Submission to Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Office for Women

on

Australia's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

July 2018

The Australian Civil Society Coalition for Women Peace and Security

The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security (the Coalition) is a non-partisan and independent coalition of civil society organisations, networks and individuals working to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda in Australia, Asia and the Pacific region and globally.

Our vision is a world in which gender equality, and the contributions and rights of diverse women and girls, are at the forefront of transforming conflict to build peace.

Our purpose:
1. Reshaping the peace and security dialogue, policy and practice in Australia and our region away from an increasingly militarised and securitised approach towards a transformative women, peace and security agenda.
2. Redefining security for all women within Australia's domestic and foreign policy.
3. Harnessing the collective power of women's movements and peace movements towards our vision in Australia, our region and globally.

www.wpscoalition.org

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Summary of Recommendations

1. What do we mean by 'Women, Peace and Security'?

Recommendation 1: The second NAP must:
  a. *define peace and security;*
  b. *recognise the gendered nature of conflict drivers; and*
  c. *embed an intersectional and intergenerational approach to the WPS agenda.*

2. Developing Australia's next NAP: A Principled Approach

Recommendation 2: Strengthen specific Principles by
  a. *Principle 3 (International commitments) - Including additional significant international commitments for example (but not limited to) the Refugee Convention, Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Arms Trade, Paris and other climate change agreements, proposed Global Compact on Migration.*

  b. *Principle 6 (Commonwealth government remit)- Stating in clear terms the scope of the second NAP, in other words clarifying if the focus is international/ external (as with the first NAP), domestic but only within the Commonwealth sphere of actions or both and explaining what constitutes a Commonwealth government remit.*

  c. *Principle 7 (Civil society) – Revising to underscore ongoing engagement with diverse civil society organisations in all aspects of NAP development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation*

  d. *Including two additional principles:*

   ▪ *Adequate and sustainable resourcing (budget and human) for NAP implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and reviews and NAP governance.*

   ▪ *Policy coherence across government policies and portfolios to ensure that implementing agencies policies and strategies align with the overall strategic objectives of the second NAP*

3. Scope of the next National Action Plan

3.1 WPS pillars

Recommendation 3: The second NAP must move beyond the siloed approach to the 4 pillars from the first NAP. It must demonstrate the linkages across the pillars to support the engagement of diverse women across all pillars. The second NAP's theory of change should be utilised to map out the linkages between the pillars.

3.2 Women's participation

Recommendation 4: The second NAP must move beyond the "add women and stir" model to recognise that the diversity of women's contributions to all aspects of peace and security provides for more durable outcomes and responsive solutions to fragility and conflict.

3.3 Interlinked domestic and international focus

Recommendation 5: The second NAP must include an interlinked domestic and international focus on women, peace and security.

3.4 Vision and goal of the second NAP

Recommendation 6: The Vision and Goal of the second NAP must foreground sustainable peace and conflict prevention alongside gender equality for the diversity of women.

3.5 NAP implementation and the changing global environment

Recommendation 7: *Timely response to the changing global environment can be accommodated through:*
   a. *developing an M&E framework which provides opportunity for annual review and learning;*
   b. *a phased NAP implementation; and*
   c. *regular consultations between diverse women's civil society organisations (in Australia and in countries experiencing protracted crisis) and relevant NAP implementing agencies.*

4. Ensuring accountability and transparency

4.1 NAP governance and political will

Recommendation 8: *Consider establishing WPS NAP High Level Committee comprising of Ministers with portfolio responsibilities, and civil society representation as a key whole of government mechanism to ensure political commitment and accountability.*

4.2 Accountability and Review recommendations follow up

Recommendation 9: *At a minimum, the 16 recommendations made in the Independent Interim Review must be addressed to ensure basic accountability, transparency and the commitment to NAP governance mechanisms.*

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and 'theory of change'

Recommendation 10: *Develop a rigorous theory of change, in partnership with implementing agencies and civil society, to provide the underlying logic for the second NAP, clearly articulating the links between the vision, goal, outcomes and activities.*

4.4 Reporting and accountability

Recommendation 11: *Reporting on WPS and the NAP in existing international (and where relevant domestic) commitments must be a fully integrated as part of the M&E framework to ensure comprehensive accountability across the NAP and implementing agencies.*

4.5 Communication

Recommendation 12: *Develop and implement a communication strategy to regularly inform stakeholders (government, civil society organisations working on WPS and related issues and the general public) on NAP implementation progress, achievements and lessons learned to create an increased awareness of WPS.*

4.6 Role of civil society

Recommendation 13: *Provide consistent support and resources to support substantive civil society engagement with government. This includes:*
   a. *continued support to the Annual Civil Society-Government Dialogue on WPS as both a policy and practice consultative dialogue across government and CSOs on the NAP and emerging WPS issues;*
   b. *High Level participation from government at the level of portfolio responsibility at the Annual Dialogue, and a commitment from government to co-convene the Annual Civil Society-Government Dialogues; and*
   c. *resources for a WPS Civil Society Secretariat to promote ongoing engagement with diverse women's groups, CSOs and individuals interested in WPS and accountability for the NAP.*

4.7 Resources

Recommendation 14: *Identify sufficient resource allocations for NAP implementation, monitoring and evaluation, governance, civil society engagement and for the NAP's communication strategy.*

Introduction

The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security (the Coalition) as an independent coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs), networks and individuals works with a range of key stakeholders to promote the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and to critically inform the development of the second Australia National Action Plan (NAP). The Coalition undertakes this work as a volunteer member-based organisation. Annex 1 provides a summary of the Coalition's activities in elation to the NAP and the WPS agenda.

The Coalition appreciates the opportunity to provide a Submission to the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Office for Women (OFW) on Australia's Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: Discussion Paper. This Submission is structured in response to the sections and key questions outlined in the *Discussion Paper.*

1. What do we mean by 'Women, Peace and Security' (WPS)?

What 'women, peace and security' means and how it will be understood by whole of government and civil society stakeholders is a critical aspect of the development of the second NAP - in policy terms, with respect to developing the theory of change, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and the implementation plan. A clear articulation of what WPS means will provide a clearer path to how the second NAP understands and will operationalise the agenda.

1.1 Women and conflict

This section makes a positive start by highlighting the disproportionate impact of conflict and instability on women and girls. However, it does not adequately explain: why this disproportionate impact occurs, nor does it highlight that drivers of conflict can be gendered as well. The Discussion Paper must acknowledge that women, girls, boys and men experience armed conflict differently as a result of socially constructed gender norms, roles and responsibilities, and gender power relations. In addition, providing examples of gendered insecurities, and including intersectionality (race/ ethnicity/ class/ caste/ age/ ability/ disability) in relation to gender and sexuality will strengthen the conceptual framework on which the NAP is based.

Women's participation in conflict resolution and peace agreements contributing to 'longer lasting' peace is recognised. We also appreciate the Discussion Paper's attempt to embed the focus of gender equality in all efforts to *"prevent conflict, respond to national disasters and contribute to peacekeeping and peacebuilding."* The WPS Coalition looks forward to seeing a theory of change that clearly elucidates the integration of gender equality into a set of connected outcomes leading to effective responses to conflict prevention, disaster response, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

1.2 Clarifying peace and security

To set the context and approach for the second NAP, and to ensure that all implementing agencies have to the extent possible a cohesive approach to peace and security, it is important to define key concepts - security and peace – and explain the interlinkages between peace, security, fragility and conflict.

The Coalition recommends that the second NAP draws on the concept of human security to help frame the NAP, and give primacy to peace and conflict prevention. The security of states are increasingly bound up with the security of individuals (women, men, girls, boys and all gendered identities) and needs to be understood in intersectional and intergenerational terms extending beyond physical and military notions of security, to include environmental, economic, political, and civil.[1] Adopting a gender inclusive rights-based human security approach to peace and security policy recognises freedom from fear and oppression as fundamental to the promotion of peace and security. The WPS agenda draws attention to the gendered nature of instability and seeks to

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[1] Listening Women's Voices and Making the Connections to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Fifth Report of the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security. 2017. http://wpscoalition.org

address this instability by facilitating an inclusive people centred approach to addressing human insecurity focusing on the specific needs of the most marginalised groups, particularly women and girls.

Recommendation 1: The second NAP must:
  a. *define peace and security;*
  b. *recognise the gendered nature of conflict drivers; and*
  c. *embed an intersectional and intergenerational approach to the WPS agenda.*

2. Developing Australia's next NAP: A Principled Approach

The *Discussion Paper* provides a broad list of 'principles' to "strategically coordinate efforts and direct cohesive whole of government implementation" and to guide the development of the second NAP. Overall the principles provide a sound basis from which to proceed. To strengthen the principles the second NAP should consider a succinct explanation of the underlying assumptions behind the choice of principles.

Recommendation 2: Strengthen specific Principles by:
  a. *Principle 3 (International commitments) - including additional significant international commitments for example (but not limited to) the Refugee Convention, Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Arms Trade, Paris and other climate change agreements, proposed Global Compact on Migration.*

  b. *Principle 6 (Commonwealth government remit) - stating in clear terms the scope of the second NAP, in other words clarifying if the focus is international/ external (as with the first NAP), domestic but only within the Commonwealth sphere of actions or both and explaining what constitutes a Commonwealth government remit.*

  c. *Principle 7 (Civil society) - revising to underscore ongoing engagement with diverse civil society organisations in all aspects of NAP development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.*

  d. *Including two additional principles:*

     o *Adequate and sustainable resourcing (budget and human) for NAP implementation, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and reviews and NAP governance.[2] See also Section 4.7.*

     o *Policy coherence across government policies and portfolios to ensure that implementing agencies policies and strategies align with the overall strategic objectives of the second NAP. This principle will avoid incongruence between for example - conflict prevention and increased investment in arms manufacture and trade; protecting women and girls from sexual and gender based violence and defence cooperation with Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) listed in the Report of the UN Secretary General on conflict-related sexual violence as having committed sexual violence in armed conflict; and providing humanitarian assistance to Yemen while continuing arms trade with Saudi Arabia.*

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[2] Many reviews emphasise the importance of sustainable resources. Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Designing Inclusive Strategies for Sustainable Security: Results-Oriented National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security. OSCE, 2016. https://osce.org;
Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice and Securing the Peace. http://wps.unwomen.org also known as the Global Study.
Independent Interim Review of the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2018) Final Report: 30 October 2015 https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/nap-interim-review-report.pdf

3. Scope of the next National Action Plan

The Scope outlines the contemporary global context for the development of the second NAP including: recurrent intrastate conflicts, expanded terrorist and extremist networks, increased prevalence of natural disasters; and mass displacement of people. As in the first NAP the orientation is towards an international arena in fragile, conflict, post conflict and humanitarian contexts. The domestic context is characterised as peaceful, but impacted by transboundary issues such as climate change, pandemics, displacement and countering violent extremism.

3.1 WPS pillars

The second NAP should *include women's meaningful contribution within all the 'pillars – prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery'.* Inclusion of diverse women in all aspects of conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction remains limited.[3] A shift away from the first NAP's predominant focus on 'protection' will require building possibilities for diverse women's substantive engagement and 'participation' across all the pillars in Australia and fragile and conflict-affected countries. A well-articulated theory of change can assist with reconceptualising clearer links across the pillars, to move beyond the "siloed approach."

Recommendation 3: *The second NAP must move beyond the siloed approach to the 4 pillars from the first NAP. It must demonstrate the linkages across the pillars to support the engagement of diverse women across all pillars. The second NAP's theory of change should be utilised to map out the linkages between the pillars.*

3.2 Women's participation

The second NAP should *ensure the participation of all women in all forms of peace and security policy and practice.* Such inclusion of diverse women strengthens durable outcomes and responsive solutions. Attention needs to be paid to the contributions of women and girls in all aspects of peace and security, not only those issues that are frequently gendered (such as sexual violence, health and education access, and protection). This is not to minimise these serious issues that fundamentally affect women's and girl's lives, but to advocate for a position that recognises the importance of including women in their diversity in decision making about all aspects of peace and security and sustainable development. The Coalition specifically advocates for foregrounding women's substantive participation and agency in conflict prevention, protection and post-conflict reconstruction. This would move the second NAP beyond the instrumentalised *'add women and stir'* approach of the first NAP.[4]

Recommendation 4: *The second NAP must move beyond the "add women and stir" model to recognise that the diversity of women's contributions to all aspects of peace and security provides for more durable outcomes and responsive solutions to fragility and conflict.*

3.3 Interlinked domestic and international focus

The Coalition supports an interlinked domestic and international focus for the second NAP. During Civil Society Roundtables[5] many participants emphasised an understanding of peace and security grounded in a domestic focus, relating to the continuum of violence against women, Australia's colonial history and the violence to its indigenous people, the lived experience of conflict (where despite vulnerability women are agents for change), and the recognition of the experiences of displaced people. The focus on social cohesion and inclusion, gender equality, and approaches to address discrimination and reconciliation makes WPS a domestic agenda as well. The Civil Society Roundtables supported a 'dual focus' with a "domestic program built around addressing inequality;

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[3] UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security. October 2017. https://securitycouncilreport.org/
[4] Fifth Report of the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security. *Listening to Women's Voices and Making the Connections to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.* 2017.
[5] Fifth Report of the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security. *Listening to Women's Voices and Making the Connections to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.* 2017.

and a peace based foreign policy grounded in principles of ensuring gender equality, promoting peace and stability, focusing on preventing conflict and reflective of our international human rights commitments".[6]

Australia's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 5 (achieve gender equality) and Goal 16 (promote peaceful and inclusive societies)[7] provide further powerful linkages between domestic and international responses and reporting on WPS. Collectively the SDGs recognise that sustainable development is not possible without peace and peace is not possible without sustainable development. The second NAP will need to articulate how the "international/ domestic" spheres of action will be negotiated within the established Commonwealth Government's remit (Section 2) as it is clear that NAP implementation cannot be fully achieved unless it is part of the domestic context.

Recommendation 5: *The second NAP must include an interlinked domestic and international focus on women, peace and security.*

3.4 Vision and goal of the second NAP

The Vision and Goal for the second NAP must acknowledge the role of gender equality in promoting peace and stability. In addition, the Coalition sees the following elements as key to the NAP:
- long-term commitment to conflict prevention;
- support for sustainable peace; and
- focusing on human security by advancing gender equality and full, equal and meaningful participation of women and all gender identities in all aspects of peace and security policy development, practice, implementation, monitoring and evaluation across all levels local, national, and international.

Recommendation 6: *The Vision and Goal of the second NAP must foreground sustainable peace and conflict prevention alongside gender equality for the diversity of women.*

3.5 NAP implementation and the changing global environment

The *Discussion Paper* notes the dynamic changing global environment and context for the second NAP. The challenge for the NAP will be to remain responsive both in policy and practice while the environment shifts at an international and domestic level. There are several options to consider as avenues to support this responsiveness including:

- developing an M&E framework that includes regular internal reviews as part of an ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning process on an annual basis which could also feed directly into reporting and into Annual Dialogues;

- a phased implementation plan: for example an implementation review after the first phase which would inform the next phase of implementation; and

- facilitating regular meetings between diverse women's civil society organisations (in Australia and in countries experiencing protracted crisis) and relevant NAP implementing agencies, to assess ongoing WPS issues and concerns.

Recommendation 7: *Timely response to the changing global environment can be accommodated through:*
- *developing an M&E framework which provides opportunity for annual review and learning;*
- *a phased NAP implementation; and*
- *regular consultations between diverse women's civil society organisations (in Australia and in countries experiencing protracted crisis) and relevant NAP implementing agencies.*

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[6] ibid

[7] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/

4. Ensuring accountability and transparency

This section of the *Discussion Paper* begins with a reference to the elements of "high impact NAPs"[8] and then proceeds to discuss the current Australian NAP's governance structure, M&E, review mechanisms and reporting on progress. For the second Australian NAP to be not only "high impact" but also "accountable and transparent" some additional elements must be seriously considered, namely resources and political will.[9]

4.1 NAP governance and political will

The NAP must be considered as articulating a *national approach to peace and security* – not just a "women's issue". Commitment must be evident at the highest levels of government, with mid-level management invested in the achievements and impact of the NAP. While the current NAP has an Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) "to help guide implementation", including representation from civil society, the governance mechanism needs to be reviewed for its effectiveness in terms of active oversight and accountability. For example, while Independent Reviews, government Progress Reports, and Civil Society Reports are noted there is little engagement from the IDC on guiding the implementation of the NAP based on recommendations made in the listed reviews and reports. Even with the tabling of Progress Reports in Parliament, to date there has been no official response or recommendations on actions that needed to be taken to advance the WPS agenda. This raises questions not only about the accountability of the first NAP but also about Australia's commitment and engagement with the WPS agenda.

Recommendation 8: *Consider establishing a WPS NAP High Level Committee (HLC) comprising of Ministers with portfolio responsibilities, and civil society representation as a key whole of government mechanism to ensure political commitment and accountability. This HLC needs to be constituted to provide policy and implementation oversight, and the capacity to respond to emerging global issues.*

4.2 Accountability and Review recommendations follow up

The Interim Review made 16 recommendations across 5 thematic categories, which focused on the need to strengthen monitoring and evaluation, particularly impact measurement; gaps in terms of institutionalisation, awareness, funding and resource allocation across implementing agencies; and formal engagement with civil society which was limited by access to resources. *The government's response was to note that most of these recommendations "will be addressed in the next National Action Plan."*[10]

Recommendation 9: *At a minimum, the 16 recommendations made in the Independent Interim Review must be addressed to ensure basic accountability, transparency and the commitment to NAP governance mechanisms.*

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and 'theory of change'

A sound 'theory of change' (TOC) is vital for the development of a successful M&E framework. It enables the mapping of context, underlying assumptions, links between short, intermediate and long-term outcomes – a pathway of change, and sequencing of required actions, outputs and indicators. A TOC can provide the fundamental logic for the second NAP, and a means of accountability, reflection and learning, linking the vision, goal and outcomes to understand the impact of the NAP. As noted in the Independent Interim Review (2015), the first NAP lacked a clear

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[8] Lippai, Z. and Young, A. *Creating National Action Plans: A Guide to Implementing Resolution 1325.* Inclusive Security, 2017. p. 8 and 17. https://inclusivesecurity.org

[9] Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Designing Inclusive Strategies for Sustainable Security: Results-Oriented National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security. OSCE, 2016. https://osce.org

[10] 2016 Progress Report on the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-18. pg.136 (Annex B – Interim Review Response). https://www.pmc.gov.au/resource-centre/office-women/2016-progress-report-australia-national-actiona-plan-women-peace-security- and-security-2012-2018

goal statement, and an effective M&E framework which went beyond describing and counting activities, and limited the capacity to understand the effectiveness of NAP activities undertaken by implementing agencies.

The TOC must be developed in partnership across all implementing agencies and civil society, in order to facilitate comprehensive understanding and ownership of the NAP. The M&E framework should also define roles, responsibilities, and specific timelines for collecting, analysing, using data and reporting.

Recommendation 10: *Develop a rigorous theory of change, in partnership with implementing agencies and civil society, to provide the underlying logic for the second NAP, clearly articulating the links between the vision, goal, outcomes and activities.*

4.4 Reporting and accountability

The *Discussion Paper* notes that "*whilst robust reporting is important for accountability, duplicative reporting can divert resources from activities*" and this is a valid point. Part of the reason that reporting may be onerous for some implementing agencies is that they have found it difficult to make the link between the NAP and existing work that is being done where WPS language is not being used, and where activities are being reported elsewhere. The problem is compounded by the lack of a robust M&E framework. In addition, focusing on reporting does not preclude the need for the development of a robust M&E framework which can contribute to streamlining of overall reporting and strengthened accountability. Part of the NAP scoping should identify the relevant existing international and domestic obligations so that these can be integrated into the overall M&E framework and timelines from the outset. This provides the opportunity for the WPS work done as part of international conventions to be accounted for and showcased appropriately, and for linkages to be made more effectively across portfolios at the domestic level.

Recommendation 11: *Reporting on WPS and the NAP in existing international (and where relevant domestic) commitments must be a fully integrated as part of the M&E framework to ensure comprehensive accountability across the NAP and implementing agencies.*

4.5 Communication

One of the missed opportunities with the first NAP has been the lack of communication about the NAP and WPS issues from government with a broader public audience, including non-implementing government agencies and the community. This creates a lack of transparency around the NAP even though Progress Reports have been produced every 2 years. As the 2017 Civil Society Roundtables demonstrated there was active interest when diverse women around Australia were asked to discuss "what peace and security means to you in practice?"[11] Issues around respect for human rights and gender equality, acknowledging diversity of women's voices around peace and security, issues of marginalisation and discrimination, and freedom and "human security" were raised alongside concerns about climate change, domestic violence, women's rights, displaced persons and humanitarian emergencies. However, despite this interest and engagement with areas relevant to WPS and the NAP, a number of participants still had little or no awareness of the NAP before engaging with the roundtables.

Recommendation 12: *Develop and implement a communication strategy to regularly inform stakeholders (government, civil society organisations working on WPS and related issues and the general public) on NAP implementation progress, achievements and lessons learned to create an increased awareness of WPS.*

4.6 Role of civil society

As the *Discussion Paper* notes civil society plays an important role in implementing the WPS agenda and in accountability and transparency. A major challenge for civil society is that the

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[11] https://wpscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CivilSociety 2018 report ART web.pdf

majority of civil society engagement is voluntary. Therefore resources and the sustainability of ongoing civil society engagement are a serious concern.

Recommendation 13: Provide consistent support and resources to support substantive civil society engagement with government. This includes:

    a. *continued support to the Annual Civil Society-Government Dialogue on WPS as both a policy and practice consultative dialogue across government and CSOs on the NAP and emerging WPS issues;*

    b. *High Level participation from government at the level of portfolio responsibility at the Annual Dialogue, and a commitment from government to co-convene the Annual Civil Society-Government Dialogues; and*

    c. *resources for a WPS Civil Society Secretariat to promote ongoing engagement with diverse women's groups, CSOs and individuals interested in WPS and accountability for the NAP.*

4.7 Resources

All this (NAP development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, governance and civil society engagement) - across government and civil society - requires resources. The NAP should be budgeted and resources allocated, disbursed and tracked. Transparency is key to all these elements.[12] Specifically sustainable resourcing should be provided within government to ensure comprehensive coordination and communication across implementing agencies and WPS stakeholders. For some government agencies resources may be particularly limited.

Certainly for civil society this has been a great challenge as participation in NAP governance, providing technical advice and engaging in accountability processes is accomplished on volunteer contributions. To ensure that civil society work is sustainable, resources should be provided to support a WPS Civil Society Secretariat. Otherwise without dedicated, adequate and sustainable resources across all stakeholders, there is a significant concern that NAP implementation, accountability and transparency may be at risk.

Recommendation 14: Identify sufficient resource allocations for NAP implementation, monitoring and evaluation, governance, civil society engagement and for the NAP's communication strategy.

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[12] The importance of sustainable resources is noted in many NAP reviews. Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Designing Inclusive Strategies for Sustainable Security: Results-Oriented National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security. OSCE, 2016. https://osce.org;
Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice and Securing the Peace. http://wps.unwomen.org also known as the Global Study.
Independent Interim Review of the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2018) Final Report: 30 October 2015 https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/nap-interim-review-report.pdf

ANNEX 1

AUSTRALIAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

The Coalition[13] was established in 2013 and builds on the work of Australian and international CSOs who have long been active in supporting the WPS agenda well before the development of the first Australian NAP. CSOs made substantial and constructive recommendations to the Consultation Draft of the first Australian NAP which was developed by the Australian Government during 2010-11. The process and the lack of effective engagement with civil society around the Consultation Draft was disappointing. In 2013, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and the Australian Council for International Development started the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on women, peace and security as a basis for civil society reporting on NAP implementation.[14] This became the impetus to form an Australian CSO coalition working on WPS issues.

Since 2013, the Coalition has made significant contributions to the WPS agenda and discussions on policy and practice and the Australian NAP. These efforts have included:

- organising the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security (the Dialogue)[15] and the Annual Report (2013-2017), as a key process through which civil society and government have engaged in constructive dialogue on WPS - to elevate the national discussion on WPS; facilitate effective deliberations between civil society and the Australian government on WPS in the context of UNSCR 1325; and to support shadow reporting;

- participating in the governance of Australia's first NAP (from 2015)[16], with civil society representation on both the Inter Departmental Committee (IDC) (1 civil society member), which comprises high-level representation from implementing agencies with NAP responsibilities, and IDC Sub-committee (2 members) which monitors on a regular basis the implementation of the Australian NAP. This work has been undertaken on a voluntary basis, and has involved considerable time and effort participating in numerous meetings both with the committees and individual implementing agencies; documentation review; provision of technical advice; and planning for the development of the second NAP;

- submissions and advocacy on WPS related topics including: the Australian Parliament Senate Inquiry into the Implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Submission to Australia's Voluntary National Review on the SDGs; CEDAW Shadow Report; Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Foreign Policy White Paper; and the Australian Government Defence Export Strategy;

- commissioning of technical *Issue Papers* to inform the development of Australia's second NAP and to advance the discussion on WPS in Australia.[17]

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[13] https://wpscoalition.org/

[14] As a result in 2013, the Women's International league for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID) - later joined by the Australian National University's Gender Institute agreed to undertake an annual dialogue to develop a civil society report card on NAP implementation to form the basis for a shadow report.

[15] The Australian Civil Military Centre has provided funding for the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security.

[16] Recognising the instrumental role played by civil society in the development of the Australian NAP, the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-18 (p. 26) includes the provision "to nominate a selection of representatives to meet with the Women, Peace and Security Inter-Departmental." https://www.pmc.gov.au/office-women/international-forums/australian-national-action-plan-women-peace-and-security-2012-2018.

[17] The Coalition commissioned the writing of thematically focused Issue Papers during 2018 to inform the development of Australia's second NAP and to advance the discussion on WPS in Australia, as a follow on from the 2017 Dialogue. To date 6 Issue Papers have been produced addressing: *preventing and countering violent extremism; strengthening conflict prevention; experience of adolescent girls in peace and security; developing a vision for the second NAP; the SDGs and the WPS agenda; and linking WPS and disaster response and management.* https://wpscoalition.org/

In 2017, the Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security 5th Report *Listening to Women's Voices and Making the Connections to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda[18]* focused on amplifying the voices of diverse women in Australia and across our region to inform and reshape dialogue, policy development, and practice related to the WPS agenda and to contribute to the development of the second NAP. The 2017 Dialogue Report concludes with a list of critical issues for the development of the second NAP around: framing the scope; linking WPS across the international and domestic; stakeholder engagement; and the role of civil society. These issues will be addressed as part of this submission.

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[18] The Coalition structured the Dialogue in 2 complementary parts: the Civil Society Roundtables, held in all Australian capital cities, provided a forum for women and girls from diverse backgrounds in Australia and our region[18] to express their views on what peace and security mean in practice today with findings summarised in the *Women Shape the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Roundtable Discussions Summary.* The Australian Roundtables (September 2017) were supplemented by a Talanoa discussion at the 13th Triennial Conference on Pacific Women. These Roundtables informed discussions at the Civil Society-Government Policy Dialogue and focused on questions around how civil society and government understandings of peace and security in Australia in the current global context, can build an informed and effective approach to WPS in Australia. https://wpscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CivilSociety 2018 report ART web.pdf