, including those that are placed in vulnerable situations.

We share the view that NAPs-WPS are living documents that should be continuously reviewed and adapted to changing needs and opportunities. The strong involvement of civil society, including engagement with media and working with men and boys, in all stages of NAPs-WPS development, implementation and review is critical for ensuring an inclusive and accountable process.

In consideration of the above, we acknowledge that:

1. NAPs-WPS must be developed and reviewed to explicitly integrate rather than aggregate common goals of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 between peace and security and other issues relevant to the context such as displacement, climate change, humanitarian crisis, violent extremism and arms proliferation.

2. NAPs-WPS need to be embedded in national policies and strategic frameworks on peace and security and human rights and do not exist in isolation of other national plans and policies.

3. Coordinating and strong alignment are required, including in the areas of elimination of violence against women and gender equality and women’s empowerment.

4. NAPs-WPS must pay attention to underserved areas such as conflict prevention, including the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance and dealing with the past, as well as the political economy of insecurity, including during transitions and recovery.

5. Effective implementation of NAPs-WPS requires sustainable funding lead by the support of Government institutions, the production of research and data, strong monitoring and evaluation systems, and must be accompanied by localized approaches.

6. National implementation of the women, peace and security agenda must also encompass women-led complementary peacemaking initiatives such as security sector reform and peace education, especially at the community level.

In conclusion, we recognize that effective NAPs-WPS are driven by strong leadership and must be accompanied by financing and localization strategies, and robust monitoring and evaluation systems. Most importantly, the development and effective implementation of NAPs-WPS must be inclusive and reflect civil society perspectives, especially women’s groups, on women, peace and security.
1. Background

UN Security Council Resolution 1325, unanimously adopted in October 2000, stressed the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for maintaining and promoting peace and security. In the years since, seven further resolutions on women, peace and security (WPS) have been adopted, creating a robust framework for the implementation of the WPS agenda and reinforcing existing global commitments, treaties and conventions on women’s rights including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

To deliver these commitments at the national level, the UN has encouraged member states to adopt National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS as one of a range of mechanisms that implements the resolutions and monitors the progress of the WPS agenda.

As of May 2016, 63 countries have adopted NAPs, including 9 in the Asia-Pacific region, with several currently in development. While most countries in the region have aligned the development of their NAP to global trends, key lessons have yet to be shared on local, national and regional experiences of implementation strategies, and monitoring and evaluation of the current NAPs.

UN Women and the Government of Japan will convene a joint Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, that will take place from July 11 – 13, 2016 in Bangkok. This three-day symposium will bring together regional government representatives including Ministers and senior Parliamentarians, leading academics and experts, civil society stakeholders, as well as representatives from UN entities, to lay the groundwork for effective implementation at all stages of the NAP cycle and to consider concrete measures to ensure that NAPs have a beneficial impact on women affected by conflict.

Annex A

Summary concept note
2. Objectives

Building on the key findings and recommendations of UN Women’s landmark 2015 Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, as well as the 2013 Global Technical Review Meeting on “Building accountability for implementation of Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security”, the regional symposium will provide a forum to reflect on the development, implementation and review process of NAPs, and share experiences with counterparts in the region, who are also in the process of, or intend to start, developing a national action plan. In addition, the conference will consider regional thematic priorities, and discuss current tools and approaches for effective NAP implementation, including useful monitoring and evaluation frameworks, dedicated and sustainable budget allocations, as well as localization strategies.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security aims to:

- Promote knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learned on the effective development, implementation, monitoring and review of NAPs.
- Review the thematic priorities for the Asia-Pacific region on WPS, with regard to emerging issues including the prevention of violence, climate change and displacement.
- Develop joint strategies for strengthening NAP implementation, including through localization initiatives, ensuring that NAPs are adequately financed, and facilitating civil society participation that extends through all stages of the NAP cycle, in order to improve benefits for conflict-affected women.

3. Format

The three-day regional symposium will follow a participatory format that will include (i) the commissioning and presentation of two discussion papers on NAPs, specific to the needs of the region; (ii) presentations and panel discussions by government representatives, academics, civil society members and UN entities to highlight lessons learned at various stages of the NAP development, implementation and monitoring cycle for the benefit of other participants; and (iii) working group breakout sessions. Plenary sessions will be complemented by in-depth discussion and sharing of lessons learned in smaller groups. The participants will reconvene in plenary to agree on key findings and recommendations to enhance NAP development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation processes in the region.

The conference hopes to conclude with a statement on emerging trends and potential forward looking recommendations that could benefit NAP processes and the advancement of the international women, peace and security agenda. A comprehensive report will also be prepared following the meeting, to further disseminate the key lessons and recommendations that will come out of the meeting.
## Day One
### Monday 11 July 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.00am – 8.30am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.30am – 9.00am</td>
<td>Welcome remarks&lt;br&gt;Roberta Clarke&lt;br&gt;Regional Director, Asia and The Pacific UN Women&lt;br&gt;Hideo Fukushima&lt;br&gt;Minister, Deputy Chief of Mission and Permanent Representative of Japan to ESCAP Embassy of Japan in Thailand</td>
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<td>9.00am – 9.20am</td>
<td>Session 1: Global and regional overview&lt;br&gt;Global trends on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security and the Sustainable Development Goals&lt;br&gt;Paivi Kannisto&lt;br&gt;Chief Adviser, Peace and Security, UN Women&lt;br&gt;Regional overview of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in Asia and the Pacific&lt;br&gt;Hanny Cueva Beteta&lt;br&gt;Regional Adviser, Governance and Security, UN Women</td>
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<td>9.20am – 9.40am</td>
<td>Photo &amp; Welcome Coffee</td>
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<td>9.40am-10.00am</td>
<td>Review of Agenda&lt;br&gt;Facilitators:&lt;br&gt;Andy Yentriyani&lt;br&gt;Asia Pacific Women's Alliance for Peace and Security&lt;br&gt;Ruby Kholfah&lt;br&gt;AMAN Indonesia</td>
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<td>10.00am-12.00pm</td>
<td>Session 2: Emerging issues in Asia Pacific National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security&lt;br&gt;Presentation of Discussion Paper&lt;br&gt;Professor Jacqui True&lt;br&gt;Director of Gender, Peace and Security Center Monash University, Australia&lt;br&gt;Discussion:&lt;br&gt;Dete Allah&lt;br&gt;Institute for International Peacebuilding, Indonesia&lt;br&gt;Conflict prevention&lt;br&gt;Mosarrat Qadeem&lt;br&gt;PAIMAN, Pakistan Prevention of extremism and violence&lt;br&gt;Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls&lt;br&gt;femLINKPACIFIC, Fiji Climate change&lt;br&gt;Jitendra Bohara&lt;br&gt;International Organization for Migration, Nepal&lt;br&gt;Displacement and humanitarian issues&lt;br&gt;Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>12.00pm – 1.00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1.00pm – 2.00pm</td>
<td>Session 3: Working group discussion on emerging issues in Asia Pacific National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security&lt;br&gt;Four thematic break out working groups:&lt;br&gt;- Conflict prevention&lt;br&gt;- Prevention of extremism and violence&lt;br&gt;- Climate change&lt;br&gt;- Displacement and humanitarian issues</td>
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<td>2.00pm – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Plenary reporting and discussion</td>
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<td>3.00pm – 3.20pm</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>3.20pm – 4.50pm</td>
<td>Session 4: Women's needs and priorities at the center of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security&lt;br&gt;Chair: Yoriko Meguro Chair, Gender Action Platform, Japan&lt;br&gt;Vagisha Gunasekara&lt;br&gt;Center for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka&lt;br&gt;Rose Phele&lt;br&gt;Bougainville Women's Association, Papua New Guinea&lt;br&gt;Leela Sharma&lt;br&gt;Former People's Liberation Army Women Foundation, Nepal&lt;br&gt;Mi Kun Chan Non&lt;br&gt;Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process, Myanmar&lt;br&gt;Q&amp;A</td>
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<td>4.50pm – 5.20pm</td>
<td>Plenary discussion and agreement on key findings and recommendations</td>
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<td>5.20pm – 5.30pm</td>
<td>Wrap up and outline of Day 2</td>
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<td>7.00pm – 9.00pm</td>
<td>Welcome reception&lt;br&gt;Welcome remarks:&lt;br&gt;Roberta Clarke&lt;br&gt;Regional Director Asia and the Pacific, UN Women&lt;br&gt;Kyoko Hokugo&lt;br&gt;Director, Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan&lt;br&gt;Speaking Out:&lt;br&gt;Women's voices from Afghanistan, Nepal and Fiji</td>
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Day Two
Tuesday 12 July 2016

8.00am – 8.30am
Registration

8.30am – 10.10am
Session 5: The potential for impact of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in addressing women’s needs and priorities
Presentation of Discussion Paper
Dr. Asling Swaine
Associate Professor of International Affairs George Washington University, United States

Discussion:
Karuna Onta
UK DFID, Nepal, Psycho-social wellbeing and conflict affected women

Habiba Sarabi
Deputy High Peace Council, Afghanistan, Peace processes and the promotion of women’s empowerment

Fatima Pir Allan
Nisa Ul Haq, Fl Bangsamoro, Philippines, Gender sensitive transitional justice processes

Manuela Leong Pereira
ACBIT Timor Leste, Vulnerabilities of women and children, including sexual violence survivors

Q&A

10.10am–10.30am
Coffee break

10.30am-12.00pm
Session 6: The development of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security and their alignment with national policies
Chair: Suphanvasa Chotikajon
Director of Peace, Security and Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand

The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in Japan
Kyoko Hokugo
Director, Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

The National Action Plan on women, peace and security and linkages with the National Action Plan on gender based violence in Timor Leste
Anacleto Ribeiro
Office of Prime Minister, Timor-Leste

Development of the National Action Plan on UN SCR 1325, women peace and security in Afghanistan
Mohibullah Tahil
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan

National Action Plans on Sexual and Gender Based Violence and aligning with women, peace and security objectives in Sri Lanka
Chandani Bandara
Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Sri Lanka

Q&A

12.00pm-1.00pm
Lunch

1.00pm – 2.00pm
Session 7: Working group discussion on considerations for the development of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security
Four thematic working groups:
• Making NAPs responsive to female headed households
• Making NAPs responsive to sexual violence survivors and their children
• Making NAPs responsive to other relevant vulnerable groups, including refugees, displaced populations, female ex-combatants, ethnic minorities
• Development of National Action Plans and alignment with other national plans and policies, including EVAW/GVB

2.00pm – 3.00pm
Planary reporting and discussion

3.00pm – 3.20pm
Coffee break

3.20pm – 4.20pm
Session 8: Security, safety and the prevention of violence
Chair: Abby McLeod Coordinator, Policy and Governance, Australian Federal Police

Jasmin Galace
Miriam College Philippines Small arms, light weapons and its linkages to conflict

Senior Sergeant Claire Bibby
New Zealand Police Gender responsive policing, including police peacekeeping perspectives

Jenny Lee
Australian Civil-Military Centre Gender dimensions of the security sector

Q&A

4.20pm – 5.15pm
Plenary discussion and agreement on key findings and recommendations

5.15pm – 5.30pm
Wrap up and outline of Day 3

Day Three
Wednesday 13 July 2016

8.00am – 8.30am
Registration

8.30am-10.10am
Session 9: Implementation, localization and financing of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security
Chair: Andrew Robertson Executive Office, Gender Equality Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Nepal National Action Plan on implementation of the UN SCR 1325 and 1820: 2011/12-2015/16
Sarbajit Mahato
Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, Nepal

Rishi Rajbhandari, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, Nepal

Gettie Sandoval
Former Undersecretary OPAPP, Philippines

Saur Situmorang
National Commission on Women, Indonesia

Discussion:
Ganesh Kadatay
District Coordination Committee - Kailali, Nepal

Jasmin Galace
Center for Peace Education, Miriam College, Philippines

Q&A

10.10am–10.30am
Coffee break

10.30am-12.00pm
Session 10: Entry points beyond NAPs
Chair: Ethen Sigmunor Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs, Solomon Islands.

Working with Media
Sharon Bhagwan-Rolls
femiLINKPACIFIC, Fiji

Promoting a culture of peace and tolerance
Mosarat Qadeem
PAIMAN, Pakistan

CEDAW General Recommendation 30
Aliasing Swaine
George Washington University, United States

Q&A

12.00pm-1.00pm
Lunch

1.00pm – 2.00pm
Session 11: Working group discussion Four thematic working groups:

• Implementation, localization and financing of National Action Plans
• Civil Society engagement in National Action Plans processes
• CEDAW General Recommendation 30
• Entry points beyond National Action Plans including media and memorialization

2.00pm – 3.00pm
Plenary reporting and discussion

3.00pm – 3.20pm
Coffee break

3.20pm – 4.30pm
Session 12: NAP monitoring and accountability
Chair: Chanda Ria Executive Director, Sankajap, Women’s Alliance for Peace, Justice & Democracy, Nepal

The role of Civil Society in the monitoring and accountability of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security, including use of CEDAW
Bandana Rana
Saathi, Nepal

The development of the Japan National Action Plan and its considerations for monitoring and accountability
Hiroko Hashimoto
Representative to CSW, Japan

Civil Society monitoring initiatives and holding Governments accountable
Katrina Lee-Koo
Monash University, Australia

Q&A

4.30pm – 5.00pm
Plenary discussion and agreement on key findings and recommendations

5.00pm – 5.30pm
Wrap up of Regional Symposium and Presentation of draft Statement on Emerging Trends on WPS in Asia-Pacific and recommendations.
Emerging Issues in Asia-Pacific National Action Plans (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)


- WPS is a powerful framework focused on four pillars addressing the gender-specific impacts of conflict on women and girls:
  - Protection against sexual and gender-based violence.
  - Promoting women’s participation in peace and security.
  - Supporting their roles as peacebuilders in the prevention of conflict, and in relief and recovery.
  - The implementation of these pillars must be seen as interconnected.

Four key commonalities across violent extremism, displacement and climate change from the perspective of the cross-cutting WPS agenda:

- The direct threats they present to women’s human rights and freedoms.
- All three challenges are drivers of conflict with their root causes in structural gender discrimination and inequalities.
- The underappreciated role of women’s participation and resilience.
- The need for gender-inclusive knowledge and gender-responsive solutions.

There are tensions between our understanding of what WPS means and how we go about implementing WPS in NAPs.

There is a need for an overarching WPS agenda based on a framework for integrating problems of violent extremism and terrorism, mass displacement and climate change.
Discussants

Dete Aliah, Institute for International Peacebuilding, Indonesia

- Greater attention is needed to understanding the root causes of conflict.
- Women, including in their roles as wives and mothers, have the power to prevent men in their lives from engaging in terrorist attacks. Women should be supported in these preventive activities.

Mossarat Qadeem, PAIMAN, Pakistan

- Adopt a soft approach to working with communities at risk of radicalization.
- Protect women who are working to prevent conflict.
- Include the agency of women in policies and planning.

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, femLINKPACIFIC, Fiji

- Climate change is inextricably linked to security and the 1325 agenda.
- In linking NAPs-WPS with local governments, ensure that the impact will reach women on the ground.
- Women must be front and center in medium- and long-term planning.
- Women's needs must be accounted for in national budgets, in order to promote their participation in recovery processes.

Jitendra Bohara, International Organization for Migration, Nepal

- Post-conflict programs ensuring women's access to land and resources are vital to empower women to participate and lead in peacebuilding.
- The post-conflict period provides a small window of opportunity to put in place institutional reforms and to push the WPS agenda.

- The post-conflict period provides a small window of opportunity to put in place institutional reforms and to push the WPS agenda.

Women’s Needs and Priorities at the Center of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security

Vagisha Gunasekara, Center for Poverty Analysis, Sri Lanka: “Putting Economic Justice at the Heart of Peace and Security”

- Women-headed households in Sri Lanka’s war-affected areas are significantly more vulnerable than male-headed households. The food insecurity of women-headed households increased between 2012 and 2015, and such households own fewer assets.
- Economic security concerns including livelihood activities and access to financial assistance and social security are among the top challenges identified by women-headed households in Sri Lanka.
- Economic injustice creates difficulties for post-war reconciliation. Economic justice should be placed on top of the agenda in NAPs-WPS.

Rose Pihei, Bougainville Women’s Association, Bougainville: “Priorities and Needs of Women at the Center of NAPs-WPS”

- Post-conflict displacement of communities leads to family breakdowns, loss of schooling time, and high levels of trauma.
- Priorities should include building community spaces for women; training in early warning systems and conflict reconciliation; and peer-to-peer coaching and peacebuilding strategies.
- There should be a focus on demilitarization; resettlement plans; mental health programmes; economic opportunities for sustainable livelihoods in the communities; and reconciliation.
- A more holistic approach to reconstruction at the community level needs to include funding and support for women.


- Approximately 22 percent of combatants recorded during the preliminary registration process by the United Nations Mission in Nepal in 2007 were women.
- When peace was negotiated, women combatants were not properly represented. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission on Investigation of Disappeared Persons in 2015 did not include women combatants.
- The second phase of the NAP on 1325 and 1820 is an opportunity to include the former women combatants in each process of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Rehabilitation centers and psychosocial counseling for combatants must be accessible and inclusive of women.


- Myanmar must improve knowledge on gender to enhance political representation, and lower barriers for women’s participation in the peace process.
- Due to a lack of budget, Myanmar has had a National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women for 10 years, but has not yet implemented it.
- Existing laws and bills must be reviewed to ensure they comply with international standards of human rights.
- More women need to be able to participate in the formal mechanisms of the peace process.


Dr. Aisling Swaine, Associate Professor of International Affairs, George Washington University, United States of America/Ireland: “Gender Planning for Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region: Making Women’s and Girls’ Needs, Well-being and Rights Central to National Action Plans”

- NAPs-WPS highlight the existence of a gap between the basic needs of women and girls and their ability to assert their rights.
- Practical needs and rights: immediate, related to access, focus on the condition of women and girls.
- Strategic needs and rights: longer-term, rights-based, variant, focus on status, related to control and structural obstacles to equality.
- Both practical and strategic needs actions were found across 8 out of 9 NAPs-WPS in the Asia-Pacific.
- Practical needs formed the majority of activities in one NAP-WPS.
- Strategic needs formed the majority of activities in two NAPs-WPS.
- Gender mainstreaming and capacity-building was found in all nine NAPs-WPS.
- Conflict versus non-conflict states differ in focus, with the NAPs-WPS of conflict or post-conflict states having more actions on the well-being of women and girls.
- A framework on inclusion is needed to determine if the needs of diverse groups of women and girls are being addressed in NAPs-WPS in the region.
- Women and girls and their well-being and rights are central to NAPs-WPS. A balance is required because the link between strategic and survival needs is crucial.

Discussants

Karuna Onta, UK DFID, Nepal

- Women in Nepal see psychosocial well-being as a constellation of features: “well at heart, well at mind, and well in body”.
- Basic needs, quality of education, freedom of movement, and harmony and peace in the family are key to women. During and after the conflict in Nepal, women were rarely asked about their aspirations.

Habiba Sarabi, High Peace Council, Afghanistan

- Afghanistan is implementing its NAP-WPS but faces many challenges including difficulties in targeting education, which affects peace and access to health services, family planning services and maternal services.
- Stronger links with the NAP for Women’s Advancement should be made. That NAP also addresses women in the civil service, aiming for 30 percent representation of women by 2017.
Fatima Pir Allian, Nisa UI Haq Fi
Bangsamoro, Philippines

- Knowing and sharing our history is key to finding solutions. It is important to bring the discourse from the private to the public space.
- The Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission in the Philippines included the narratives of the Bangsamoro people. It looked at historical injustices; violations of human rights; marginalization through land dispossession; and healing and reconciliation. It produced more than 90 recommendations, but these are not in the NAP-WPS.

Manuela Leong Pereira, ACBIC, Timor-Leste

- Inclusivity, a responsive approach and gender-sensitive planning are needed when addressing practical needs and strategic needs, including access to services.
- Cultural barriers affect women. When women become widows, they can lose their right to land. Programs must include awareness-raising and behavioural change to combat the stigma and discrimination against single mothers and widows.

The Development of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security and their Alignment with National Policies

Kyoko Hokugo, Director, Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: “The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in Japan”

- Japan included members of civil society such as NGOs and experts in drafting the plan with Government agencies. Japan held regional consultations and created a working group and committee.
- The NAP-WPS covers conflict zones and natural disasters as the Japanese experience shows that natural disasters are very similar to post-conflict situations in the displacement of people, disruption of community life, and the needs of women and girls.
- The four WPS pillars include more than 100 indicators to track implementation of the NAP-WPS.
- In recognizing its international role as a donor country, Japan’s NAP-WPS has both a domestic and an international focus, including efforts to increase the number of security officers in Japan and abroad.

Anacletio Ribeiro, Office of the Prime Minister, Timor-Leste: “Development of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and Linkages with the National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence in Timor Leste”

- The conflict in Timor-Leste is over, but women are still fighting for their rights. Women have limited visibility in the public sphere.
- NAPs-WPS should be context-specific because each country has a unique experience in nation-building. The people participated in formulating Timor Leste’s NAP-1325; that allowed them to include their concerns and needs and promoted a sense of ownership of NAP-1325.
- The NAP-1325 is linked to the existing NAP-GBV. The NAP-1325 is more participatory, has four pillars, targets the whole community, and is time-sensitive. It also targets women veterans and heroes.


- The Afghan NAP is a multi-sectoral plan emphasizing access to education, services, economic security, and political participation, as well as the elimination of violence against women. It commits the Government to increase women’s representation in the civil service.
- Afghanistan has secured the participation and creation of key institutions, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Elimination of Violence against Women Commission, and a human rights support unit in the Ministry of Justice.
- Two major challenges are the low awareness of UNSCR 1325, leading to low capacity and low commitment to implementation, and a lack of practical cooperation from relevant institutions.

Chandrani Bandara, Minister of Women and Child Affairs, Sri Lanka: “NAP on Sexual and GBV and Aligning with WPS Objectives in Sri Lanka”

- Sri Lanka needs a well-coordinated implementation mechanism and a sustained monitoring system to realize the objectives of the NAP-GBV.
- The Ministry has taken action to increase the number of women in decision-making by introducing a quota for local government bodies and giving female candidates 30 percent of the nominations to contest the upcoming elections.
- Women’s groups should be mobilized to prevent GBV and work with men and boys to promote positive norms that help prevent violence.
- Challenges include the need for more staff and budgetary allocations to effectively implement the plan at the vertical and horizontal levels.

Security, Safety, and the Prevention of Violence

Jasmin Galace, Miriam College, Philippines: “Small Arms, Light Weapons and Its Linkages to Conflict”

- The Philippine NAP-WPS was one of the very first NAPs to integrate language on arms control. Stopping the proliferation of weapons has most often been identified as the pathway to peace.
- Linking arms control and WPS agendas can reduce violence against women during armed conflicts and in “peace-time” or non-conflict settings.
- Recommendations include integrating arms control in NAPs; recognizing that arms proliferation is a global and a regional concern; sharing knowledge and capacities on arms control; engaging men; and recognizing that arms accumulation is gendered and reinforces patriarchy and violent norms among men.

Senior Sergeant Claire Bibby, New Zealand Police: “Gender-responsive Policing, Including Police Peacekeeping Perspectives”

- The patriarchal environment of international missions and the organizational systems inhibits the implementation of 1325. The New Zealand NAP-WPS promotes an increase in the number and in the seniority of women in defence deployed internationally.
- Police officers in deployment can promote peacebuilding by building partnerships and relationships at the local level and internally.
- Collaboration between agencies and Ministries including Defence, the Ministry of Women, and Foreign Affairs promote stronger implementation of the NAP-WPS.

Jenny Lee, Australian Civil Military Centre: “Gender Dimensions of the Security Sector”

- The Australian NAP-WPS was launched after a national consultation process that included members of civil society. The plan integrates a gender perspective into policies on peace and security; embeds the WPS agenda in human resources management of defence, police, and deployed personnel; supports civil society to promote equality and increased women’s participation; promotes WPS implementation internationally; and calls for a coordinated and holistic approach domestically and internationally.
- Engaging senior military officers to implement the WPS agenda is crucial, as is engaging both male and female advocates in the security sector.
- Inter-agency cooperation and a positive relationship with civil society are critical to achieve WPS objectives.

Implementation, Localization, and Financing of NAPs-WPS

Sarbajit Mahato, Secretary, Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation, Nepal: “Nepal NAP on Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 and 1820”

- In February 2015, the Nepali government established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission on the Inquiry of the Disappeared Persons, and an interim commission has been established for people affected by the armed conflict. Funds were distributed to the families of those who were killed.
- The first phase of the NAP-WPS ended in February 2016, and the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation is planning the second phase of the NAP-1325 and 1820. The second phase will focus on conflict-related sexual violence, localization of gender equality, and women, peace and security recommendations made by the UN Women Global Study on 1325. This will include providing comprehensive support to survivors in relief, recovery, and access to services, and increasing psychosocial counseling and support services in conflict-affected areas.
• Lessons learned include the need to capitalize on the strengths and capabilities of local women, the need to address the root causes of conflict, and the importance of building inclusive institutions.

• The NAP-WPS is not a stand-alone document but is part of a set of agendas that will bring real change to communities affected by conflict. It clearly links the human rights regime to the security regime.

• The CEDAW committee can ask about NAP-WPS implementation and make recommendations for strengthened implementation.

• CEDAW GR 30 has a scope beyond that of the WPS resolutions, including dealing with issues of trafficking and statelessness.

NAP Monitoring and Accountability

Bandana Rana, Saathi, Nepal: “The Role of Civil Society in the Monitoring and Accountability of NAPs on WPS Including Use of CEDAW”

• Members of civil society were key actors in the Nepal NAP-WPS and engaged in planning, designing, coordinating and organizing consultative meetings at the national and local levels. They played a significant role on the technical and drafting team as well as on the high-level steering committee.

• The NAP-WPS commits to a yearly monitoring report and public dissemination, but this may be too ambitious.

• The participation of civil society maintains systematic inclusivity throughout implementation and ensures that the monitoring framework addresses all indicators regardless of the status of progress.

• Partnership with civil society ensures greater accountability, transparency and better implementation.

Hiroko Hashimoto, Representative to CSW, Japan: “The Development of the Japan National Action Plan and its Considerations for Monitoring and Accountability”

• Japan’s NAP consists of five pillars: participation, conflict prevention, protection, humanitarian and reconstruction assistance, and a framework for monitoring, evaluation and review. Civil society members strongly requested that the Government include the fifth pillar.

• To establish strong monitoring systems in the NAP, the Secretary-General’s report on WPS in 2010 stresses that operational gender-responsive systems should be in place to monitor, report and respond to violations of the rights of women and girls during conflicts, ceasefire, peace negotiations and post-conflict periods.
In addition to an interministerial monitoring body at the highest level, it is beneficial to establish a monitoring body in each Ministry that includes civil society members with expertise in gender, peace and security.

In addition to promoting specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely indicators, measurements should include activities undertaken by NGOs and funded by the government.

Katrina Lee-Koo, Monash University, Australia: “Civil Society Monitoring Initiatives and Holding Governments Accountable -- The Case of Australia”

Goals of civil society monitoring of the NAP-WPS include a high level of public accountability; identifying “performance gaps”; providing alternative accounts of government performance; making recommendations; and raising community awareness of the NAP-WPS.

Australian civil society groups wanted a monitoring and evaluation framework with timelines and financial allocations, and for the NAP-WPS to be embedded in a human rights framework. These elements were not integrated into the NAP-WPS. As a result, civil society groups independently produce an annual shadow report card. These reports do not seek to represent all of civil society.

An annual dialogue takes place that is participatory and based on information-sharing and network-building, and allows for debate. However, there is no anonymity. There is self-regulation in groups. It is limited to attendees, doesn’t distinguish between the Government and CSOs, and takes place for only one day.

A broad mapping exercise has been useful both for monitoring and evaluation and in opening lines of communication between the Government and civil society.
Annex D

List of Participants

Abby McLeod
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Policy and Governance
Australian Federal Police
Australia

Adriana Venny Aryani
Commissioner
National Commission on Violence Against Women
Indonesia

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UN Women Consultant, George Washington University
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India

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UN Women
Solomon Islands

Bandana Rana
Executive Chair
Saathi & 1325 Action Group
Nepal

Carla Silbert
Women, Peace and Security Consultant
UN Women
Regional Office for Asia Pacific Region

Chanda Devi Rai Shrestha
Executive Director
Sankalpa Women Alliance for Peace, Justice and Democracy
Nepal

Chandani Bandara
Minister
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
Sri Lanka

Chandani Senaratna
Secretary
Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
Sri Lanka

Claire Bibby
NZ Police Representative on NZ NAP on WPS
New Zealand Police
New Zealand

Devi Rubiyanti Kholidah
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UN Women
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Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs
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Fatima Pir Titah Allian
Programme Manager
Nisa Li'Haq fi Bangsamoro (Women for Justice in the Bangsamoro)
Philippines

Ganesh Bahadur Kadayat
District Coordinator
Rural Women’s Development and Unity Center (RU-WUDC)
Nepal

Gul Ghotai Sahibyan
Project Manager
AWSDC
Afghanistan

Habiba Sarabi
Deputy
High Peace Council
Afghanistan
Abby McLeod:
Ms. McLeod is Coordinator, Workforce Culture, Diversity and Analytics, at the Australian Federal Police (AFP). Previously, she was an academic at Australian National University. As an anthropologist, she provided specialist knowledge to the International Deployment Group (IDG) on Australia’s relationship with the Pacific Islands, particularly in supporting law and justice sector reform. Ms. McLeod led the development of an AFP approach to police capacity-building in Papua New Guinea and other Pacific Islands nations, including Samoa and Nauru (2007-2012). As Coordinator of Design and Development, she supported the IDG senior executive to establish program design and evaluation capabilities, with a strong focus on gender mainstreaming. She represented the AFP on Australia’s NAP working group and developed the IDG Gender Strategy, which outlines the AFP’s contribution to Australia’s NAP.

Adriana Venny Aryani:
Dr. Aryani is a Commissioner on the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan), one of three national human rights institutions in Indonesia. She is a Commissioner for working group Papua, sub-commission Recovery System, and a Coordinator for the International Advocacy team. Previously, she was a Coordinator for the Gender-Based Violence Coalition (Koalisi GBV), a network of around 40 NGOs working in hotspots and post-conflict areas in Indonesia. She has trained many local women in conflict areas to become peacemakers, and given training on NAP monitoring and implementation and development of a local action plan. Her interests are in mechanisms and networks to create a regional action plan on WPS advocacy on CEDAW; the Beijing Platform for Action; the SDGs; “due diligence;” and the “responsibility to protect”.

Aisling Swaine:
Dr. Swaine is Associate Professor of Practice of International Affairs (on women, security and development) at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Previously, Dr. Swaine worked with the United Nations, donors and international NGOs in conflict and post-conflict settings, as well as at international policy levels. She continues to do consulting with a number of international organizations including UN Women. She teaches and does research on conflict-related violence against women, global gender equality policy, the WPS agenda, feminist legal theory, and transitional justice.

Annex E
Biographies of Participants

Anacleto Ribeiro:
Mr. Ribeiro is an advisor to the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste in the areas of security and defense. He is the coordinator of the Permanent Secretariat for the Interministerial Commission on Internal Security, presided over by the Prime Minister. Mr. Ribeiro joined the security sector reform and development department of Timor-Leste in 2007, when he started a 7 ½-year stint as Community Conflict Prevention Advisor to the Secretary of State for Security. His engagement with UNSCR 1325 began in 2011 as facilitator of the development of the NAP; he was the Drafting Team Leader in 2014-2015. Before joining the Government, he worked as a society and democracy researcher for the Timor Institute of Development Studies.

Andrew Robertson:
Mr. Robertson is Executive Officer for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia. The Department was involved in the consultation and development of Australia’s NAP-WPS, and is a responsible agency in its implementation strategy.

Atikah Nuraini:
Ms. Nuraini is Learning Coordinator at Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR) with over 17 years of experience in human rights and social justice. She is skilled in participatory training facilitation, design and evaluation. Ms. Nuraini has extensive experience in collecting stories of victims of human rights violations using oral history and digital narratives, and in developing database applications for human rights cases. Her key professional skills include human rights and legal training, transitional justice, peace and conflict, and advocacy for vulnerable minority groups.

Atsuko Miwa:
Ms. Miwa is Researcher at the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute, Japan. Previously, she was a Programme Officer at UN Women. She has conducted extensive research on gender, development and human rights. She has participated in conferences on UNSCR 1325, WPS and Japan’s NAP, as well as on related issues including women’s empowerment and political participation.

Audrey Micah Manu:
Ms. Manu is National Programme Coordinator of UN Women’s Advancing Gender Justice in the Pacific programme, Solomon Islands. She has worked in development for over 15 years with various economic and political governance agencies and organizations. Previously, she was National Programme Coordinator for NZAID.
National Projects Coordinator with the Civic Education Project of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission; Operations Manager for a local NGO, the Solomon Islands Development Trust; and Curriculum Developer with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development. Ms. Manu is an accredited BRIDGE facilitator and has worked closely with both civil society and government partners to promote gender equality and rights of women and marginalized groups in the Solomon Islands.

Bandana Rana:
Ms. Rana is the founder and Executive Chair of Saathi, a Nepali NGO working to stop violence against women and girls. She was recently elected one of the 11 new expert members of the United Nations CEDAW Committee. She has worked at grassroots, national and global levels on gender issues, particularly gender-based violence and women’s empowerment. Ms. Rana was a member of the high-level expert advisory group to the Global Study on the Implementation of Resolution 1325, and the lead consultant for the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction on the development of Nepal’s NAP-WPS. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, has run training programs on UNSCR 1325, and was previously Chairperson of Nepal’s National Women’s Commission.

Carla Silbert:
Ms. Silbert is a women’s human rights policy adviser, lawyer and writer. She works with the UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on WPS. She recently authored UN Women Myanmar’s The Nationwide Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific on WPS. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, has run training programs on UNSCR 1325, and was previously Chairperson of Nepal’s National Women’s Commission.

Chandni Shreshtha Rai:
Ms. Rai is an executive director of Sankalpa -- Women’s Alliance for Peace, Justice and Democracy, in Nepal. She served as a country director of CCS Italy, working to improve the lives of the people in Nepal. Before that, she was Chief Executive of Britain Nepal Medical Trust (BNMT), the first Nepali female CEO of an international organization. She also was Governance Sector Manager of SNV for three years. She was a Policy, Planning and Resource Director of Save the Children US, and worked in the Ministry of Health for more than 18 years in different capacities.

Chandani Bandara:
Ms. Bandara is a politician, Member of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, and the Minister of Women and Child Affairs. She has been advocating for the implementation of long-term programmes to eliminate child rape, abuse, and related crimes. During her tenure, the Sri Lankan Government initiated an amendment to the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance aimed at increasing women’s participation in local government. In March 2019, Ms. Bandara delivered a statement at the 60th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. She noted the importance of empowering women to ensure successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, as well as the importance of gender mainstreaming in government action plans.

Chandani Senaratna:
Ms. Senaratna joined the Sri Lanka Administrative Service in 1984. During her 31 years in public service, she has worked in several Ministries, departments and institutions including the Presidential Secretariat. Ms. Senaratna was promoted as the Secretary to the Public Service Commission in 2011 and currently is Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. She has expertise in management, procurement management, e-governance, and land and land development.

Claire Bibby:
Senior Sergeant Bibby of the New Zealand Police works in the District Command Centre in Wellington. She represented the Police on the Foreign Affairs-led inter-agency group that wrote the New Zealand NAP for United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including 1325 on WPS. Senior Sergeant Bibby has led two teams on international deployment -- in the Solomon Islands with RAMSI (2011-2012) and the police partnership programme to Vanuatu (2013). She designed the first ethnic and religious diversity training for police recruits and presented on this at the International Association of Women in Policing Conference in Australia and in the New Zealand Association of Training and Development. In the last three years, she has undertaken a variety of roles implementing strategic change to enhance police service delivery at the senior sergeant and inspector levels, alternating between police districts and the National Headquarters. Before returning to frontline policing, she was in the Policy Group and in Emergency Management, in the Border and National Security team.

Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah:
Since 2007, Ms. Kholifah has been Director of the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) in Indonesia. She is an active member of global alliances including the Asia-Pacific Women’s Alliance on Peace and Security, Action Asia, N-Peace, and Women Waging Peace. In 2015, Ms. Kholifah was appointed co-chair for the CSO forum on the High level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held in Bali in 2013. She has published many books and articles on religion, gender, women and peacebuilding, fundamentalism and governance. She has received many awards for her work on women and peacebuilding.

Ethel Sigimanu:
Ms. Sigimanu is the Solomon Islands Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs. She has over 26 years of experience in public service, serving in the Ministries associated with administration, planning and management and the leadership needed for effective service delivery to the people. Her current Ministry is responsible for the overall coordination and planning of policy implementation. Ms. Sigimanu has a strong affinity with the work of civil society and has sat on the boards and committees of a number of CSOs, especially women’s organizations. Her interests are in promoting services for women, youth and children and promoting gender equality and the rights of young people, children and other vulnerable groups.

Fatima Bakhs:
Ms. Bakhs works at UN Women Afghanistan.

Fatima Ghulami:
Ms. Ghulami joined UN Women Afghanistan in February 2016 as Political Empowerment Associate. She has worked with the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee, Development Overseas Institute and the Parliament of Afghanistan. She also has worked at women-led NGOs to promote capacity-building programs for young women and conduct research on women’s rights.

Fatima Pir Allian:
Ms. Pir Allian is the program manager of a women’s NGO based in Mindanao, Philippines, Nisa Ul Haqq fi Bangladesh. She was active in the writing of the Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710). She has over 12 years of experience in community mediation and peacebuilding. She is an advocate/lawyer, as well as a District Coordinator at the Rural Women’s Development & Unity Center in Kailali, Nepal. Ms. Pir Allian has worked in various capacities. The organization is currently sharing the recommendations with other CSOs. The organization is currently sharing the recommendations with other CSOs.

Fatima Kadayat:
Mr. Kadayat has 12 years of experience in community mediation and peacebuilding. He is an advocate/lawyer, as well as a District Coordinator at the Rural Women’s Development & Unity Center in Kailali, Nepal. Ms. Pir Allian has participated in and conducted many trainings in gender-based and domestic violence, dialogue facilitation and mediation, natural resources conflicts, transitional justice, UNSCRs 1325 and 1820, advocacy, leadership, and social mobilization. He has significant experience in NGO/ INGO coordination, and has worked with various stakeholders in programme implementation and training.

Gatte C. Sandoval:
Ms. Sandoval is former Undersecretary for Programs and Head, NAP-WPS Steering Committee Secretariat Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Office of the President, Philippines. She supervised the implementation of two final peace agreements with former members of the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, as well as a development program for conflict-affected communities to complement the peace negotiations. She headed the Secretariat of the Steering Committee on the NAP-WPS, chaired its Technical Working Group, and coordinated the implementation of the NAP-WPS by the Aquino administration from 2010 to 2016. Ms. Sandoval is a lawyer, trainer and advocate for women’s empowerment. She was active in the writing and lobbying for landmark legislation on women including the Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710).

Ghotali Sahlanean:
Ms. Sahlanean is a women’s rights activist in Afghanistan. She started her activities in women’s rights promotion, women’s literacy and women and child rights awareness when she was a refugee in Peshawar, Pakistan, and then in Afghanistan, where she established the Afghan Women Skills Development Center. She is an active member of AWN and has participated in numerous national and international conferences and workshops. She played a
key role in encouraging women to take part in politics, especially in elections, while she was a gender advisor for the Independent Election Commission. Ms. Sahibyan has always been an active member of women’s groups advocating for women’s rights. She speaks Pashtu, Dari, English and Urdu.

Habiba Sarabi:
Dr. Habiba Sarabi is Deputy of the High Peace Council and Advisor on women’s issues to the Chief Executive of Afghanistan. Previously, she was the Women’s Affairs Minister. She was also the country’s first female provincial governor, in Bamyan Province, 2005-2013. Dr. Sarabi has been committed to supporting education for girls and supporting Afghan refugees, and was Vice President of Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan.

Hanny Cueva Beteta:
Ms. Cueva Beteta is UN Women’s Governance and Security Advisor for Asia and the Pacific. Before this, she was the coordinator of the Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). Until October 2014, she served as the Gender Advisor to UNCT for the UN Women office in Peru. Previously, she was Policy Advisor and Deputy to the Chief Advisor for the Peace and Security Section at UN Women in New York. She has led various global programmes, including on gender-responsive peacebuilding; the development and implementation of NAPs; promoting women’s political participation and making public service delivery more gender-responsive. Before joining the United Nations in 2006, Ms. Cueva Beteta was a researcher and lecturer at the Universidad del Pacific in Lima, Peru, where she published extensively on issues of poverty and development economics.

Hideo Fukushima:
Mr. Fukushima is the Minister (Deputy Chief of Mission) and Permanent Representative to ESCAP, the Embassy of Japan, Thailand.

Hiroko Hashimoto:
Ms. Hashimoto is Professor Emeritus of Gendard Studies and Principal of Jumonji High School, in Tokyo. She has been Japan’s Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women since 2011. She has actively participated in NGO movements for Beijing+5 in 2000, Towards Beijing+10 in 2005 as well as towards Beijing+20. Ms. Hashimoto also was an advisor to the Japanese Government delegation to the United Nations General Assembly’s Special Session on Women in 2000 and 2010. She was a member of a small group that formulated the 1325 NAP together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Ministries. Since 2013, she has conducted research on the achievements and challenges of NAPs on UNSCR 1325. The research is funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science under the Ministry of Education.

Hitoshi Kozaki:
Mr. Kozaki is First Secretary and Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Japan, Thailand.

Iriantoni Almuna:
Mr. Almuna is National Programme Officer of UN Women Indonesia.

Jacqui True:
Ms. True is Director of the Monash GPS (Gender, Peace and Security Centre), Professor of Politics & International Relations and Australian Research Council Future Fellow, Monash University, Australia. She has held academic positions at Michigan State University, the University of Southern California, and the University of Auckland. She is a specialist in gender and international relations. Her research focuses on the political economy of post-conflict violence against women and the patterns of systemic sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected Asia-Pacific countries. Recent publications include “Reframing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” in Security Dialogue with Sara E. Davies, and Scandalous Economics: The Politics of Gender and Financial Crises (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016), edited with Aida Hozi. Her book, The Political Economy of Violence Against Women (Oxford, 2012), won the American Political Science Association’s 2012 biennial prize for the best book on human rights and the British International Studies Association’s 2012 biennial prize in international relations.

Jasmin Galace:
Ms. Galace is Executive Director of the Center for Peace Education (CPE) and Professor at the College of International, Humanitarian and Development Studies at Miriam College in the Philippines. She has authored and co-authored publications on peace education, conflict resolution, arms control and women, peace and security. She is currently National Coordinator of Women Engaged in Action on 1325, a national network of peace, human rights and women’s organizations that helps implement the NAP on UNSCR 1325 and 1820. Ms. Galace is President of Pax Christi Pilipinas and Chair of the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines’ Justice and Peace Education Committee. She is also a Member of the Board of the Philippine Council for Global and Peace Education and leads the Peace Education Network. She is on the Steering Board of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. She represents the CPE at the Women Peace-makers Program-Asia, the Asia-Pacific Women’s Alliance on Peace and Security, and the IANSA Women’s Network. She is also in the Group of Experts of Forum Arms Trade.

Jawid Najmyar:
Mr. Najmyar has served in different United Nations agencies including UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP, and brings many years of experience in the areas of gender equality, elimination of violence against women and women’s empowerment.

Jenny Lee:
Ms. Lee is Assistant Director for Women, Peace and Security and Protection of Civilians at the Australian Civil Military Centre. She has research, teaching and field experience in human rights advocacy and development with grassroots NGOs and United Nations agencies in Nepal, the Republic of Korea and throughout Central America. She is also a guest lecturer at Charles Darwin University in Australia, in its Masters of Disaster Management programme. Ms. Lee served as the gender expert at the Australian Defence Force Peace Operations Training Centre, and also as a Civil Military Liaison Officer. She has been deployed on the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands and Operation Southern Indian Ocean to support the multinational search for MH370 as a Military Liaison Officer.

Jitendra Bohara:
Mr. Bohara is IGM Nepal’s Policy and Program Advisor in leading the Transition and Recovery Unit and covers areas such as transitional justice, peacebuilding and conflict management; human rights, camp coordination and camp management, and disaster management. He has been involved with the organization for more than seven years. He has more than nine years of work experience in human rights, transitional justice, peacebuilding, and disaster preparedness. His key skills include policy and program development and management, liaising with donors and governments.

Justin Borgia:
Mr. Borgia is Secretary to the Department of Community Development of the Autonomous Bougainville Government in Papua New Guinea. He manages programs, operations and policy initiatives to empower women, civil structures and communities. He contributed to post-conflict development, reconstruction and peacebuilding in Bougainville under the UNDP, engaging with factions, development partners and government agencies while drawing on national and regional post-conflict experiences. Mr. Borgia also engaged with key stakeholders of the Panguna mine in Bougainville, including landowners and factions, to reach common ground on the future of the mine, which as a centre of contention led to the 10-year war in Bougainville. Before that, while employed at the Ok Tedi Mine in Western Province of Papua New Guinea, he contributed to ensuring that affected communities fairly benefited from mine-related business spinoffs and contract work.

Karuna Ohta:
Dr. Ohta is a Social Development Advisor for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland’s Depart- ment for International Development, Nepal Office. She has over 15 years of experience in development, and has worked in countries including Nepal, India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Viet Nam. Her fields of expertise include communications; gender equality and the empowerment of women; the prevention of gender-based violence against women and girls; women, peace and security; integrating gender and social inclusion in development programmes; and providing community-based psychosocial support to vulnerable groups. Dr. Ohta began her career by teaching in the Psychology Department of Tribhuvan University, and has since worked for institutions including John Hopkins University, the Academy for Educational Development and UNICEF. Karuna is committed to promoting rights, equality and justice for the most vulnerable and excluded groups in society.

Katrina Lee-Koo:
Ms. Lee-Koo is Deputy Director of the Monash University Gender Peace and Security Research Program, in Aus- tralia. She is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations and is particularly interested in the protection of women and children in armed conflict, and their participation in peacebuilding. Ms. Lee-Koo is currently the chief investi- gator of the project Gender after Conflict, which focuses on the United Nations WPS agenda and its translation into policy and practice by states in post-conflict zones.
Her research focuses on Australia’s NAP-WPS. She is a member of the WPS Academic Collective and the WPS Civil Society Coalition, and is involved in civil society monitoring of Australia’s NAP-WPS.

Kayoko Fukushima:
Ms. Fukushima has been Director of the UN Women Japan Liaison Office since 2015. At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, she has engaged in a variety of fields of diplomacy including with the United Nations, public diplomacy, development, the environment, and science and technology. She also worked at the Japan’s Embassy in Ireland, Consulate in New York and Embassy in Thailand.

Krishna Bhattarai:
Mr. Bhattarai is a development professional with more than 15 years of experience in managing and implementing projects in areas including women, peace and security; social mobilization; local governance; and economic empowerment of small farmers in Nepal. He currently is working with the UN WPS Unit as Programme Officer. Before joining UN Women, he worked as a Programme Officer for UNFPA from 2010 to 2013. He was an Institutional Development and Organizational Strengthening Advisor and Governance Advisor with SNV Netherland Development Organisation Nepal from 2006 to 2010. Mr. Bhattarai also worked with the District Development Committee, Ilam, Nepal from 2001 to 2006, as Programme Officer designing, planning and managing DDC’s social development programme. He also worked with two NGOs.

Kyoko Hokugo:
Ms. Hokugo is a Director of the Gender Mainstreaming Division, Foreign Policy Bureau Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan. She is responsible for realizing a “society where women shine” through diplomacy, and manages the WAW! (World Assembly for Women). Before this, Ms. Hokugo was Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Belgium. She joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1995. Her past assignments included strengthening of Japan-Belgium relations as well as trade negotiator in charge of the WTO and Japan-EU EPA.

Leela Sharma:
Ms. Sharma is Chairperson of the Ex-People’s Liberation Army Woman’s Academy in Nepal. She was instrumental in establishing the academy.

Manassine Mootattam:
Ms. Mootattam is a diplomat representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand.

Marula Leong Pereira:
Ms. Leong Pereira is the Director of ACB:it (Aiosiasun Chegali Ba Ita/Chega/Enough for Us Association), an NGO in Timor-Leste supporting women SGBV victims. ACB:it aims to promote the values and principles of the report of the Commission for Reconciliation, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor, including human rights, justice and reconciliation. Previously, she was head of office for ICTJ Timor-Leste, managing a team to implement a transitional justice program. She was also Director of Fokupers, one of Timor-Leste’s oldest women’s NGOs, working with the victims of the conflict. Ms. Leong Pereira’s expertise lies particularly in gender issues and organizing grassroot groups and communities. She is skilled in facilitating training on women rights and base organizing groups. Since 2014, she has been active in advocacy on Timor-Leste’s NAP on UN Resolusion 1325, and was a member of the group that drafted the NAP.

Mari Kogiso:
Ms. Kogiso is Department Director of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, Japan. Previously, she was the representative of Dalberg Japan, a strategy and policy advisory firm specializing in global development. She also worked for the World Bank Group, as Representative for the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency in Tokyo.

Maricel Aguilar:
Ms. Aguilar is the Project Officer - Peace and Security, at UN Woman Philippines.

Mi Kun Chan Non:
Ms. Mi Kun Chan Non is ethnic Mon and Director of the Women Empowerment and Community Development Programme of the Mon Women’s Organisation. She is one of the founders of the Mon Women’s Network. For more than 15 years, she has worked as an advocate for gender justice, leading initiatives on women’s leadership, political participation and inclusive security. She is currently strongly engaged with advocating for women’s participa-
tion in the peace process. She is an active volunteer for CBOs and CSOs in Mon State as an advisor and leader. In 2012, Ms. Mi Kun Chan Non served as one of the few observers of the peace talks between the Myanmar Government and New Mon State Party. She serves as a Management Team member at the Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process. She was awarded the N Peace Award 2014 Untold Story Myanmar.

Mio Yokota:
Ms. Yokota works at UN Women Nepal.

Mehbullah Taib:
Mehbullah Taib is deputy officer in charge at the Human Rights and Women Affairs department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has held this position since the start of 2016, after returning from a diplomatic mission in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Mr. Taib was the first Secretary and the first Afghan diplomat to be posted in Azerbaijan to expand and strengthen the relationship with the Caucasus (Republic of Azerbaijan and Georgia). Before being posted to Azerbaijan, Mr. Taib had worked at the Human Rights and Women Affairs department for three years.

Mossarat Qadeem:
Ms. Qadeem is co-founder of PAIMAN Alumni Trust. She is an internationally known expert on countering violent extremism (CVE) and de-radicalization, and has returned hundreds of extremist youths. She has contributed to the policy framework development of UNDTEC New York and serves as a resource person for many international organizations on WPS and CVE. Ms. Qadeem has published two books and many articles, and produced documentaries on peace education, the roles of youths and women in CVE, and women’s experiences with conflict and extremism. She is a member of a minis-
tification of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa Province in the interim government and remains a member of FAT4 Reform Commission.

Pavi Kannisto:
Ms. Kannisto is Chief of the Peace and Security Section of UN Women, based at UN Women Headquarters in New York. Previously, she was Senior Adviser in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland, where she was responsible for equality issues in development policy. She has extensive experience working for the Foreign Ministry, the United Nations, and the Crisis Management Initiative, both in Finland and abroad.

Ramasya Salgado:
Ms. Salgado is Programme Analyst at UN Woman Sri Lanka.

Rishi Rajbhandari:
Mr. Rajbhandari is Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction of the Government of Nepal. The Ministry coordinated Nepal’s NAP-WPS.

Riza Torrado:
Ms. Torrado is National Project Officer of UN Women based in Cotabato City, Philippines. She oversees the field-level implementation of the Peace-building Fund Project and the EU funded Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice Programme in the proposed Bangsamoro core territories. She works with women leaders, civil society organizations and local government bodies to promote and institutionalize women’s leadership and political participation among the Moro and Indigenous People.

Roberta Clarke:
Ms. Clarke is Regional Director of UN Women for the Asia-Pacific and Representative in Thailand. Previously, she was Regional Programme Director of UN Women Caribbean. Before joining the United Nations, she worked with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. From 1992 to 1999, she practiced as a lawyer in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Clarke has extensive experience in civil society engagement at national, regional and international levels, and currently sits on the Advisory Councils of Interights and the International Council for Human Rights Policy. She was a board member of the Women’s Law and Development International and the Trinidad and Tobago Family Planning Association. Ms. Clarke has written on violence against women in the Caribbean, human rights, law and development and gender mainstreaming. She has strong interest in the areas of recognition, redress, the rights of victims in a concentrated HIV epidemic and of national prevention strategies targeting populations at higher risks.

Rose Phiel:
Ms. Phiel is President of the Bougainville Women Feder-
aton, and former Minister in the Bougainville Parliament. In 2015, she established the Bougainville Women Integrated Community Learning Centre in Konnou Constituency, Buin District of South Bougainville. She is a member of the Peace Audit Team in Bougainville, a member of the human rights working group of the Southern Bougainville Region, and was a peace broker between fighting factions in the Konnou constituency from 2005 to 2009. Previously, Ms. Phiel was elected Regional Coordinator for all Pentecostal Churches in Bougainville, and has worked in various women’s and church community groups. Her extensive experience in peace processes in Bougainville

Paivi Kannisto:
Saur Tumiur Situmorang:
Ms. Situmorang is Chair of Task Force of Papua for 2015-2019. This is her second time on the National Commission on Violence against Women (Komnas Perempuan). Previously, she was Executive Secretary for the Center for Research, Democracy and People Organization Development (CREDDO). She has written several publications and reports on Indonesia.

Sharon Bhagwan Rolls:
Ms. Bhagwan Rolls is a Fiji Islander and Executive Producer-Director of FemiLINKAPIFICIF. In February 2015, she was elected Chairperson of the Board of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict. She is also Chairperson of the Board of the Global Fund for Women. Her work empowers the community media to increase the visibility of women and their viewpoints. She has lobbied at formal and informal government forums on communication rights and community media and for implementation of UNSCR 1325 within the Forum Regional Security Committee of the Pacific Islands Forum, as well as at the United Nations. Ms. Bhagwan Rolls coordinated civil society input into the development of the Pacific Regional Action Plan on WPS (2016-2021) and was subsequently appointed a CSO member of the Pacific Islands Forum's Regional Working Group on WPS. She was a member of the United Nations high-level advisory group for the Global Study on UNSCR 1325. She also served as a member of the UN Women's Gender Equality and Women's Rights Advisory Group and the Programme Management Group of the Pacific Media Assistance Scheme (PACMAS), and is a Global Ambassador for the WACC Global Media Monitoring Project.

Siti Darojatul Aliah (Dete):
Ms. Aliah has been Managing Director of Indonesia’s Yayasan Prasasti Perdamaian (YPP) -- the Institute for International Peace Building – since 2014. She has been involved in YPP since 2010 as the supervisory board member of the organization. She has conducted research on the role of women and countering violent extremism and terrorism, and on the perceptions of Islamic grass-roots organization on democracy in Indonesia. Ms. Aliah is one of the founders of INDEPTH Indonesia, an NGO concerned with electoral issues. She is the founder of APWLD’s Feminist Participatory Action Research team researching sexual violence against indigenous women and girls of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and their access to justice with the Kapaeeng Foundation. She was also one of the key coordinators for One Billion Rising Bangladesh, part of VDAY’s global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women.

Yin Yin Pyone:
Ms. Pyone is the Deputy Director of the Women Development Division in the Department of Social Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in Myanmar. She is a qualified social worker with experience in women’s development, peace and security.

Yoriko Meguro:
Ms. Meguro is Professor Emeritus, Sophia University, Tokyo, where she taught and did research from 1974 to 2010. In the mid 1970s she introduced women’s and gender studies to Japanese academia and established the sociology of gender field in Japan. Ms. Meguro has done research on women/gender and development since the 1980s, based on comparative studies of social structure and culture from a gender perspective. She is the author of numerous books, book chapters and articles. Ms. Meguro was an alternate representative of the Japanese Government to the United Nations General Assembly in 1994 and 1995, and was the representative of Japan to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from 1998 to 2010.

has included rehabilitation, coordination and facilitating the resettlement of displaced families, and maintaining continuous dialogue between the government and factional leaders and the community. In 2010, she represented the Woman of South Bougainville as an Elected Member.

Ruchi Thapa:
Ms. Thapa is IOM Nepal’s Senior Program Associate, and an expert on peacebuilding, conflict management, transitional justice, gender equality and social inclusion and conflict-related sexual violence. She has been involved with the organization for more than three years. Ms. Thapa has more than eight years of work experience in women’s empowerment, human rights and peacebuilding. Her key skills include program development, monitoring and evaluation, data management, liaising with the government and program reporting.

Sama Shrestha:
Ms. Shrestha is Head of the Peace and Security Programme of UN Women Nepal. She has more than 16 years of experience working in the complex conflict, post-conflict, development and humanitarian continuum. Most of her experience have been in providing leadership in managing peacebuilding and humanitarian programmes. This has included the WPS and humanitarian action thematic areas of UN Women, one of the biggest peacebuilding programmes of Nepal, LIYALO, and taking the lead in implementing the Peacebuilding and Conflict Sensitivity Strategy of CARE International in Nepal. Ms. Shrestha has worked on the economic recovery of conflict victims; strengthening leadership of women in post-conflict contexts; developing capacities around WPS issues; and supporting the preparation and implementation of the NAP-WPS. As a member of the Senior Management Team, she took part in formulating UN Women’s Nepal policy, the programme on Women’s Rights, Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, and the United Nations Development Framework.

Sabaibit Mahato:
Mr. Mahato is Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, the Government of Nepal. The Ministry coordinated Nepal’s NAP-WPS.

Satoshi Yoshida:
Mr. Yoshida is First Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Thailand.

Suparnvasa Chotikajan:
Ms. Chotikajan is Minister Counsellor, Peace, Security and Disarmament Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand.

Tora Adachi:
Mr. Adachi is the Deputy Permanent Representative to ESCAP, Embassy of Japan, Thailand.

Trimita Chaikna:
Ms. Chaikna works at Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) as the Research and Communications Officer. She belongs to the indigenous Chaikna community from the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. Prior to joining APWLD in 2014, Ms. Chaikna was a mentor for APWLD’s Feminist Participatory Action Research team researching sexual violence against indigenous women and girls of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and their access to justice with the Kapaeeng Foundation. She was also one of the key coordinators for One Billion Rising Bangladesh, part of VDAY’s global campaign to raise awareness about violence against women.

Vagisha Gunasekara:
Ms. Gunasekara is a Senior Researcher at the Centre for Poverty Analysis in Sri Lanka, and manages the organization’s Research and Policy Programmes on post-war development and migration. She has more than eight years of experience researching post-war reconstruction, gender and conflict, and comparative social policy, and has conducted research for academic institutions, NGOs and multilateral agencies. Her recent work looks at the political economy of household indebtedness and the changing nature of capital-labour relations and livelihoods in post-war settings. Ms. Gunasekara is also a member of the Board of Directors at the Women’s Education and Research Centre (WERC), Sri Lanka.

Vicenta Maria Correia:
Ms. Correia works at UN Women Timor-Leste.

Wenny Kusuma:
Ms. Kusuma is Country Director, UN Women Cambodia. Previously, she was Representative of UN Women Afghanistan.
Afghanistan’s NAP is a two-phase plan (2015-2018 and 2019-2022) that responds to the tremendous upheaval in women’s lives during three decades of conflict and insecurity. The plan has a thematic focus on relief and recovery and women’s political participation, particularly in the peace process and security sector. The NAP is broad in scope and addresses women’s insecurity in sectors such as health, education, and the economy. It focuses on access to justice and protection, and on increasing women’s capacity to participate in politics and civil society.

Before the NAP was developed, WPS concerns were included in national legislation and policies. The Constitution contains provisions on non-discrimination and equality under the law; women’s right to vote and to be represented in the National Assembly; and parliamentary quotas. Other articles affirm women’s access to education, healthcare and employment as necessary for meaningful political participation and relief and recovery.

The NAP has an accompanying implementation plan, as well as complementary government policies. The NAP for the Women of Afghanistan (2008-2018) is the main national instrument for women’s empowerment and gender equality. Like the NAP for WPS, it has a wide scope, addressing education, health, economy, eliminating violence against women, and political participation— including a commitment to increasing to 30 per cent the proportion of women in the civil service.
Australia’s NAP (2012) has a strategic focus on the country’s external engagement with peace and security. The WPS concerns in the plan primarily relate to Australia’s overseas relations. The NAP focuses on mainstreaming gender in peacekeeping and military missions, and in humanitarian work.

Australia is particularly active in promoting peace and security in the Asia-Pacific. The Australian Federal Police is involved in a police development program in the Pacific, chiefly in the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste, and the Australian Defence Force continues to work in Afghanistan. On domestic WPS matters, the NAP addresses law enforcement in indigenous communities and increasing women’s participation in the police, the military, the Parliament, and public offices. The NAP is organized around five overarching thematic areas: prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery, and normative objectives.

The NAP sits in the Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister, and is coordinated by a WPS Inter-Departmental Working Group that meets biannually. The Working Group also meets annually with NGOs, and CSOs are encouraged to develop publicly available shadow progress reports. Monitoring and evaluation is done through a mix of quantitative and qualitative measures organized under each of the five strategic areas. The indicators include: the number of military, police and civil personnel deployed in WPS-trained operations; descriptions of assistance provided for WPS-related activities; and the number and outcomes of interdepartmental meetings that address WPS. Various agencies are assigned responsibility for monitoring the implementation of each measure.

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Indonesia’s Presidential Decree on WPS (The National Action Plans for the Protection and Empowerment of Women and Children during Social Conflicts (2014-2019) is programmatic and domestically focused. It is grounded in two major interventions for women and girls’ peace and security – protection and empowerment. The decree pays particular attention to situations of armed conflict, social conflict and violence, and to victims and survivors of violent conflict. Its focus on empowerment has a dual scope: improving the lives of survivors, and increasing women and girls’ participation in peace-building.

The plan serves as a guideline for the Ministries, other institutions, and local governments. It outlines three Programs within the themes of protection and empowerment: Preventative Program; Handling Program; and Woman Empowerment and Child Participation Program. Three commitments underscore this WPS plan – CEDAW, the Human Rights Declaration, and a Presidential Decree on Social Conflict Management.

The coordination, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of the NAP is in line with its domestic focus. A Central Coordination Centre leads Working Groups at city, district and provincial levels. Working Groups at each level must keep track of conflicts in their assigned areas, and provide protection and empowerment to women and girls. The Chairperson reports annually to the President, and the Central Coordination Centre conducts yearly evaluations of quarterly and annual reports from the subnational levels. CSOs and religious groups are encouraged to participate; they were involved in the plan’s initial implementation.
Japan’s NAP (launched in 2015) is thematically organized, focusing on the pillars of participation; conflict prevention; protection; humanitarian and reconstruction assistance; and monitoring, evaluation and review. Particular emphasis is paid to women’s participation in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and reconstruction. The plan emphasizes that increasing women’s participation is integral to each pillar; each pillar, therefore, details strategies to achieve this. The plan’s focuses reflect Japan’s experience with large-scale natural disasters, and the importance of considering women’s unique needs during disasters, and including them in disaster risk reduction efforts. Although Japan has not been involved in large-scale conflict for over 70 years, the NAP has an external perspective because of Japan’s involvement in international conflict prevention and peacekeeping.

The NAP details specific measures for each of the five pillars. These measures specify goals and actions such as training officials and personnel; providing assistance to victims; and establishing mechanisms for prosecution and punishment. Each action is assigned indicators, as well as oversight bodies. Because this is Japan’s first NAP on WPS, the evaluation pillar will focus on whether improvements have been made over the long term. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which led in the development of the NAP, oversees most of the indicators.

Republic of Korea’s NAP (2014) is thematically organized around four pillars with 10 objectives. The Korean peninsula has been divided since the Korean War, and the NAP is tailored to be responsive to this context. The issues of unification, the armistice agreement, and North Korean refugees are mentioned across the four themes of the plan. The Protection theme addresses the importance of developing gender-sensitive policies to protect North Korean refugees from human trafficking, sexual exploitation and domestic violence. The Participation theme pledges to promote women’s participation in international meetings on conflict resolution, as well as in decision-making regarding unification.

The NAP is complemented by an implementation and monitoring strategy that engages many Ministries and agencies, with inter-agency meetings to be held twice a year. The plan institutionalizes and coordinates Government-wide WPS efforts. It clearly assigns particular Ministries or agencies to each strategy within the 10 objectives. The plan emphasizes the involvement of CSOs in this process, as well as in all four of the thematic pillars.
Nepal’s NAP (formulated in 2011) is a thematic plan with strategic objectives and specific actions. The five thematic areas are Participation; Protection and Prevention; Promotion; Relief and Recovery; Resource Management; and Monitoring and Evaluation.

A peace agreement in 2006 ended Nepal’s decade-long armed civil conflict. Women were inadequately represented in the process of formulating the agreement, but women’s groups have been strong participants in the post-conflict period. The development of Nepal’s NAP was highly consultative, featuring district and regional-level consultations as well as consultations with conflict-affected women and girls. It is often cited as an example of good practice for this reason, as well as for its comprehensive background section, which details the history of Nepal’s conflict, women’s involvement, and the specific impacts of the armed conflict on women. As the NAP highlights: “Children and women have been the most affected by the armed conflict.”

The coordination and oversight of the NAP involves an eight-member High Level Steering Committee tasked with decision implementation and resource mobilization; a 14-member Implementation Committee tasked with local incorporation and monitoring; a 14-member District Coordination Committee from local-level NGOs, tasked with local incorporation and monitoring; and the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, tasked with monitoring and evaluation. In 2012, Nepal published its first NAP monitoring report. In 2013, the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction developed a NAP Localization Guideline. In 2015, a midterm review was launched, and in December 2015, the five-year plan was completed. Nepal is currently preparing for the second phase of its NAP.

New Zealand’s NAP (2015) is a thematic five-year plan. New Zealand has no recent history of armed conflict, so the plan focuses on the country’s external engagements, such as international aid and peacekeeping operations, and the deployment of women within senior ranks of the Defence Force and the Police. These objectives are organized across four fundamental focus points: Prevention, Participation, Protection, and Peacebuilding, Relief and Recovery. Each of these points is assigned various actions, indicators, and responsible lead agencies.

New Zealand is actively engaged abroad, particularly in the Pacific, through multilateral political engagements, foreign aid programmes, and extensive programs involving the New Zealand Police. The NAP outlines actions and indicators to ensure gender mainstreaming in these activities. For example, under Prevention, the NAP notes, “Agencies engaged in the prevention of conflict will formalise the inclusion of WPS into NZDF and NZ Police pre-deployment and other training”. The plan also addresses New Zealand Defence Force and New Zealand Police doctrine, policy directives and deployment planning frameworks.

The plan also focuses on the internal institutional structures of the NZDF and NZ Police. It stresses the importance of ensuring women occupy a range of roles, ranks and specializations. In 2015, women made up 15.5 per cent of the NZDF uniformed forces. Although this is an improvement, the plan commits to increasing the number and the seniority of women’s representation in national and United Nations-led peace processes.
The Pacific Regional Action Plan (2012-2015) is the only regional action plan in the Asia-Pacific. It covers broad themes across the Pacific, as well as national WPS commitments. The plan has a strategic focus, and pays strong attention to gender mainstreaming and political decision-making. One main objective is to increase women’s participation and leadership in conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping and security policy decision-making. This objective reflects the law enforcement, governance and security challenges of post-conflict situations in the Pacific. Although strategically focused, the plan also emphasizes the challenges climate change poses to women’s security in the Pacific.

The plan was developed by the Pacific Regional Working Group on WPS, together with members of the Pacific Island Forum, United Nations agencies and CSOs. Its regional scope reflects long-term Pacific collaboration. Its implementation is supported by pooling technical assistance, capacity development support and financial resources from Pacific Island Countries and Territories, CSOs, and United Nations agencies. The technical plan is detailed, with Priority Actions under three Focus Areas; each Priority Action is assigned Responsible Agencies, with lead and support agencies. Lead agencies are either the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat or the Pacific Community, at times with help from UN Women. Supporting agencies are from the United Nations, civil society, or the WPS Reference Group. A varied number of mostly quantitative indicators are assigned to each Priority Action.

### The Philippines

The Philippines’ NAP is organized thematically and purposively. Its main thematic purposes are: Protection and Prevention; Empowerment and Participation; Promotion and Mainstreaming; and Capacity Development and Monitoring and Reporting.

The Philippines has experienced civil conflict since the 1960s, and in Mindanao in particular, conflict is compromising women’s security. Armed conflicts disrupt economic activities, displace communities, threaten community and personal security, worsen poverty, disrupt schooling, increase fear and trauma and threaten lives. In this context, the plan gives women greater roles in peacebuilding, as negotiators and mediators, and in relief and recovery.

The plan was launched in 2009, making it the first NAP in Asia. It also is unique for its relatively long time frame -- seven years. It is supported by several peace-related policies, including a National Peace Plan adopted in 2004. That plan is not specific to women, but addresses complementary themes such as active citizens’ participation in peace processes, and enhancing policy environments conducive to peace and human security.

The NAP is implemented, monitored and evaluated through action points, result statements, indicators, and timelines, and by key actors organized within each pillar. Key actors include government agencies, local government units, CSOs, and the media; indicators are both qualitative and quantitative.
Of the nine NAPs in the Asia-Pacific, Timor-Leste’s is the newest. It was approved in April 2016 (2016-2020). The plan is thematic, covering the four WPS pillars: Participation, Prevention, Protection, and Peacebuilding. It was developed through collaboration among UN Women Timor-Leste, which provided technical assistance; the Ministry of Interior; the Secretary of State for Support and Socio-Economic Promotion of Women; and CSOs. Although the Government took the lead, the plan was developed through a participatory, bottom-up approach.

The plan comes during a transitional period for the country. Timor-Leste achieved independence only 15 years ago, and the NAP contains important commitments to unity and development. Women have made significant contributions to Timor-Leste’s struggle for independence, post-conflict recovery and peaceful development. At the same time, women continue to face persecution and discrimination, including those who suffered sexual and gender-based violence during the conflict. The NAP aims to give women equal voices in decision-making, and to ensure their security is improved through protection and increased access to services. In Timor-Leste, women’s parliamentary representation is the highest in the region. The NAP calls for action to advance women’s participation and leadership in peacebuilding beyond just numbers. It also aims to increase the role of women in preventing and mediating conflicts, to enhance women’s security, and to ensure they can live free from violence.