



ATA Task Force Women, Peace and Security

Situational Report – May 2019

ATA Task Force WPS

Several efforts have been made by the International Community to increase the effective participation of women in peace making and conflict prevention and to promote women's participation in decision making processes. In October 2018, the Atlantic Treaty Association created a specific Task Force dedicated to empowering women and supporting balanced gender inclusiveness in the field of Security and Defence.

In the framework of its activities, the ATA Task Force WPS is organizing public discussions, and preparing background material and analysis on the subject. The present report is aimed to inform the ATA network about the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security and how the main Organizations and Member States are implementing it. The Report will particularly focus on the existence of a National Action Plans (NAPs) for WPS among the Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) Member States have adopted.

Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) on 31 October 2000. This Resolution recognizes and addresses the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls and committed to enhance the role of women in different areas (e.g. prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction). It also states how important the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts is in maintaining and promoting peace and security, seeing a woman's voice as indispensable in the creation of lasting peace.

«In the four years since the adoption of resolution 1325, there has been a positive shift in international understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls and the importance of women's participation as equal partners in all areas related to peace and security»
2004 report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security

The Resolution urges all actors to consider the gendered differences inherent in conflict when developing peacebuilding solutions, and to increase women's participation in all UN peace and security efforts. It also urges all actors to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence (such as rape and other forms of sexual abuse) in situations of armed conflict. Many operational mandates, as well as implications for Member States and the entities of the UN system, are included in the Resolution. The Interagency Network on Women and Gender Equality established the Interagency Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security to ensure collaboration and coordination throughout the UN system in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. This Taskforce is chaired by the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

Relevant documents:

Read UNSCR 1325 in your preferred language here:

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/#resolution>

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/720/18/PDF/N0072018.pdf?OpenElement>

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/sg2004.htm>

<https://unwomen.org.au/our-work/focus-areas/women-peace-and-security/>

UN Contribution to WPS

UN Security Council Resolution 1325:

The United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is actively committed to increasing the effective participation of women in peace-making and conflict prevention efforts. This issue was concretely raised for the first time with the creation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) as a milestone for the WPS agenda. It was released in 2000 by the Security Council of the United Nations and its implementation implies specific programmatic obligations for each country. This Resolution consists of four pillars: **Prevention** - The role of women in conflict prevention; **Participation** - Women's participation in peacebuilding processes in order to promote gender equality in peace and security decision-making processes at national, regional and international levels; **Protection** - The protection of women's rights during and after conflicts; **Relief and Recovery** - Women's specific needs during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

A total of eight resolutions can be divided into two groups. The first group deals with the need for women's active and effective participation in peace-making and peacebuilding processes. The second group includes a first resolution that was adopted regarding conflict-related sexual violence in 2018. Since the adoption of this resolution, rape and other forms of sexual violence are no longer considered as inevitable side effects of armed conflicts but are rather treated as crimes against humanity. After the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the United Nations started to develop several mechanisms to be used for the implementation of the WPS agenda within its borders. Among the most remarkable results of its efforts, there are the United Nations Strategic Results Framework on WPS and the Annual Secretary-General Report on WPS which point out the achievements, gaps and challenges in moving the Agenda forward. The Security Council asked the UN Secretary General to propose a strategic framework that would effectively check, coordinate and promote the implementation of the resolution for the next 10 years. This framework provides a common vision for action which UN entities should consider in making concrete commitments to advance implementation of the WPS Agenda and many primary targets to be achieved by 2020 as well.

UN Women is the lead agency for the advancement of women within the United Nations. It was created following a global campaign led by women in civil society focused on improving gender equality and women empowerment. On 2 July 2010 the General Assembly voted unanimously to create the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, bringing together four United Nations offices focusing on gender equality. UN Women is mainly focused on supporting the Commission on the Status of Women and other intergovernmental bodies in formulating policies, helping Member States to implement these standards and holding the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality. Nowadays, there are several well-functioning organizations working closely to UN Women in order to fulfil its purposes. For example: The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE); the Friends of 1325; the Informal Expert Group (IEG) on WPS; the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network.

Reference documents:

<https://dppa.un.org/en/women-peace-and-security>

<https://www.peacewomen.org/UN/WPS-obligations>

NATO Contribution to WPS

Since the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on 31 October 2000, NATO has been committed to the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. The agenda is built on the importance of applying a gender lens to conflict prevention and response and its mandate is indeed essential to NATO's common values of individual liberty, democracy, human rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. Therefore, NATO, Allies and partner nations recognize the importance of integrating a gender perspective on the



organization's three essential core tasks **collective defense, crisis management** and **cooperative security**.

In December 2007 the first NATO/EAPC Policy on Women, Peace and Security was adopted, followed by an Action Plan in 2010. The Action Plan aimed to support the implementation of the Policy on WPS and was adopted at the Lisbon Summit on the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. At the 2018 Brussels Summit, both the Policy and Action Plan on WPS have been updated and endorsed. The newly endorsed Policy focuses on the integration of gender and the inclusion of women's voices in all aspects of NATO's work, such as throughout civilian and military structures, as an essential factor for the success of peace and security. The contribution and commitment to the implementation of the UNSCRs on WPS are made by integrating this Policy on a framework of 3 I's: Integration- making sure that gender equality is considered as an integral part of NATO policies, programmes and projects guided by effective gender mainstreaming practices; Inclusiveness- promoting an increased representation of women across NATO and in national forces to enhance operational effectiveness and success; and Integrity- enhancing accountability with the intent to increase awareness and implementation of the WPS agenda in accordance with international frameworks.

An important milestone was the creation of the position of the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative in 2012. This position aims to facilitate coordination and consistency in NATO's policies and activities and to take forward the implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy and Action Plan on WPS, serving as a high-level focal point for NATO's contributions to the WPS agenda. NATO and its partners also recognize the instrumental role of civil society in promoting the WPS agenda by overseeing the promotion of women's and girls' empowerment and the protection of their rights. For this reason, in 2016 the Civil Society Advisory Panel (CSAP) was established to better support NATO's implementation of the UNSCRs on WPS and assist in outreach efforts to women's organisations in national settings.

NATO actively works to incorporate gender perspectives into each step of its operations and missions (i.e. the analysis, planning, execution and evaluation), as well as promoting greater gender equality and increasing the participation of women in defense and security institutions both within the organisation and its Member Countries. Numerous entities within NATO (i.e. different divisions of governing bodies within NATO Headquarters, Strategic Commands) are responsible for monitoring and reporting the progress made by the Alliance.

Reference documents:

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2018_09/20180920_180920-WPS-Action-Plan-2018.pdf

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_91091.htm

EU Contribution to WPS

The **EU Strategic Approach to WPS** was the result of the joint work of the Member States and the European External Action Service (EEAS) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders at the EU institutional level. It represents the EU's perpetual commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its follow up resolutions on gender equality and women's empowerment. The EU Strategic Approach is meant to promote a stronger and more successful WPS agenda both internally and in the EU's external relations, putting the WPS Agenda at the centre of the full spectrum of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy.

The EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security 2018 was produced at the request of EU Member States, which are responsible to implement it both in their internal (e.g. domestic, judicial and human resources) and external (e.g. foreign and security, trade, and migration) policies. In

addition, the EU urges its Member States to create NAPs to ensure successful implementation. So far, twenty-five countries in Europe have a National Action Plan (NAP) pertaining to the WPS agenda, specifically regarding the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Eighteen of these twenty-five countries are EU member states. (The EU Member States which do not have a NAP are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Romania and Slovakia).

The EU Strategic Approach could be split in two main parts. The first part sets out the basic principles of the EU Strategic Approach to the WPS agenda. It also establishes the foundational components of gender mainstreaming, participation, prevention, protection and relief and recovery. On the other hand, the second part identifies some specific, fragile areas where the implementation of the WPS agenda should be enhanced. Overall, this document provides a solid basis for reaching equality between women and men as a fundamental value of the European Union. Furthermore, the EU Strategic Approach also acknowledges that this is not just a "female issue," as it also requires men and boys to be positive agents for changing gender stereotypes and social exclusion mechanisms.

On an institutional level, various representatives or units of the European External Action Service (EEAS) must follow the implementation of UNSCR 1325, including the EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and on UNSCR 1325. In 2009 the EU set up the EU Informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325. This Task Force is chaired by the EEAS and regularly brings together EU officials from the European Commission and EU Member States to share relevant information regarding UNSCR 1325. NATO, UN Women, OSCE and civil society are often invited to participate. The Task Force is also responsible for organizing annual meetings on UNSCR 1325 for EU Member States.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/37412/st15086-en18.pdf>

https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/human-rights-democracy/52808/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-united-nations-security-council-promoting-implementation-women-peace-and_en

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/720/18/PDF/N0072018.pdf?OpenElement>

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf

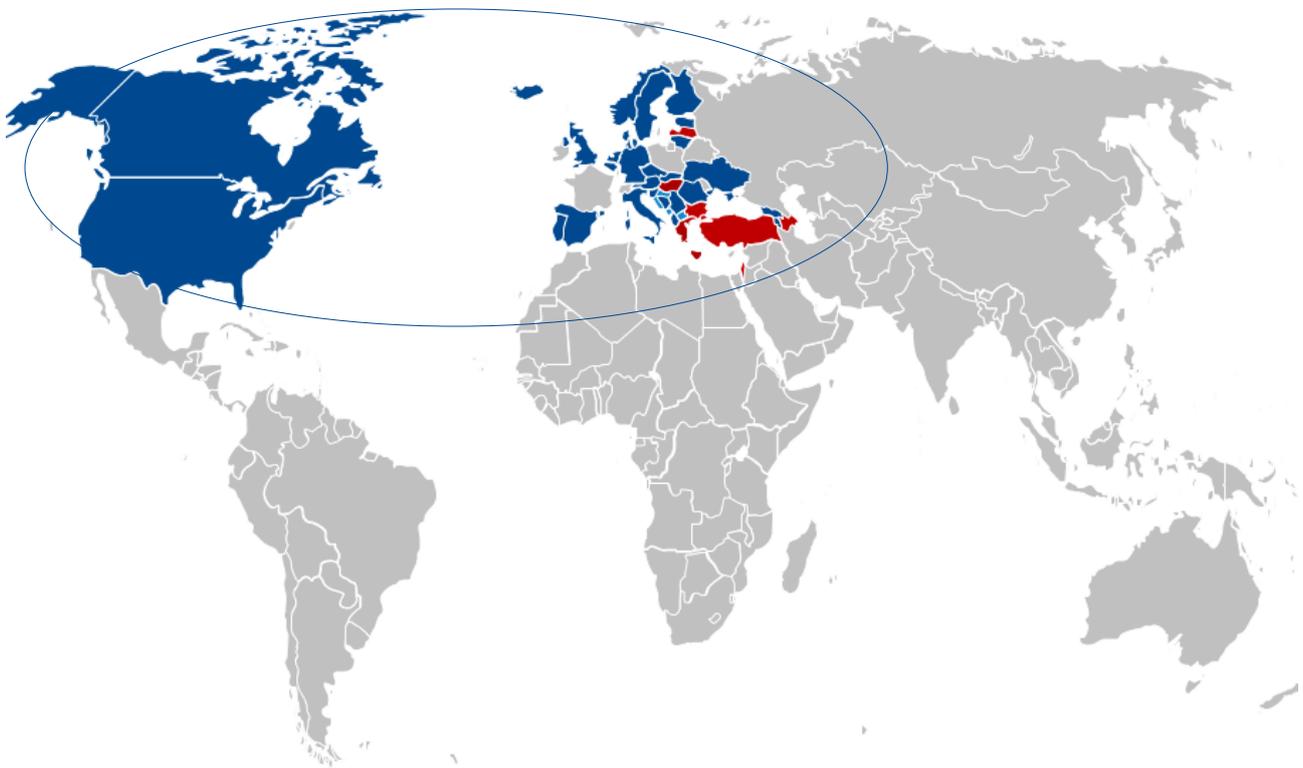
<http://eplo.org/activities/policy-work/gender-peace-security-2/implementation-of-unscr-1325-in-europe/>

<http://eplo.org/activities/policy-work/gender-peace-security-2/gender-mainstreaming-eu/>

NATIONAL ACTION PLANS WPS

The information below was mainly retrieved from the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* website: http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all as well as internal TF Members analysis.

Several States in which an Atlantic Treaty Association (ATA) Member or Associated Member is present have adopted National Action Plans (NAPs) for WPS (specifically regarding the Implementation of UNSCR 1325), including: Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America. ATA Member States which have had NAPs in the past but do not currently have NAPs in place include: North Macedonia, Montenegro. ATA Member States which have never had NAPs include: Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Slovakia, Turkey.



- Countries which have a NAP for the WPS.
- Countries without a renewed NAP for the WPS.
- Countries which does not have a NAP for the WPS.

Albania

Albania launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on September 2018, for the period between 2018 and 2020. The Albanian Government worked closely with many representatives of local authorities, international organizations, and civil society organizations (CSOs) throughout the development of the NAP. The main objectives of the NAP are: increasing the participation of women in the field of security at home and abroad, establishing a regulatory framework and capacities that enable better protection and rehabilitation of women in the field of peace and security, and taking measures for better monitoring and reporting of UNSCR 1325. Although Albania has not had a large violent uprising since 1997, Albanian women are still facing other forms of violence as women and children are often targeted for human trafficking. During the 2017 October Open Debate, Albania fully supported the Italian

initiative of creating a Mediterranean women mediator's network in order to prevent and mitigate conflict through the increased participation of women in peace processes. Despite being robust and detailed, Albania's first NAP 1325 (2018-2020) does not mention disarmament. However, it contains clear implementation, financing, monitoring and evaluation strategies.

National Action Plan (PDF):

[https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Albania%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Resolution%201325_ENG%20-%20CMD%20524-11.09.2019%20\(1\)%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Albania%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Resolution%201325_ENG%20-%20CMD%20524-11.09.2019%20(1)%20(2).pdf)

Armenia

The Armenian Government approved its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in February of 2019, making it the 80th UN member state to have adopted a NAP. In 2017, Armenia set up an inter-agency working group to work on this NAP. This involved collaboration between government agencies, civil society and international organizations. Women in Armenia have enjoyed equal political, economic and cultural rights since the beginning of 20th century, when Armenia declared its first independent republic in 1918. Armenia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Today the regional Nagorno Karabakh Conflict faces an increasing risk of renewed hostilities, which outcome is failure of mediation efforts and the escalating militarization. Due to the conflict, the Artsakh Republic is isolated from much development work, including work to strengthen women's rights. This conflict presents immediate threats to women and the whole population in general. The "Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation" works with local women's organizations in Artsakh, Armenia and Azerbaijan to increase women's power and influence in society and in the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process.

Armenia ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993. In 2007, Armenia instituted a gender quota law that increased the number of female politicians. As of 2018, Armenia ranks 98th out of 149 countries in World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2018.

In 2017, Armenia set up an inter-agency working group for the elaboration of a National Action Plan on the implementation of the UN resolution n. 1325, with a view to its adoption in 2018. However, there is a hope that after velvet revolution the progress of Armenian women engagement increased and it will influence better representation in global politics.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/393

https://www.mfa.am/en/speeches/2019/03/15/fm_speech_nato_week/9231

Austria

The Austrian government developed its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2007, and released a second revised NAP in 2012, which has no expiration date. The development of the NAP was led by the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Defence and Sports, and the Austrian Development Agency. Austria has no recent history of armed conflict and does not face any external armed threat, but it is a key contributor to UN peacekeeping missions and provider of international aid and humanitarian assistance. As such, the Austrian NAP has been interpreted in a largely international way, seeking to implement UNSCR 1325 and coordinate humanitarian, diplomatic, peacekeeping and development policy activities. Critical issues of concern include preventing gender-specific violence and protecting the needs of women and girls within peace missions, humanitarian operations, and in camps for refugees and the internally displaced.

The Equal Treatment Law of 1979 pertained to the equal treatment of women and men at work. Despite this piece of legislation, as well as the weak involvement of Austria in many world conflicts, Austrian women still face a steep gender wage gap that makes them economically vulnerable. Austria ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

(CEDAW) in 1982. In 2017, Austria was ranked 52 out of 144 on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). During the 2015 Security Council Open Debate, Austria supported the WPS project but made no specific commitments for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. However, during this occasion, Austria did commit to allocate at least 15% of all Austrian Development Cooperation peacebuilding spending for programs and projects to further Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/austriaupdatednap2012.pdf>

<http://peacewomen.org/nap-austria>

Azerbaijan

Currently Azerbaijan does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Women in Azerbaijan were the first to experience universal suffrage granted in 1918. In 2010 there was a very important legal advancement with the criminalization of spousal abuse. However, sexual harassment is still not prohibited by law. Azerbaijan acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1995. In 2017 Azerbaijan was ranked 98 out of 144 nations on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). During the 2017 October Open Debate on WPS, Azerbaijan stated its willingness to support the WPS but did not offer updates on its implementation of UNSCR 1325, or updates on its financial commitments on WPS. Women in Azerbaijan are still working to bring peace and conflict resolution against the persistent tensions in the region.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Belgium

Belgium's first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 was launched on 8 May 2009 for the period from 2009-2012. Belgium's second revised NAP was launched in 2013 for the period from 2013-2016. Belgium adopted its third NAP for the period from 2017-2021. The Belgian NAP is very unique in terms of its organisation, as it is structured into chapters by objectives. Each chapter contains background information, guidelines and a list of actions with subsequent indicators. By adopting the NAP, Belgium aims at improving the participation of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and taking necessary measures for the protection of women and girls before, during and after conflicts. Belgium is also a key contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, NATO forces, as well as development aid and humanitarian assistance. The NAP focuses on what Belgium can do internally and externally (for other countries such as Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mali) to improve women's participation. However, the NAP does not offer any specific actions for disarmament and arms control, including monitoring mechanisms for assessing the impact of arms proliferation on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The Belgium Government is currently working on a new NAP which should be launched in 2020.

Generally, in Belgium there is remarkable equality between women and men. Belgium has not been involved in any significant conflicts recently, but global conflicts have resulted in greater immigration to Belgium. Consequently, women coming from other countries face greater discrimination. Belgium ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1985. In 2017, Belgium was ranked 31 of the 144 countries listed on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Nowadays, civil society and government agencies are still working towards guarantee equality and protection for all women in Belgium, regardless of their nationality.

National Action Plan (PDF)2017-2021:

https://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/sites/default/files/105_-_troisieme_pan_femmes_paix_securite.pdf

<http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/BE%20NAP%201325%202013-2016%20EN.pdf>

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina established their first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in January 2010 for the period of 2010-2013. A second revised NAP was developed in December 2013 for the period of 2014-2017. In 2016 the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook a national review on the implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda. Bosnia and Herzegovina's most recent NAP covers the period of 2018-2022. This NAP does not include an estimated budget or other financial resource which could be allocated to the WPS.

Even after the Gender Equality Law of 2003, women in Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to face several obstacles to their equality. After gaining independence from the former Yugoslavia, Bosnia has not faced international conflict. However, in 2014, there were significant protests which resulted in the movement known as the "Bosnian Spring." Women actively participated in these protests, two of whom were detained by the police. Generally, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, women are marginalised due to their higher levels of unemployment and lower levels of education as compared to their male counterparts. Bosnia and Herzegovina succeeded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 and was ranked 66 of 144 on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Nowadays, many local and international organisations work with women in Bosnia and Herzegovina to establish political stability and economic and social equality for women.

National Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/180718_Prijedlog-AP-UNSCR-1325_2018-2022-u-BiH.pdf

https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/bosniaherzegovina_nationalactionplan_2010.pdf

Bulgaria

Currently Bulgaria does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. In Bulgaria, women benefit from complete equality due to the current Bulgarian laws. Despite this legal equality, women continue to face several problems, such as domestic violence, human trafficking, and forced prostitution. Bulgaria ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1982. In 2017 Bulgaria was ranked 28 out of 144 countries listed in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Since the Bulgarian Government has not adopted a NAP, local NGOs are working with women to ensure their safety from domestic and gendered violence.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Canada

Canada's first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 dates back to 2006, although it was not adopted until 2010. Canada's second NAP was launched in November 2017 for the period 2017-2022. This was supported by several lead partners, each of whom had its own implementation plan to achieve the goals of the NAP and to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Canada's NAP focuses primarily on supporting the full participation of women in peace and security efforts as well as preventing, addressing and fighting impunity for conflict-related sexual violence, consolidating women's and girls' empowerment and advancing gender equality. Canada's NAP recognises the crucial role of civil society, especially local women's organisations and movements that advance women's rights, in order to make progresses in the topic of WPS.

In Canada there is a very heterogeneous context regarding WPS. Generally, Canadian women are given great social and political security while, on the other hand, indigenous women living nearby are still facing significant discrimination based on gender, race, socioeconomic status and other identity factors as well as historic causes. Canada ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and in 2017 Canada was ranked at 16 out

of 144 countries listed in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Currently, Canada supports many projects to preserve the needs of women and girls living in conflict countries, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Syria. Canadian women work closely with international organisations to guarantee the security of all women living in Canada and abroad.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/cnap-eng.pdf>

Croatia

During the 2015 October Open Debate, Croatia committed to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. This NAP was developed in 2011 for the period 2011-2014. No new NAP has been presented. The main purpose of the Croatian NAP is promoting gender equality and enhancing the participation of civil society and women's organisations at a local, national and international level. Croatia is experiencing a period of post-conflict transformation and reconciliation after the Serbo-Croatian war (1991-1995) and the breakup of Yugoslavia. During this conflict, sexualized violence was employed as an explicit weapon and method of ethnic cleansing in Croatian occupied territories and Serbian detention camps. Internationally, Croatia is involved in peace keeping operations in addition to its domestic policy of substantial employment of women in peace operations. Recently Croatia committed to creating a new NAP which will be launched in October 2020.

Women in Croatia have always been underrepresented in local and national governments and face gender stereotyping and discrimination at home and work. In 2017 Croatia was ranked at 54 of the 144 countries listed in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Croatia joined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Czech Republic

During the 2015 October Open Debate, the Czech Republic gave support to WPS but made no specific commitments to creating a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. The Czech Republic's first NAP was not launched until 2017 for the period of 2017-2020.

The Constitution and the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms are the fundamental documents which guarantee the principle of equality in the Czech Republic. According to these documents, all people are free and equal in their dignity and in their rights. However, women in the Czech Republic, particularly those of minority groups, continue to face risks of gender-based violence. The tension between various ethnic groups in the Czech Republic has resulted in various forms of discrimination and aggression. The Czech Republic acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 and was ranked at 88 of the 144 countries listed in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Women's NGOs and many non-governmental organisations are actively promoting gender equality in this country.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Denmark

Denmark was the first country to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which was launched in 2005. This version was updated in 2008, for the period 2008-2013. In 2014, Denmark adopted a third NAP for the period of 2014-2019. The first and second plans differed significantly. Denmark's first NAP focused mainly on the protection of women and devoted less attention to promoting women's active participation in conflict solution and peace building. Denmark's second NAP aimed at pursuing a more balanced approach in

supporting protection and participation. Denmark's third Denmark NAP does not provide an estimated budget or other financial resource to be allocated to WPS.

Even though women in Denmark hold many top-level government positions, Denmark is still behind the other Nordic countries on gender equality measures. Denmark ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1983 and in 2017 it was ranked 14 out of 144 of the listed countries on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Denmark aims to promote the role of women as peacebuilders within Danish-funded programmes in conflict-affected States. Female activists are currently promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in political contests.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Denmark%20National%20Action%20Plan%202014-2019.pdf>

Estonia

Estonia developed its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2010, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Estonia launched a revised NAP in 2015 for the period of 2015-2019. The revised NAP outlines external activities aimed at ensuring women's human rights through the promotion of gender equality as well as the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence. Estonian MFA is going to prepare a new WPS national action plan in 2019.

Female Estonian citizens who have acquired at least a basic education and are in the age group of 18 to 27 can voluntarily enter conscript service. Becoming subject to national defence obligation is a serious decision and a long-term commitment, as someone who joins is subject to the obligation until the age of 60 (inclusive), including the obligation to appear at reserve trainings. Before entering conscript service, a medical exam must be passed to evaluate whether the person's state of health meets the health requirements of a person liable to mandatory duty to serve in the Defence Forces. A woman who has not appeared at the conscript service unit by the time specified in the decision shall be deemed to have withdrawn from conscript service and she will lose the opportunity to enter conscript service in the future.

National Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Estonia_NAP_2015-2019.pdf

Finland

In October 2015, Finland expressed its commitment to remain a top donor to UN-Women. In 2017, at the UNSC Open Debate, Finland reconfirmed its support for WPS. Finland launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 for the period of 2008-2011. Finland launched its second NAP was for the period of 2012-2016, and its third NAP is for the period of 2018-2021. Finland's third NAP includes recommendations from the Global Study on UNSCR 1325, specifically regarding conflict prevention. The updated Finnish NAP has four mainly externally oriented objectives, including in Afghanistan, Kenya and Nepal, and serves to strengthen the meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, mainstream gender in security sector, and improve the protections of women and girls while strengthening conflict prevention. However, the 2018-2021 NAP does not include earmarked funding, an allocated budget or an estimated budget. Finland has also partnered up with the governments of Afghanistan, Kenya and Nepal to support their efforts in the implementation and follow-up of their NAPs.

Although Finland is often considered a pioneer in gender equality, Finnish women still face high incidence of domestic violence and workplace discrimination. Finland ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1986 and was ranked 3 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action plan (PDF):

Georgia

During the 2016 UNSC Open Debate, Georgia expressed its intention to support WPS. It also proved its commitment to implement the Agenda through hosting an international, high-level conference on meeting gender equality challenges and opportunities in the European Neighbourhood Policy in Tbilisi. Georgia launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2011 for the period of 2012-2015. Georgia released an updated NAP for a period of one year, for the period of 2016-2017. As a result of this second NAP, the Georgian Government formed the Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Georgia launched its third NAP in 2017 for the period of 2018-2020. Georgia has a recent experience of conflict, so the updated Georgian NAP has a focus on conflict-affected areas, internally displaced people, and international peacekeeping operations and diplomatic activities. Georgia's current NAP does not provide a specific allocated budget for WPS activities. Female peace activists currently work closely with many organizations in order to restore trust and peace in the breakaway regions. They also contributed in the development and implementation of the NAP in Georgia.

In 2010, the Georgian Government approved the Gender Equality Law. This law led to the establishment of a national women's machinery in the Parliament, the enhancement of women's security, equality in the labour market and the strengthening of women's political participation. Despite this, political conflict in Georgia has caused the displacement of thousands of women and the further restriction of their rights. Georgia joined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1994 and was ranked 94 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action plan (PDF):

[http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Georgia%20National%20Action%20Plan%20\(%202018-2020\).pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Georgia%20National%20Action%20Plan%20(%202018-2020).pdf)

Germany

Germany launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 for the period of 2013-2016. Germany's second NAP is for the period of 2017-2020, which includes updated provisions from the first NAP. Germany's current NAP is still based on the six main principles which were included in the first plan: prevention, participation, protection, reconstruction, preparation of operations and criminal prosecution. The current NAP aims at strengthening the WPS Agenda and promoting it at the national, regional and international levels. To reach these goals, the NAP encourages the systematic integration of a gender perspective in all phases of conflict (prevention, resolution, stabilisation, peacebuilding, reconstruction and rehabilitation). However, the NAP lacks specific budget allocation and references to civil society's role in this process are also minimal. The NAP also includes minimal references to civil society's role in the process. The WILPF Germany Association, otherwise known as Internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit (IFFF), is an organisation which has been involved in Germany's NAP processes since 2002. In the present day, WILPF Germany questions decisions concerning the arms race and women's political power worldwide, as well as the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Although the German Government has established gender mainstreaming programmes, German women still do not enjoy equal pay and career opportunities with men. Women also remain a minority in decision-making positions. Women refugees in Germany face numerous forms of gender-based violence. These incidents remain largely under-reported based on these female refugees' experiences with the German legal system, and if the perpetrators are family members or security guards working at the refugee centres. Germany ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and it was ranked 12 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action plan (PDF):

http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/170111_Aktionsplan_1325.pdf

Greece

Greece does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Women in Greece still face inequality in political participation and the labour market. Greece has been involved in several international conflicts and its situation has recently been worrying because of the ongoing refugee crisis in the region. Cases of sexual and gender-based violence against refugees are being reported every day. Greece ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1983 and was ranked 92 out of 144 listed countries in the 2016 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). During the 2015 October UNSC Open Debate, Greece stated its support for WPS, although the Greek Government still has not approved a NAP for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Women peace activists in Greece are working to promote a gender perspective holistically within political agendas.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Hungary

Hungary does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. In the present day, Hungarian women continue to experience gender prejudices, including low rates of employment and public participation. In 2012 the conservative legislature enacted a new constitution that earned international criticism because it weakened legal checks on the governing party's authority and violated international and European human rights standards, including interfering with women's reproductive rights. Hungary ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and was ranked 103 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). The Hungarian Government still has not approved a NAP on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Iceland

Iceland adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2008. This version was updated in 2013 for the period of 2013-2016, and then in 2018 for the period of 2018-2022. Iceland has no recent experience of conflict and does not face any external armed threat, but is a key contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, NATO missions and provider of international aid and humanitarian assistance. As a result, the Icelandic NAPs have been interpreted in a largely international way.

The third Icelandic NAP retains the same structure as the previous NAPs, consisting of four main pillars, each proposing ideal outcomes, outputs and activities in order to achieve each goal. Iceland has been a leader in the informal Friends of 1325 Working Group, which lobbies for the implementation of the WPS resolutions within the UN. Iceland has relatively high levels of gender equality and institutional protections for women's rights. Although Iceland does not have legal protections to guarantee women's political participation, more than 40% of elected representatives are female. Despite Iceland's success in certain areas, gender issues continue to exist, proving the need to progress further towards gender equality and women's empowerment.

Since the global financial crisis in 2008, Icelandic women have been at the forefront in the efforts to recovery of the economy. In 1985, Iceland ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and it was ranked at the first position out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action plan (PDF):

<http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Iceland-National-Action-Plan-on-Women-Peace-and-Security-2018v2.pdf>

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/500

Israel

Israel does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. During the 2017 October Security Council Open Debate, Israel affirmed its interest in supporting WPS, but the Government has not yet adopted a NAP on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Israel has a long history of conflict with its Arab neighbours and with the Palestinians, during which women have organised movements opposing these conflicts and mobilising support for peace. Female Israeli peace activists have created joint organisations with Palestinian women in order to boost a mutual recognition of lasting peace. In 2016 a group of female peace activists from Palestine, Israel and other countries created a movement called "Freedom Flotilla Coalition" in an attempt to break the Gaza blockade. Although unsuccessful, this movement was a prime example of the work being conducted by Israeli and Palestinian women to build peace between their two nations. Israel ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1991, and it was ranked 44 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Italy

Italy's first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 covered the period of 2010-2013. Italy's second NAP covered the period of 2014-2016, and its current NAP is for the period of 2016-2019. Italy's current NAP aims to strengthen the implementation of WPS both inside and outside the country, as well as in conflict and post-conflict situations. The NAP's ultimate goals are: to reduce the impact of conflict on women and girls while promoting their participation in prevention, mitigation and resolution of conflict, as well as in decision-making processes, at all levels; and to raise awareness, educate and strengthen existing structures about the WPS Agenda and related issues. Although it contains positive goals, Italy's NAP does not include specific references as to how the NAP will be funded. The NAP also includes a goal which targets increased women's participation in the military, although this is not consistent with the goal to change patriarchal structures towards gender equality and feminist peace. During the 2017 October Open Debate, Italy affirmed its support for WPS by making a commitment to support a number of projects led by UN-Women in Africa, the Middle East and Central America in the areas of both women's empowerment and engagement in peace and security processes.

Although Italy was one of the last nations in Europe to open recruitment to women, it quickly gained an advanced position compared to other European countries. The first draft law concerning the establishment of women's voluntary military service dates back to 1963. 1992 marks the first time 29 girls were recruited by the "Caserma dei lancieri di Montebello" (Rome) to carry out the normal training activities which had, until then, been reserved only for men. The first calls for tenders for recruitment in the military academies of the army, navy and aeronautics were published in 2000, which included a strong interest for women (around 50% of the questions). In this way, Italy has bridged the gap with other European and NATO countries that have long hired female staff. According to the most recent data, female military personnel serving the armed forces is divided into 6.30% in the army; 3:10% in military aviation; 5.20% in the Marina; 2.47% in the "Arma dei Carabinieri". Italy has recently committed to creating a new NAP for October 2020. Italy is one of the major participants of UN peacekeeping missions, however Italian women still occupy only a small percentage of the high positions in government and in corporations. Italy ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and was ranked 82 out of 145 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action plan (PDF):

http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/49123_f_PlanofAction132520162019%20.pdf

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/502

Latvia

Currently, Latvia does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. During the October 2015 WPS Open Debate, Latvia expressed its willingness to develop a national policy framework in order to achieve gender equality and to eliminate violence against women and girls, although this has yet to be developed. Due to historical reasons, Latvian women face gender-inequality in many forms, such as underrepresentation in Parliament and the workforce, weak participation in decision-making processes, and lower wages than men. Women in Latvia also face challenges from insufficient enforcement of laws on violence and discrimination against women. Much of the tension which exists in Latvia comes from the nation's significant Russian minority, as Latvia was formerly occupied by the Soviet Union. Latvia is a member of NATO and has participated in several peacekeeping operations. It signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1992 and was ranked 20 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Lithuania

Lithuania developed its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2011. This NAP does not specify who led the development process, but it does mention that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would lead the implementation process. Although short in length, Lithuania's NAP includes a timeline for each action, a coordination mechanism, and four clear priority areas. Although women in Lithuania have the same legal rights as men, women still suffer from inadequate enforcement of laws concerning violence against them, and the trafficking of women. In October 2015 at the WPS Open Debate, the Lithuanian Government expressed its commitment to ensure an adequate response to cases of sexual exploitation or abuse and to pursuing the expansion of the involvement of women in peace operations in both the civilian and military fields. Lithuania made a statement as part of the Baltic States at the WPS Open Debate 2017, in which they confirmed the continuing commitment of Baltic countries to secure accountability for sexual and gender-based violence through both national and international mechanisms. Female activists in Lithuania continue to advocate for greater awareness and implementation of gender equality policies.

Lithuania has not been involved in large-scale conflict or war recently. As a NATO member, Lithuania is involved in NATO's military operations. Lithuania acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1994 and was ranked 28 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/lithuania_nap_2011.pdf

North Macedonia

North Macedonia launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2013 for the period of 2013-2015. North Macedonia has yet to release a new NAP. The 2013 NAP lacked concrete actions to be taken, although it contains detail on the process of the NAP's development. The NAP also lacks specific financial implications, as it was created to allow responsible institutions to make use of funds however they deem necessary. During the 2017 October Open Debate, North Macedonia did not give any statements to support WPS. North Macedonian women peace activists continue to struggle against the ethnic and political turmoil which exists in their fight for women's rights and peace.

Women living in North Macedonia, especially those belonging to the Roma or Albanian minorities, continue to face challenges to gender equality due to political, economic and social discrimination. North Macedonia succeeded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1994 and was ranked 67 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Montenegro

Montenegro launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2017 for a one-year period. Montenegro has yet to create a new NAP since the end of the first NAP's period in 2018. The NAP was developed through a national effort led by various government entities, although it includes not mention of the role of civil society in the drafting process. The NAP addresses human-trafficking establishes effective protection of women and girls from discrimination and gender-based violence and increases the representation of women in the decision-making processes in the area of security and peace-building. During the 2017 October Open Debate, Montenegro did not give a statement about WPS.

Women in Montenegro are still underrepresented in leadership positions in government. Much of the discrimination of women in the home which exists is greatly due to traditional patriarchal ideas of gender according to which women should be subservient to male family members. In addition, the phenomenon concerning violence against women, including domestically, and sexual harassment, is very common. Montenegro signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2006 and it was ranked 77 out of 144 listed countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Netherlands

The Netherlands launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2007. It launched its second NAP in 2011 for the period of 2012-2015. The Netherlands' current NAP was launched in 2016 for the period of 2016-2019. This NAP was developed through the cooperation of the government and over 50 Dutch civil society organisations and knowledge institutions.

The Netherlands is one of the most involved countries in the issue of gender equality. This is well represented by its Emancipation Policy, which is over 25 years old. This policy aims at achieving equality and reform in areas of parental leave, work, income, power and decision-making and human rights. The Netherlands ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1991 and was ranked 32 out of 144 countries listed on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). However, this country has been criticised by the CEDAW Committee on discrimination against immigrant, refugee and minority women. Nevertheless, the recent efforts made by the Netherlands to strengthen the position of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict countries have been considerably notable. Indeed, this country has been the milestone of women's rights movements. For example, the Netherlands is the native land of Aletta Jacobs, who was one of the founding members of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The Netherlands does not have a recent history of conflicts, but it covers an important role in international peacekeeping and humanitarian actions.

National Action Plan (PDF):

http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Dutch_NAP_2016-2019.pdf

Norway

Norway launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 for the period of 2006-2011. Its second NAP was for the period of 2011-2015, and its third NAP was for the period of 2015-2018. Norway's preparation for its current NAP has been based on dialogue with key partners and internal consultation processes, as well as the annual reporting on the implementation of its 2015-2018 NAP. The current NAP places emphasis on peace

and reconciliation processes, the implementation of peace agreements, operations and missiles, and humanitarian efforts. The NAP also underlines the need for structural changes within societal institutions, structures, systems and programmes, in order to ensure women's meaningful participation in the decision-making processes and the protection of their rights, their needs and priorities. Moreover, the NAP strongly focuses on the engagement of women in the military service, one example of which is its Long-term Plan for the Armed Forces (2017–2020). However, this aspect has received criticism since "adding" women into the militarised structures does not necessarily contribute to shaping security institutions, structures and systems.

Norway does not have a recent history of conflict. It plays an important role in international peacekeeping, humanitarian, and development organisations. It ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and was ranked second out of 144 countries in the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Norway's Gender Equality Act provides men and women with equal rights. In 2014, eight of the nationwide women's rights organisations established the Norwegian Women's Lobby to improve the organized feminist movement. As a result, in 2017, women held 41 percent of seats in Parliament. In the 2017 WPS Open Debate, Norway expressed its support for the WPS agenda but made no commitments.

National Action Plan (PDF):

[http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Norway%20Revised%20NAP%20\(2015-2018\).pdf](http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Norway%20Revised%20NAP%20(2015-2018).pdf)

Portugal

Portugal launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2009 for the period of 2009-2013. Its second NAP was launched in 2014 for the period of 2014-2018 and was developed on the basis of recommendations from an independent external evaluation of the first NAP and from recommendations from a public consultation held on the evaluation of the first NAP.

The Constitution of the Portuguese Republic guarantee the principle of gender equality as well as the promotion of equality between men and women as a fundamental task of the State. However, Portuguese women continue to struggle against discrimination. Portugal ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and is ranked 33 out of 144 countries listed on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) for 2017. During the 2017 October Open Debate, Portugal stated its willingness to support the WPS and expressed its commitment in promoting the WPS Agenda at both national and international levels as well as financing training programs on gender equality and violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, gender-based violence and trafficking in human beings.

Portugal has not been involved in any recent conflicts but plays an important role in international peacekeeping and humanitarian operations. Over the years, Portugal has assigned a key role to women in the areas of security and defence, as well as in the resolution of sensitive issues, such as support for victims of violence and gender discrimination contributing to a better protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Portugal's first NAP cites the efforts of Portuguese peacekeeping missions, national campaigns and initiatives already in place to further gender equality at a national and international level. It also underlines Portugal's commitment to increasing the participation of women in peacekeeping operations as well as in decision-making processes.

National Action Plan (PDF):

http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/portugal_nap_2014.pdf

Romania

The Romanian Ministry of Defense launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2014 for the period of 2014-2024. The NAP considers the increasing number of women in military operations outside of Romania and recognises the need

for increased cooperation with different stakeholders, one of which is civil society. At the 2019 high-level WPS Commitments event, Romania committed to creating a new NAP before October 2020.

Although the Constitution of Romania guarantees women equal rights as men, gender discrimination remains a problem. Many laws still make it difficult for women to fully participate in economic life in Romania, such as making it very difficult for women to get a job or start a business. Several women's rights organisations are working hard in order to highlight women's issues in Romania today. Romania signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1982 and was ranked 58 out of 144 countries listed on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Although Romania has not been involved in any large-scale conflict recently, it did witness ethnic conflict between Romanians and the ethnic Hungarian minority in the province of Transylvania in 1990.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Plan-final.pdf>

Serbia

Serbia launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2010 for the period of 2010-2015. Its second NAP was launched in 2017 for the period of 2017-2020. This NAP was developed through the cooperation of the government, representatives of public administration, academia, civil society organisations and independent male and female experts. Serbia has a recent history of conflict as part of the former Yugoslavia in the late 1990s. Indeed, the most recent NAP condemns the crimes perpetrated against Serbian people and citizens during the armed conflicts in the Republic of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo and Metohija. It expresses regret and solidarity with the victims of the NATO bombing. This NAP includes specific details regarding its objectives, actions, actors and timelines, as well as measurable indicators to assess its implementation. This NAP also includes the provision of financial resources for its implementation.

In the present day, Serbian women continue to experience violence, sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination and trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The 1990s war which took place in the former Yugoslavia is remembered by the intense sexual violence which ruined the lives of Serbian women of all ages. Serbia ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 2001 and was ranked 40 out of 144 countries listed on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). Several women's anti-war groups and women's rights organisations are still working actively to provide justice for conflict-affected women and stop violence against them.

National Action Plan (PDF):

http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Serbia_NAP.pdf

Slovakia

Currently, Slovakia does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Despite its lack of a NAP, Slovakia has shown its commitment to gender equality since 1993 through the creation and implementation of national strategies and programmes to combat discrimination. During the 2017 October Open Debate, Slovakia expressed its willingness to support the WPS agenda, although it still has not developed a NAP for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325. Widening salary gaps between men and women, the absence of mechanisms to encourage female political participation and prevailing stereotypes of women that discriminate against their participation in the public sphere continue to prevent true progress in gender equality in Slovakia. Female activists in Slovakia continue to fight for gender equality, for a greater female representation in political affairs and against trafficking for sexual purposes.

Slovakia succeeded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1993 and was ranked 94 out of 144 countries listed on the 2016 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Slovenia

Slovenia launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2010 for the period of 2010-2015. Slovenia launched its second NAP in 2018 for the period of 2018-2020. Slovenia's current NAP is currently only available in Slovenian. When looking at Slovenia's first NAP, it shows a close resemblance to the Swiss NAP. Both NAPs make a distinction between three levels of commitment: political, operational, and human resources. However, a unique feature of the Slovenian plan is the inclusion of a column for status, which explains actions that Slovenia has already taken in certain areas. Slovenia's first NAP does not provide a specific budget for the implementation of its objectives, and also does not address the issue of disarmament. During the 2017 October Open Debate, Slovenia affirmed its support for WPS and expressed its commitment to promote women's meaningful participation.

Slovenia does not have a recent history of conflict, although it strives for an increased role in international missions. In 2009 the Slovenian Government adopted a "Strategy of Participation of the Republic of Slovenia in International Operations and Missions." The Strategy defines a framework to be used for decision-making on participation and included a range of capacities for its implementation. Article 31 of the Strategy states the intention to create a national plan for enhancing women's role in matters of peace and security in accordance with UN Resolutions 1325.

The Constitution and laws of Slovenia prohibit discrimination based on gender. However, these laws have not yet proven effective in areas of political representation and women's participation in the labour force. Slovenia joined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1992 and it was ranked 7 out of 144 countries listed on the 2016 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action Plan (PDF):

https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/slovenia_nap2011.pdf

Spain

Spain launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2007. Its second NAP was approved in 2017 and covers the period of 2017-2023. The document was prepared through the cooperation of the Spanish Government and many civil society organisations. Spain's NAP aims at implementing UNSCR 1325 on both a regional and international level. It focuses primarily on foreign policy, and addresses collaborations with the EU, the OSCE and other international bodies. The NAP includes six key objectives and identifies partnerships with internal and external bodies to help achieve these objectives.

Spain has a long and complex history of conflict which had remarkable impacts on women, such as the recently concluded Basque conflict. Nevertheless, Spanish forces have always joined peacekeeping operations, including the current operation in Afghanistan. Today, there are several Spanish laws which prohibit gender discrimination and are generally enforced well. Spain ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1984 and was ranked 24 of 144 countries listed on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). During the 2015 October Open Debate, Spain promised to make a financial contribution to the new Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action and the multiagency Fund for Action against Sexual Violence in conflict. At the 2017 October Open Debate, Spain confirmed its continued support to WPS. intention to support WPS. Despite the considerable effort already made by this country, many activists are still trying to bring gender issues to the forefront of all aspect of society and work to achieve reproductive rights, equality and women's empowerment.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Plan%20Nacional%20Mujeres,%20Paz%20y%20Seguridad%20TEXTO.pdf>

Sweden

Sweden launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2006 for a two-year period. Its second NAP covered the period of 2009-2012. Sweden's current NAP was launched in 2016 for the period of 2016-2020. The current NAP, as was the case with Sweden's first two NAPs, creates a country-focused objective, although it does not earmark a budget. The NAP creates a new reference group under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is comprised of governmental and civil society actors, to be involved in its development stage as well as in its implementation phase. Sweden does not have a recent history of conflict, although it plays an important role in international peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world.

Sweden is a global leader in the topic of gender equality, as Swedish women are guaranteed the same legal status and rights as men. Nearly 45 percent of the members of Parliament are women. Sweden signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1980 and was ranked 5 of 144 countries listed on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). According to data provided by the World Economic Forum, Sweden recently reached a long-term target of achieving gender parity on boards of government agencies and gender parity in primary education. The Swedish Government continues to work towards solving the problem of sexual violence against women and girls which continues to exist in Sweden.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Sweden%20NAP%202016-2020.pdf>

Turkey

Currently, Turkey does not have a National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. Although the Turkish Constitution grants women full equality before the law, the government does not effectively protect vulnerable populations (including women) from societal abuse, discrimination and violence. Turkish women typically experience great difficulty in starting their own businesses and have very little access to politics. Following the recent failed coup in its territory, the Turkish government declared a state of emergency and announced its intention to derogate from the European Convention on Human Rights. Turkey acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1985 and was ranked 131 out of 144 countries listed on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI). During the 2016 October Open Debate, Turkey gave its support for WPS but did not make any specific efforts to implement the WPS Agenda. Turkish women are deeply committed to the resolution of the conflict between Turkey and the Kurdish forces and are actively working with Kurdish women in order to promote gender equality and women's human rights.

Relevant information :

http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all

Ukraine

The Government of Ukraine launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2016. The NAP aims at working towards the elimination of cultural barriers which prevent women from participating in all societal spheres as well as in all aspects of negotiations and resolution of conflicts and/or matters of peace and security at the national level. The NAP includes six pillars of action: Peacekeeping and peace-protecting activities; Women's participation in peacebuilding; Prevention of conflicts and violence; Protection of women and girls affected by conflicts; Provision of assistance and rehabilitation of people affected by conflicts; and Monitoring of the National Action Plan for implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on WPS until 2020. Since 2014, Ukraine has experienced armed conflict, civil unrest and ethnic tension, which was worsened by the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. Women have been deeply affected by the consequences of these conflicts. In recent years, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and women NGOs have reported an increase in cases of domestic violence, rape, prostitution and survival sex. Ukraine's NAP focuses on the prevention of domestic violence and human trafficking and recognises the lack of criminal

investigation and prosecution of sexual offenders. The NAP also aims at improving the mechanism for reporting sexual crimes, as there are many legislative protections in place which make this difficult. The NAP's external issues include having more women in peacekeeping missions and training social service agencies and armed forces in assisting survivors of sexual violence in conflict areas.

In Ukraine, women played a huge role in the Maidan and they continue to drive reforms in and through the new government. However, feminists and peace activists continue to face obstacles to their public participation, including serious threats to their lives and safety. The Ukraine joined the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and was ranked 61 out of 144 listed countries on the 2017 Global Gender Gap Index (GGI).

National Action Plan (PDF):

http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Ukraine_NAP.pdf

United Kingdom

The UK launched its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2006. Its second NAP was launched in 2012, and its third in 2014. The UK's current NAP was launched in January 2018 for a period of five years. This NAP is a result of the cooperative work of Government members, civil society experts and international organisations such as WILPF International and Amnesty International. This NAP also requires an annual reporting to the Parliament about the activities to ensure the implementation of the NAP.

Women in the UK have a long history of active advocacy regarding WPS issues such as disarmament, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Nowadays, they enjoy the same legal status and rights as men but are still underrepresented in politics and business key leadership positions as well as in decision making process. The UK ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1986 and gained the 15th position out of 144 countries listed on the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) of 2017.

Although the internal conflict in Northern Ireland ended in 1998, the peace process in Northern Ireland is still underway and remains highly fragile with an impact on the recognition of the application of UN Resolution 1325 in Northern Ireland. The UK's updated NAP focuses mainly on solving international problems such as building security and stability in war-torn countries, and also focuses on internal issues such as gendered violence and immigration.

National Action Plan (PDF):

<https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/National-Action-Plan-Women-Peace-Security-2018-2022.pdf>

United States of America (US)

The US adopted its first National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 in 2011, for the period 2011-2015. This was a result of the joint work of representatives from many government agencies and departments as well as civil society networks. In June 2016, the US released its second NAP which remains in place today. The US also recently approved the Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017. The goal of this Act is to prevent, mitigate, and resolve conflict by increasing women's participation in negotiation and mediation processes.

The United States has considerable influence in global security. As a result, the USA NAP has a primarily international attitude. The unique feature of the USA NAP is a timeline for the three main departments in charge of its implementation. Moreover, it also provides the Interagency Policy Committee dedicated to Women, Peace and Security (WPS IPC). Women peace activists in the US have actively advocated for disarmament, demilitarization and the peaceful resolution of conflict. Jane Addams, who is one of WILPF's co-founders, was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. In 2017, the US was ranked 49 out of 144 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index (GGI) and is the only developed country which has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), although it signed it on 17 July 1980.



National Action Plan (PDF):

<http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/women-national-action-plan.pdf>

Additional information

This Report was compiled by Ms. Letizia TORRETTA, ATA Program Director and coordinator of the ATA Task Force WPS, Ms. Raffaella LATERZA, ATA intern and student at the University of Sannio of Benevento, Italy and Ms. Hannah DAWICKI, ATA intern and student at the American University in Washington of D.C., USA. The information below was mainly retrieved from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom website: http://peacewomen.org/countries_and_regions/all as well as internal TF Members analysis.