

Sixth Meeting

7th December 2016, Iveagh House, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Minutes: Formal Oversight Group Meeting

Attendees:

Oversight Group

Attendance

1. Nora Owen, Independent Chair
2. Gerard Considine, Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3. Nicola Donnelly, Cosc (National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence), Department of Justice and Equality
4. Jaqueline Healy, National Women's Council of Ireland
5. Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross-Border Studies
6. Frank Smyth, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
7. Colm Byrne, Oxfam Ireland
8. Comdt. Eoghan McDermott, Defence Forces
9. Michael Rowan, Independent Expert
10. Louise Synnott, An Garda Síochána
11. Sarah McGrath, Northern Ireland, the UK and the Americas Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
12. Barry Lavin, Intl Security and Defence Policy Branch, Department of Defence
13. Jessica Doyle, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster (alternate for Catherine O'Rourke)
14. Frank Smyth, Director of Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
15. Bronagh Hinds, Midterm Review Consultant
16. Deborah Donnelly, Midterm Review Consultant

Apologies

- Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair, Trócaire
- Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre
- Diane Nurse, Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive
- Émer Deane, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the EU
- Anastasia Crickley, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University

Secretariat

- Paula Molloy, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Olivia Lucas, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

1. Adoption of previous meeting's minutes

In opening the meeting the Chair noted the growing relevance of the WPS agenda to issues in the media spotlight, in particular, the refugee and migrant crisis. Given this backdrop, Oversight Group members have an important role to play in raising awareness of the WPS agenda.

When reviewing the minutes of the meeting of the 15th September the Chair offered Jacqueline Healy of the National Women's Council of Ireland the opportunity to comment on answers provided to her by Diane Nurse, HSE, on questions she had raised following the previous meeting. (These related to access to reproductive healthcare services for women and girls affected by conflict; and in particular, resourcing of the FGM Treatment Service). It was agreed that these responses should be circulated to the Group.

It was noted that letters sent by the Chair to An Tánaiste and Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris T.D. on the question of adequate resourcing of the Reception and Integration Agency and the Social Inclusion Unit in the HSE respectively had been acknowledged but no substantive responses had been received to date. Ms Donnelly of Cosc wished it to be noted that the delayed response from the Department of Justice and Equality was due to a need to collate responses from different sections across the Department.

Progress on the appointment of a new member to the Oversight Group to represent the perspective of refugee and migrant women was raised. It was noted that a preferred candidate had been identified a nomination has been made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade .

It was confirmed that the Chair would appear before Joint Oireachtas Committees to present the Midterm Review in either late February or early March.

The minutes were formally approved.

2. Update on developments on WPS since Q3 meeting

The Secretariat to the Oversight Group provided an update on developments on WPS since the last meeting.

- i. Update on the work of the Secretariat**
 - a) Attention was drawn to the updates on DFAT pillar four commitments provided in the briefing document.
 - b) Progress has been made on the Oversight Group Communications Strategy with the mailing list circulation now extended to around 60 recipients.
 - c) Tweets about the day were to be published under the hashtag #wpsireland. It was asked that Oversight Group members active on twitter support the Secretariat's activities with retweets and likes, and use the #wpsireland hashtag in their own social media communications relating to WPS.

ii) Update on WPS development in Ireland and abroad

- a) Minister Flanagan in his address to the UN General Assembly during Ministerial Week in September highlighted the WPS agenda as a policy priority for Ireland.
- b) A new WPS Focal Point Network initiated by Spain had its inaugural meeting on the 23rd September in New York. It is intended that the Network will provide a platform to streamline implementation, exchange best practices and harmonize international efforts among Member States. Ireland will be represented by the UN/CRU Director in DFAT.
- c) The UN General Assembly hosted a High-Level Summit for Refugees and Migrants on the 19th September during which An Tánaiste again highlighted the WPS agenda in making Ireland's national statement.
- d) The UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and security went ahead in October and Ireland made an intervention.
- e) Ireland co-sponsored a side event on UNSCR 1325 at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of OSCE in September.
- f) A High Level Side Event to the EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting on 1325 took place in Santo-Domingo in October, organised by Ireland and Finland. CRU supported the involvement of Monica McWilliams who spoke about the role of women in peace processes. The event attracted positive feedback and WPS will form part of the formal agenda of the next ministerial meeting.

iii) Looking forward to WPS in Q1 2017

- a) Q1 of 2017 will see the finalisation, publication and dissemination of the Midterm Review.
- b) Ireland's PMUN in New York will co-host an event with Jordan early next year on the synergies between the Women, Peace and Security and Youth, Peace and Security agendas.
- c) The EEAS is presently planning a review of the EU Comprehensive Approach on Women, Peace and Security. CRU has volunteered to take part in the Working Group.
- d) Ireland will also host a workshop of the EU Informal Taskforce on Resolution 1325 in 2017.
- e) National journalists with a particular interest in WPS will be identified and informed of relevant events throughout the calendar year in line with the Communications Strategy.

It was suggested that the Secretariat should produce one-pager case studies on components of the NAP, for example focusing on examples of implementation of the domestic aspects of the NAP, to facilitate communication to the public and to interested organisations about WPS. The recent revision of the Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action was noted.

3. Forthcoming Meetings

The Chair proposed and it was agreed that appointing of themes for subsequent meetings could be delayed until after publication of the Midterm Review. The next Oversight Group meeting is to be held in early February.

4. AOB

There were no substantive matters raised under any other business.