

**Response to Recommendations of the Report on the Mid Term Review
of the Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security**

It was agreed at the eighth meeting of the Oversight Group on the 10th May 2017 that all recommendations of the Mid Term Review of the 2nd National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security were accepted. The recommendations have been assigned to a lead actor under a timeframe for implementation as shown below. It is recognised that many of the recommendations indicate actions which go beyond the National Action Plan itself and, as such, a commitment to implement is only made in regard to those recommendations listed under the “immediate” timeframe. Implementation of these recommendations may begin in the short term, capacity depending, but will not necessarily be completed within the timeframe of the current National Action Plan. The recommendations listed as “medium” and “long” term are welcomed as constructive and helpful for informing discussions about the future of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Ireland.

Immediate – can be implemented within remaining timeframe of 2nd NAP:

Recommendation	Lead actor
7. The Oversight Group should engage regularly with Oireachtas Committees, including those responsible for justice, defence, foreign affairs and the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement.	Secretariat
8. The Oversight Group should develop a plan for engaging effectively with civil society organisations working in the areas covered by the NAP, both domestically and internationally. This should ensure that CSOs and INGOs have the opportunity both to reflect WPS in their plans and communications with their respective networks and to reflect their views, issues and experiences to the OG.	Secretariat, OG members
9. As members of the Irish Consortium on Gender based Violence, DCD and the Defence Forces should encourage the ICGBV to address the NAP during its strategic planning and to include it in its strategy from 2017. Part of this might be to consider how international	DCD and DF

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<p>and domestic lessons on GBV might be shared between INGOs and Irish and Northern Ireland CSOs.</p>	
<p>12. Oversight Group members should take a proactive approach to awareness and public engagement. CSO and academic members have a particular contribution to make in this regard in terms of disseminating WPS information, sharing expertise and engaging colleagues through their networks.</p>	<p>Oversight Group members</p>
<p>13. To enable the development of a more strategic corporate approach in the implementation of the NAP, the Oversight Group should review its thematic approach to focus on and reflect the value of cross-cutting issues and ensure there is sufficient time for discussion. The OG might also begin a conversation across government on the linkages between WPS, gender equality, the SDGs, the Public Sector Duty, and equality-informed budgeting.</p>	<p>Secretariat, Oversight Group members</p>
<p>15. DFAT should enhance the capacity for monitoring and evaluation through the regular attendance of its Audit and Evaluation Unit at the Oversight Group. This may enable a robust ongoing monitoring process for the implementation of the NAP, with the use of an independent process deployed to support the strategic development of the following NAP.</p>	<p>Secretariat/DFAT E&A Unit</p>
<p>16. Reporting during the second half of the NAP should reflect the full range of work and progress. Progress reporting for the final review should include reports against implementation of the midterm review recommendations.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>17. In preparation for the final review, the Oversight Group should reflect on the learning for individual members and the OG as a whole and ensure this is documented to capture the impact of the learning.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>

Medium term – may be possible to make progress within the lifetime of the 2nd NAP, and should be considered in the development of the 3rd NAP:

Recommendation	Lead actor
<p>1. Government departments and agencies should ensure that NAP priorities and actions are embedded within strategic and business plans. Alternatively they might consider the model provided by the Defence Forces of a standalone NAP. For example, DJE should include a commitment to the NAP in its departmental Strategy Statement from 2017 and develop WPS within the new <i>National Women's Strategy</i>.</p>	<p>All implementing bodies</p>
<p>2. Government departments and agencies should consider how the Public Sector Duty on human rights and equality can assist implementation of the NAP; for example, assessing WPS issues relevant to departmental functions and identifying the relevant policies, plans and actions to address the impacts.</p>	<p>All implementing statutory bodies</p>
<p>3. Government departments and agencies should use the strategic framework for equality-informed budgeting set out in the <i>Programme for Partnership Government</i> and the draft <i>National Women's Strategy</i> from 2017 to ensure that resources are directed in support of the NAP.</p>	<p>All implementing statutory bodies</p>
<p>4. DFAT should establish an internal NAP implementation group and have WPS as an item on the agenda of Ambassadorial meetings to ensure that all its divisions and units are aware of DFAT's contribution and provide opportunities to contribute and engage. Similarly, DJE should develop an internal mechanism to ensure strategic communication and collaboration between units and agencies that come within the NAP's remit, including the Gender Equality Division</p>	<p>DFAT, DJE</p>

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and Units involved with refugees and asylum matters, beyond the coordination function operated currently.	
5. DFAT should consider a WPS-focused engagement strategy for the Reconciliation Fund.	IUKA
14. Ensure that the data used for the development and monitoring of the NAP is robust. Government departments and agencies should support the NAP with a data development and implementation plan to identify the gaps in gender and ethnic disaggregated data and options for addressing the gaps. Ensure that baselines are established for each of the indicators/actions in preparation for the final review.	All implementing bodies

Long term - for consideration in development of 3rd NAP

Recommendation	Lead actor
6. The Oversight Group should develop a plan to engage with government departments responsible for education and health to ensure that all the relevant parts of government know of and contribute to the NAP. For example, reflect on whether WPS can feature in the human rights and citizenship education delivered by schools, colleges and NGOs reported in Ireland's <i>Common Core Document</i> to the UN.	Secretariat
10. DFAT, as the sponsoring department, should review the membership of the Oversight Group to ensure it properly reflects the interests in the NAP, including DJE's strategic contribution; and that recruitment for future membership reaches a wide range of those who have an interest in WPS issues. Ensure, as far as is possible, that	Secretariat

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<p>there is appropriate succession planning in place particularly for the secretariat.</p>	
<p>11. DFAT should put in place an induction and continuous learning programme to ensure that Oversight Group members understand the aspiration, roles, responsibilities and evidence base for WPS and the NAP. OG Members should be aware of the important role they have in the oversight and accountability framework for the NAP and encouraged to exercise their expertise in the role of 'critical friend' across all aspects of the NAP.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
<p>18. In preparation for the development of the next NAP, undertake a Theory of Change approach to its development. Such an approach will help determine the outcomes Ireland wants to achieve under each pillar, how it will go about implementation, and ownership and responsibility for actions and progress towards the achievement of the outcomes. This should result in a corporate approach, an overall reduction in the number of actions and indicators and ensure that each relevant Department makes its appropriate contribution.</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>