1st Meeting of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network
26th - 27th April 2017 – Casa Mediterráneo, Alicante, Spain

Day 1 (April, 26th)

08:15 -08:45am Accreditation.

08:50am Family Photo.

9:00 – 10:30am Opening Plenary and Framing of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network.

The opening plenary will welcome focal points to the inaugural meeting of the WPS Focal Points Network. The discussion will frame the meeting's focus on national action plans and policies on women, peace, and security, emphasizing the need to share lessons learned and solutions from across countries and regions.

Welcome: Mr. Miguel Oliveros, Director Casa Mediterráneo.
Opening remarks: Mr. Ildefonso Castro, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain.
Moderator: Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations.
Speakers:
  • Senator Aisha Jummai Alhassan, Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Nigeria.
  • Ms. Diosita T. Andot, Undersecretary for Peacebuilding and Development and Director of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Philippines.
  • Ambassador Selma Ashipala-Musvayi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, Namibia.
  • Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women.

Questions and comments from the floor. Simultaneous translation to English, French and Spanish available.

10:30 – 11:00am Break.
11:00 – 12:00am  
**Grounding Session – Emerging Trends and National Action Plans (NAPs).**  
Threats to peace and security are evolving; national action plans should incorporate a human security perspective that allows flexibility to new and emerging vulnerabilities. After a grounding on the status of NAPs and the WPS agenda in 2017, this session will highlight three primary emerging trends: structural barriers to gender equality, civil society engagement and preventing or countering violent extremism and NAPs.

**Overview:** Ms. Adela Díaz Bernárdez, Director of the Human Rights Office, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain.  
**Presenter:** Mr. Mirsad Jacevic, Vice Chair, Inclusive Security.  
**Speakers:**  
- Structural barriers to gender equality: Ms. Jennifer Wittwer, Technical Adviser, Women, Peace and Security Section, UN Women.  
- Civil society engagement: Ambassador Mara Marinaki, European External Action Service Principal Advisor on Gender and on UNSCR 1325/WPS.  
- Preventing or countering violent extremism and NAPs: Ms. Mariame Sy, Director of Africa and Asia Division, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Senegal.

Questions and comments from the floor. Simultaneous translation to English, French and Spanish available.

12:00 – 1:00pm  
**Break Out Discussions.**  
Participants will break into topic-based groups for discussions on the three primary emerging trends. The working language of the discussion will be English.

- **Working Group 1: Addressing structural barriers to gender equality.**  
  **Facilitator:** Ms. Jennifer Wittwer, Technical Adviser, Women, Peace and Security Section, UN Women.  
  **Speakers:**  
  - Ms. Hafida Benchehida, Algerian Senator and CITpax Advisor on Mediation.  
  - Ms. Abeda Osman, Director General for Human Rights & Women’s International Affairs, Afghanistan.  
  - Minister María Luisa Martino, Director, Women’s Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentine.
• **Working Group 2: Civil society engagement in design and implementation of NAPs.**

**Facilitator:** Ms. María Villellas, Researcher, Escola de Cultura de Pau, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

**Speakers:**
- Ambassador Patricia Flor, Director-General for International Order, The United Nations and Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office, Germany.
- Ms. Ashmia Sesay, Senior Legal Officer, Sierra Leone.

• **Working Group 3: Preventing or countering violent extremism and NAPs.**

**Facilitator:** Ms. Ann-Sofie Stude, Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security, Finland.

**Speakers:**
- Ms. Lori-Anne Théroux-Bénoni, Office Director, Institute for Security Studies, Dakar.
- Ms. Véronique Joosten, Deputy Director for Human Rights and Democracy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belgium.
- Ms. Mary Kaburu, Principal Gender Officer, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs, Kenya.

1:00 – 2:30pm  **Lunch.**

2:30 – 4:30pm  **Break Out Discussions.**

In groups, participants will identify key challenges and strategies countries have used to address these issues within their NAPs (if relevant) or other national policies focused on women, peace, and security. The working language of the discussion will be English.

4:30 – 5:00pm  **Group debrief.**

5:00 – 8:00pm  **Free time.**

8:00pm  **Dinner at Club de Regatas.**

3, Muelle Poniente. Please see map attached.
Day 2 (April, 27th)

9:00 – 10:00am  NAPs from the Regional or International Perspective.

Focal points have the ability to champion this agenda at regional and international level. The efforts of international and regional organizations to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including through regional frameworks, will also be discussed. The working language of the pannel will be English.

Moderator: Ms. Carolyn Schwalger, Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations.

Speakers:
- Ms. Hanny Cueva-Beteta, Governance and Security Adviser, Regional Office for Asia & Pacific, UN Women.
- Ms. Hilidur Sigurdardottir, Women, Peace and Security and the Protection of Civilians, Office of the Secretary General, NATO.
- Ms. Onyinye Onwuka, Head of Political Affairs and International Cooperation Division, Directorate of Political Affairs, Department of Politics, ECOWAS.
- Ms. Fatiha Hassouni; Program Manager; Gender & Social Affairs, Union for the Mediterranean (TBC).

10:00 – 11:00am  The Importance of High-impact NAPs.

The ability of NAPs/national policies to address these emerging issues hinges on whether they are developed with impact in mind. This interactive session will talk about the elements of a high-impact national action plan, followed by questions and insights from participants. The working language of the pannel will be English.

Presenter: Mr. Mirsad Jacevic, Vice Chair, Inclusive Security

Speaker: Ms. Paula Molloy, Deputy Director, UN Coordination & Conflict Resolution Unit, Political Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland.

11:00 – 11:30am  Break.
11:30 – 12:30am  Concrete Actions to Address NAP Challenges and New Trends.

Participants will share their initiatives on how to strengthen the creation and/or implementation of NAPs or national strategy. They will reflect on what an effective NAP means within their own country context. The working language of the panel will be English.


Speakers:
- Ms. Kika Babić-Svetlin, Senior Adviser, Agency for Gender Equality, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Mr. Redouane Houssaini, Head of United Nations Department, Morocco.

12:30 – 1:00pm  Closing Remarks and Next Steps for the Network.

Speakers:
- Ms. Mireille Affaa Mindzie, Policy Specialist, Peace and Security Section, UN Women.
- Mr. Marius Wiettemann, Human Rights and Gender Issues Division, Federal Foreign Office, Germany.
- Mr. Francisco Javier Sanabria Valderrama, Director General for United Nations and Human Rights and WPS Focal Point, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Spain.

1:30pm  Transfer to the Alicante Airport.