

## **Eighth Meeting**

**10<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Iveagh House**

### **Minutes: Formal Meeting**

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#### **Attendees:**

##### **Oversight Group**

1. Nora Owen, Independent Chair
2. Nicola Donnelly, Cosc (National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence), Department of Justice and Equality
3. Michael Rowan, Independent Expert
4. Barry Lavin, Intl Security and Defence Policy Branch, Department of Defence
5. Catherine O'Rourke, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster
6. Frank Smyth, Director of Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
7. Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair, Trócaire
8. Diane Nurse, Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive
9. Eoghan McDermott, Defence Forces
10. Colm Byrne, Oxfam
11. Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross Border Studies

##### **Alternates**

12. Abby Ryan, Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
13. Eoghan Duffy, IUKA, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

##### **Secretariat**

14. Paula Molloy, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
15. Olivia Lucas, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

##### **Apologies**

- Sarah McGrath, IUKA, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Jacqueline Healy, National Women's Council of Ireland
- Louise Synnott, An Garda Síochána
- Anastasia Crickley, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University
- Gerard Considine, Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre
- Nura Hagi, Mind the Gap

#### **1. Adoption of previous meeting's minutes**

Oversight Group of Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015-2018)

In opening the meeting the Chair welcomed the Group back to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and summarised the agenda for the day. She drew attention to the Workshop Meeting of the Informal EU Taskforce on UNSCR 1325 organised and hosted by the Conflict Resolution Unit on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. She noted that participants in the meeting from EU organisations, member states and civil society had praised Ireland's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security and oversight mechanism. Participants expressed a common challenge in promoting awareness of the Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans in their own countries. The Chair stressed the responsibility of the Oversight Group members to communicate the National Action Plan commitments and priorities within their own networks.

The minutes were formally approved.

## **2. Update on Developments on WPS since Q1 2017 meeting**

### **Matters Arising from Q1 2017 meeting**

- The Secretariat has composed a suggested response document to the Midterm Review recommendations and sought responses from implementing bodies through the representatives on the Oversight Group. It was highlighted for discussion later in the meeting.
- Publication of the Midterm Review Report has been delayed, but copies will be circulated to the Group members as soon as practicable.
- The Secretariat has also received the final version of the Analysis of Indicators Report. It was also highlighted for discussion later in the meeting.

#### **i) Update on the Work of the Secretariat**

- a) The Secretariat attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> high-level strategic session of the EU Informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325 which took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> March in Brussels and gave a presentation to the meeting on progress and actions under Ireland's National Action Plan commitment to "increase the participation of women at senior decision making and leadership levels in Irish defence, police and foreign services".
- b) The Conflict Resolution Unit organised and hosted a workshop meeting of the EU Informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325 in Dublin on 4<sup>th</sup> April. It was attended by over 40 representatives of EU Member States, institutions and civil society organisations. The workshop shared best practice on monitoring and evaluation of National Action Plans and on the domestic implementation of UNSCR 1325 and was very well received. A summary report of the meeting was included in the briefing packs.
- c) The Secretariat participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the WPS National Focal Points Network hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Alicante from 26<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> April. The Secretariat participated in discussions on a) addressing structural barriers to gender equality and b) preventing or countering violent extremism and NAPs. Ireland presented to the Network on the Importance of High-Impact NAPs, sharing insights from the design and implementation of our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> NAPs and from the findings of the recent Midterm Review and Analysis of Indicators Reports.

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- d) Progress updates have been collected from the relevant Departments and agencies with commitments under the NAP in accordance with the biannual reporting schedule. Updates from AGS will follow.
- e) The Secretariat continues to implement the Oversight Group Communications Strategy. The mailing list continues to grow and tweets about the meeting would be published using the hashtag #WPSIreland.

**ii) Update on WPS developments in Ireland and abroad**

- a) The National Action Plan and Midterm Review process were noted during Ireland's review before the CEDAW Committee in February. In its concluding observations the CEDAW committee welcomed the adoption of the 2nd National Action Plan on WPS, but recommended regular review (paragraph 37).

**iii) Looking forward to WPS in Q3**

- a) The UNDPKO workshop originally scheduled to take place in Dublin for the week 22nd-26th May has been indefinitely postponed.
- b) The next meetings of the Informal Working Group for Review of the EU Comprehensive Approach on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 and the EU Informal Taskforce on UNSCR 1325 have not yet been scheduled.
- c) As the schedule for WPS events over the coming months is still largely undecided, the Secretariat will circulate a list of opportunities for the Oversight Group to contribute later in the year.

**3. Forthcoming Meetings**

The topic of 'male engagement' was raised as a useful theme for the Q3 meeting. The Chair asked for Oversight Group members to volunteer to lead on the theme. The Secretariat added that 'male engagement' is a cross-cutting theme and suggested that a number of organisations could jointly present in September. Civil society involvement in delivering the workshop was encouraged. It was suggested that a clearer title could link the theme more clearly with the objectives of the Oversight Group and in light of this a revised title of 'Male Leadership and Participation in Women, Peace and Security' was proposed.

It was acknowledged that addressing male leadership/participation can be contentious within the NGO sector as it is seen as distracting resources from women and girls as the intended beneficiaries of the WPS agenda. A number of possible options for the meeting were put forward, including overseas development programming involving work with men and boys on gender equality, women's empowerment and sexual and gender based violence; as well as work taking place domestically on issues such as domestic violence and offender rehabilitation. The Secretariat will develop a concept note for the next meeting to be circulated to the group for approval and will contact the relevant agencies to further planning.

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The Secretariat is to circulate proposed dates for the next meeting of the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

#### **4. AOB**

##### **Update on Progress under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme**

The Chair had asked for the Secretariat to obtain an update from DJE on progress to date under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. The Chair summarised a recent written Parliamentary Question on the Programme. She noted that there is considerable work to be done to fully deliver the Government's commitment to accept 4,000 refugees and asylum seekers under separate EU relocation and UN resettlement strands. As of the end of April 2017, 1,191 people have arrived under the IRPP with a total of 536 persons now living in the community in various locations nationwide. There are a total of 4451 people residing in State provided accommodation who are in, or have been through, the International Protection Programme. In addition, there are 267 persons from the resettlement programme in direct provision and 459 from the relocation strand. The group noted the problems created by the institutionalisation of those resident long term in Direct Provision accommodation and the significant difficulties faced in moving into the community after leave to remain has been granted. The Chair expressed her intention to keep this issue on the table and will write again to the Minister for Health, the Minister for Justice and Equality and Tusla- the Child and Family Agency on providing adequate resources for Direct Provision centres and services. The Secretariat will circulate the written PQ to the Group.

##### **Commission on the Status of Women**

Saudi Arabia's election in April 2017 to the Commission on the Status of Women was raised as an issue of relevance to the mandate of the Group. The Group briefly discussed the context of the election and it was agreed that given Group members' concerns regarding the position of women in Saudi Arabian society, a letter should be written to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the matter.

*Secretariat to the Oversight Group to Ireland's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security*

*11<sup>th</sup> May 2017*