



BRIEFING: What progress has Her Majesty's Government made on the development of the *UK National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security*?

The UK National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security (UK NAP) sets out how Her Majesty's Government (HMG) will implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) and "provides a framework to ensure that the provisions of UNSCR 1325 are incorporated into the Government's work on conflict in defence, diplomatic and development activity."

The second UK NAP ran from 2010 to 2013 (it was revised in 2012) and HMG is now in the process of developing the next UK plan, to be launched on 11 June 2014. This briefing has been prepared ahead of a House of Lords short debate on the HMG's progress on the development of the UK NAP and sets out the key recommendations of the APG on Women, Peace and Security to the UK Government, specifically related to the development of the next UK NAP.

Consultation

Meaningful consultation with a broad range of relevant actors will be essential to the development of an effective UK NAP. Workshops that have already taken place and those that are planned, both with UK civil society and in-country, are very welcome. However the APG would emphasise the importance of continuing engagement and meaningful consultation, particularly with women's rights organisations in-country, as development of the UK NAP progresses.

Civil society groups, and particularly women's rights organisations, understand the cultural, social and political context in which women, peace and security principles can most effectively be furthered and for appropriate and effective interventions to be developed, their expertise should be drawn upon.

Meaningful consultation involves gathering the views of a wide-range of relevant stakeholders, in this context specifically women's rights organisations and particularly those working on relevant issues, not just civil society generally. It must also include a clear mechanism for integrating those views into finalised plans and an agreed process for reporting back to participants.

In each of the priority countries identified for the next UK NAP, women's rights organisations are likely to already be delivering Women, Peace and Security projects and programmes. The effective work that these organisations are undertaking should be supported and extended where possible (see below for examples).

- Will HMG conduct in-country consultation with civil society organisations in each of the priority countries before development of the UK NAP?
- Will HMG incorporate commitments to ongoing engagement and consultation with civil society, particularly women's rights organisations, into the UK NAP to monitor and review its implementation and impact?

Capacity, Coordination and Consistency

It is important that HMG implements its commitments on Women, Peace and Security internally within HMG structures and comprehensively across all conflict-related work. This consistency is essential for relevant expertise from across government to be drawn upon and to help avoid duplication or conflicting activities. Ensuring HMG's own policies are examples of best practice is essential in order to advocate effectively and lead by example abroad.

- Will HMG seek a more joined-up reporting approach by departments in the new NAP?
- How will HMG ensure desk officers, posts, country offices and the military use the new UK NAP content as guiding principles of their work?
- Will the new UK NAP link Women, Peace and Security into the wider conflict and human rights work undertaken by HMG?
- In the new NAP, will there be commitments on how the UK will implement Women, Peace and Security principles within its own security and justice systems, including the police, military and police?

Ministry of Defence (MOD)

Given the MOD's key role in security related processes, it is essential that MOD actively contributes to the development of the UK NAP and implements Women, Peace and Security principles in its doctrine, training and operations.

- Will the MOD train UK forces on gender and incorporate WPS to efforts on security sector reform?
- Has the MOD UNSCR 1325 Evaluation undertaken in 2013 highlighted the need for UNSCR 1325 to be incorporated into training of UK armed forces and if so, how will this be taken forward?
- Will the MOD appoint a Gender Advisor to take forward the MOD's work on WPS?
- Will the MOD ensure it includes WPS components when it trains other militaries?

Participation

During the 2010 - 2013 NAP period HMG increased its focussed on tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG), with DFID up scaling work on VAWG and the FCO developing its Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative. However, work on women's political and socio-economic participation has not progressed as far. There is acknowledgement in some sections of HMG that participation is central to the agenda and HMG has committed to increasing its work on participation, however, it is unclear how this will be implemented. Importantly, HMG should commit to improving women's participation within UK staff teams, particularly in conflict negotiation and mediation teams.

- Will HMG increase funding for work on participation and will consideration of the importance of participation run through all conflict-related and VAWG work?
- How will HMG measure impact for participation work?
- How will HMG work with and support local women's rights organisations in order to support their capacity and participation?
- Will HMG ensure women make up at least 30% of all negotiation and mediation teams in line with best practice guidelines?
- Will the UK develop the roster of women it can nominate to peace negotiations?

Funding

There are currently a number of funding streams for WPS related activities, **although there are no dedicated or earmarked funds**. The Focus Country Section of the last NAP report identifies this funding in varying levels of detail. WPS criteria has been included in the Strengthening Alliances Partnerships (SAP) fund within the Conflict Pool as part of the BSOS but does not ring-fence funding for thematic priorities such as WPS. Despite allocating £2.6 million to WPS projects, the Conflict Pool also does not have centrally-driven approach and country teams identify the most effective interventions. In DRC, Sector and Police Action provides £60 million over 5 years on Security Sector Reform, which includes a specific focus on VAWG. In Ethiopia, the UK's Peace and Development Programme aims to improve security and justice for 500,000 women and girls. However, there is no outline of how much of the funding and programming specifically dedicated to these Women, Peace and Security components of the programmes.

- In the absence of a specific fund for the UK NAP, how will HMG disaggregate its funding for WPS and will indicators be used to assess the effectiveness of its WPS funding?
- HMG has a key opportunity to allocate funding for WPS in the new Conflict, Stability and Stabilisation Fund, how will WPS be programmed for and reported against?
- If the Conflict Pool does not have centrally-driven approach and country teams identify the most effective interventions, how will MOD, DFID and FCO ensure posts are implementing WPS projects and that they are aligned to the principles of the NAP?
- What is HMG's response to GAPS' recommendation that HMG ensures all UK-based and post funding Boards have a trained WPS lead to ensure non-allocated funding is used for WPS projects?
- How will HMG ensure that small women's rights organisations are able to access funding?

Bilateral Action

The new UK NAP is likely to include bilateral sections on Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Libya, Somalia and Syria, which is an increase on the previous plan's three countries. Whilst a more cohesive approach is welcome, key questions remain:

- During the current NAP period, how do HMG ensure that their missions in countries that do not have a Bilateral Plan include the principles of the NAP in their programmes, policies and systems?
- How will HMG decide what WPS programming is relevant for a specific country?