National Action Plans of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Opening Remark

Amarsanaa Darisuren
OSCE: Office of the Secretary General, Gender Issues Programme

What can we learn from civil society? How useful and participative are NAPs really?

Areas of focus:
1. Supporting gender equality
2. Preventing extremism and radicalisation
3. Preventing violence against women

Political & Economical empowering of women

Progress in implementation of NAPs in the region

68% of all participating states have their NAP

Concrete steps:
1. Increase women’s participation
2. Appointing Gender Advisors in institutions
3. Improving HR policies (paternity/maternity leave)
4. Improve gender trainings for actors of peace operations

Recommendations
- More direct participation of women as mediators
- Link official and unofficial mediation processes
- Adopting gender perspective in analyses and processes

Supporting connections & dialogue
- Between grassroots initiatives and official mediation process

Challenges
- Lack of access to decision making
- Lack of resources available to carry activities

Bridging the gaps
Our commitment is practical support

Toolkit
For effective women’s participation in peace building process

Osce
57 states
16 field operations

Support the implementation of resolution
Import role in implementation of the global agenda

Study
OSCE Gender Section + London School of Economics + Women in Peace and Security

Analysis of implementation of national action plans in Osce states

Secure institutions strong ownership of the NAPs

Implementing activities from NAPs beneficial to the work in this field

Women working in security sector, finding common language and areas of work with civil society sector
**Dr. Edlira Shima**
Consultant in Gender, Peace, Security, Albania

- **Civil Society**
  - Critical role
  - Realizing changes
  - Commitment

**Efforts**
- To increase official Government capacities and commitment
- Strengthen & actively engage women actors

**Our Most Important Contribution**
- Development of the 1st NAP
  - Which was approved by the Government

**We**
- Inform about Resolution
  - Advocate & lobby decision making
  - Do capacity building
- Long history of the movement

**Annika Schabbauer**
Operation 1325, Sweden

- We have the 3rd NAP
- CSOs are part and included in the NAP process now more

**Civil Society’s interest in the**
- Full responsibility
  - On authorities + Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Including women at all levels with meaningful participation

**Pembe Mentesh**
Feminist Activist, Cyprus

- Frozen conflict since 1963
- Formal peace process
- We don’t have women on the Track One level

**Leandra Bias**
Women in Peace, Switzerland

- For the 1st time
  - Sort of fully equal implementing partners in two areas
  - Through the Shadow report
  - We became integrated

**Prevention of violence**
- Increasing the inclusion of women

**Luisa Del Turco**
Civilian Defectors Research Centre, Italy

- Peace building as a priority
- Also conflict prevention & resolution

**Our advocacy action was strong**
- A big change from the institutional point of view for the last 3-4 years

**7 Pillars**
- One is totally devoted to Civil Society

**White book**
- Of best practices of integration 1325 Agenda

**Frozen conflict**
- One of the longest peace operations running

**Start of creation of NAP in 2017**
- Establishment of gender advising team
  - Lack of women involvement

**Lack of national involvement**
- In Cyprus it has started with women’s interest initiatives

**Leandra Bias**
- We have the 4th NAP (since 2018)
  - We have now our 4th NAP
  - We achieved some really good points regarding structure and content of the 3rd NAP

**3 Groups**
- Who collaborate with international organizations
  - Human rights defenders
  - Dialogue & mediation specialists
  - Gender equality movement

**Oksana Potapova**
Peace and women’s rights activist, Ukraine

- Certain groups of CSOs took ownership over agenda
- Lack of cross-pollination between these groups

- A lot of actors don’t know about Agenda and don’t call their work this way

**2015 - the only country**
- That adopted NAP during actual conflict

- Raising awareness about Agenda overall
  - Multiple perspective is a strong point of CS

**Representing needs of women on the ground**
Dr. Edlira Shima
Consultant in Gender, Peace, Security, Albania

International organizations & CSOs made the biggest contribution of NAP
- State institutions are committed to NAP
  - There is no concrete budget as a support
- Not just included in development

Pembe Mentesh
Feminist Activist, Cyprus

It’s taking long to develop a NAP

Language of NAP isn’t peacebuilding friendly
- Needs to have measurable indicators of peace building process
- Needs to be more inclusive

Leandra Bias
Women, Peace & Development Research, Belgium

Implementation of the NAP is a joint learning process
- Increase the visibility of resolution to the Parliament
- Raise the visibility for the public not only report, but also through MCDiC etc.

Luisa Del Turco
Conflict Deflectors Research Centre, Italy

Women mediators network
- Needs to be main effort
- New way

Prioritise conflict prevention and participation of women

Involving youth to peace building process

New NAP needs to include learned lessons

Oksana Potapova
Peace and women’s rights advocate, Ukraine

Because we are a country at war
- We have heavily militarised WPS
  - 1325 risks to turn into “making war more safe for women”

Point of non-conflict countries
- Danger to repeat the colonialist view of the world, enforce dependency
  - Careful

Annika Schab Bauer
Operations INCO, Sweden

Accountability mechanisms never forget CEDAW

Better monitoring & reporting mechanism

Integrate a climate change agenda

National implementation: prevention work
- Violent extremism
- Need for clear peace building work
- Real security risk

Perspective

Regularly report on their efforts

It’s crucial to have a budget for activities

Cooperation with CSOs & international organizations & government authorities

Lack of women in peace building process

Gender quotas in Parliament

 Biggest struggles & frustrations of your work with the NAP

As a platform we offer the experience for policy recommendations

How transformative is this agenda??

Expanding list of partners who are actors & who have ownership of the WPS agenda

More security & conflict prevention

Not to bureaucratise the resolution focus on maximum inclusion & intersectionality

To hear the voices of grassroots
Scholarship is increasingly recognizing the importance of localized activity. NAPs shape the agenda in important ways:

- Emphasize some areas over others
- Introduce new areas of concern

The need to be reflective on who we think represents civil society in relation to NAPs:

What it means to have a specifically feminist engagement?

Importance of building and maintaining networks — for solidarity, support, and for holding each other to account.

Never be the most feminist person you know! (C. Enloe)

State level interventions can result in narrowing down the WPS agenda.

Example: Focusing only on sexual violence under protection pillar. Interpreting participation only as women’s role in peacemaking. This is particularly alarming and is a very partial reading of the agenda.

It continues to privilege militarized understandings of security instead of addressing the root causes of violence and conflict.

On the other hand, the role of women’s organisations can help us expand our understanding of what the agenda can do for us.

We need to pay attention to marginalized women and intersectional sensibilities. Problematize the external direction of the WPS agenda as such that only focuses on foreign policy or only relates to countries that are in conflict or just came out of conflict. Other NAPs include issues of climate change and environmental destruction. The plight of refugee women in Europe questions of sexual and reproductive rights.

We need to think about barriers to access especially for grassroots groups, such as:

Lack of contacts, lack of experience in engaging with the government, and a sense that WPS is not within the realm of what they are doing.

A lot of work to be done around advocacy and awareness raising among women’s groups about how to engage.