

# 2018 CIVIL SOCIETY ROUNDTABLES SUMMARY

## Strengthening the engagement of Australian civil society in the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security



[www.wpscoalition.org](http://www.wpscoalition.org)

# THE AUSTRALIAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

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The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security (WPS 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.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Coalition looks forward to working further with all participants on the women, peace and security agenda, particularly as Australia moves to develop its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security in 2018-19.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Australia is in the process of developing its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP), which government anticipates launching by mid-2019. A necessary part of this development process is to articulate, “how the engagement of Australian civil society will be strengthened in Australia’s second NAP”.

While Australia’s focus is on the drafting of the second NAP, it is critical to locate this process within the broader understanding of the women, peace and security agenda (WPS), alongside making civil society, women and gender issues more visible within existing government policies and action. The women, peace and security agenda is about promoting peace and human security. The agenda is about changing gendered attitudes and practices to achieve a peaceful world by increasing diverse women’s active participation in peace processes at all levels, where ultimately the whole world benefits. The question then also needs to be asked: in what ways does the NAP contribute to the women, peace and security agenda and how do we want civil society and government to work together to achieve the broader women, peace and security agenda?

The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women Peace and Security (the WPS Coalition) as part of its 2018 Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security, organised Civil Society Roundtables in October 2018. The purpose was to engage with civil society organisations (CSOs) and diverse women to discuss what the role of civil society should be in the development, implementation and monitoring of the second NAP.

This report provides an overview of the key themes discussed at the Civil Society Roundtables, which will inform the Civil Society - Government Policy Dialogue on 29 November 2018. Summarised below are key recommendations from the Roundtables. The intention is to generate ideas for ongoing dialogue about processes/mechanisms within civil society and between civil society and government on women, peace and security.

### *Resourcing civil society engagement*

- Explore options for core funding for a CSO platform/WPS Coalition to: share knowledge; provide technical advice to governments; monitor, and evaluate NAP commitments in particular and WPS commitments more broadly (e.g. shadow reporting etc.); raise awareness on WPS issues/NAP; serve as a convening body that brings diverse CSOs to discuss WPS issues (roundtables/annual dialogues/regular reflections etc.).
- Increase resources allocated to the Office for Women for their role in coordinating the work of government NAP stakeholders and engagement with CSOs.
- Commit to a fee for service model for advice provided to individual government NAP stakeholders by CSOs or CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
- Co-design a resourced Civil Society-Government engagement strategy that recognises the need for a range of approaches to engage with diverse civil society

actors and groups (e.g. but not limited to annual dialogues, communities of practice, webinars, website, teleconference meetings etc.).

## ***Enabling diversity***

- Make explicit the links between the WPS agenda and domestic issues of peace and security.
- Better, utilise the existing expansive networks of organisations to reach out to diverse groups.
- Ensure consultations/roundtables are inclusive by making concerted efforts to resource and reach out to young women, Indigenous women, migrant/diaspora women, and women with disabilities.
- Broaden the discussions and engagements beyond the NAP to focus on peace and security (i.e. to include human security issues).
- Better, understand the needs, interests, and capacities of diverse civil society organisations interested in peace and security issues.
- Commit to communicating in an accessible non-bureaucratic and technical language in the NAP and WPS discussions to promote broader engagement.
- Gather the views of diverse women in the region on WPS issues and how Australia's NAP affects them by reaching out to diverse women's civil society organisations beyond Australia.

## ***Representation, partnerships and collaboration***

- CSOs and the WPS Coalition should:
  - Explore an appropriate structure for the civil society only platform.
  - Develop a strategy to promote greater involvement among members of the CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
  - Explore entry points, other than the NAP, to engage with the government in conversations on WPS.
  - Take leadership for “domesticating the NAP” by articulating key domestic issues related to peace and security tracking government's commitments on these issues.
  - Commit to developing shadow reports (e.g. like CEDAW).
- Commit to resourcing a co-designed and co-led space for regular and meaningful Civil Society-Government engagement focussing on outcomes-based engagement between civil society and government.

## ***Strengthening accountability***

- Principles of transparency and openness must govern CSOs engagement with each other and Civil Society-Government engagement.
- The second NAP must include adequate resources to enable government reporting on the NAP, CSOs annual/shadow reports, and independent reviews of the NAP.
- The second NAP needs to develop a clear Communications Strategy to ensure timely and effective information sharing by government around the NAP and WPS, with easily accessible language.
- Mandate the need for the government to respond to recommendations in the CSO annual/shadow reports and independent reviews.
- Government-led consultations should provide feedback to participants regarding the outcomes of government-civil society consultations (e.g. emerging themes, next steps, information about which recommendations were taken up, which were not and why).

# INTRODUCTION: LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AROUND AND LOOKING FORWARD

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Australia has begun drafting the second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP). The Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women Peace and Security (the WPS Coalition) seeks to contribute to the development of the second NAP by focussing on amplifying the voices of diverse women in Australia and informing the principles and mechanisms that should underpin civil society engagement with government around the second NAP.

In October 2018, with the support of the Australian Government, the WPS Coalition organised three Civil Society Roundtables in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney and one teleconference, to provide a space for deliberation. Diverse women came together to discuss the nature of, and resourcing and mechanisms for, ongoing civil society engagement with the government on the development, implementation, and monitoring of the second NAP.

This report provides an overview of the key themes discussed at the Civil Society Roundtables, which will inform the Civil Society - Government Policy Dialogue on 29 November 2018. Summarised below are key recommendations from the Roundtables. The intention is to generate ideas for ongoing dialogue about processes/mechanisms within civil society and between civil society and government on women, peace and security. A subsequent report from the Civil Society - Government Policy Dialogue will be published in early 2019.

## *The Global Context*

The main policy architecture of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda consists of the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council under the title of 'Women and peace and security'. Currently, there are eight resolutions which together shape the agenda, published across a 15-year period: UNSCR 1325 (2000); UNSCR 1820 (2008); UNSCR 1888 (2009); UNSCR 1889 (2009); UNSCR 1960 (2010); UNSCR 2103 (2013); UNSCR 2122 (2013); and UNSCR 2242 (2015).

The resolutions spell out the commitments of the WPS agenda. These commitments or themes are organised into four pillars:

- The *prevention* of conflict and specific forms of violence related to conflict, such as sexualised and gender-based violence;
- The *participation* of women in peace and security governance, including their participation in peace processes and security institutions;
- The *protection* of women's rights and bodies in conflict and conflict-affected settings; and;
- The importance of using a 'gender lens' when evaluating, planning, and implementing *relief and recovery* efforts following conflict and disasters.

The conventional story of the WPS agenda situates it within the UN Security Council – indeed, it is widely referred to as ‘the UN’s Women, Peace and Security agenda’. However, the mobilisation efforts by women’s civil society organisations, including sustained lobbying and advocacy in New York in the months leading up to the adoption of UNSCR 1325 in 2000, were instrumental in creating space for the issues of women’s rights and needs in conflict and conflict-affected settings to be discussed as matters of international peace and security.

The close involvement of civil society with the WPS agenda has not only been sustained in the two decades since the adoption of UNSCR 1325; it has grown. UNSCR 1325 and the other resolutions that make up the policy architecture of the agenda are unique in this regard, in that they have what has been described as a ‘global constituency’.<sup>1</sup>

## **The Australian Context**

Civil society engagement with the WPS agenda takes a variety of different forms in different institutional and national contexts.<sup>2</sup> The following section provides a brief overview of the Australian context.

The advocacy work that laid the foundation for the Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012-2018<sup>3</sup> dates back to 2004 when the Australian Section of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF Australia) received funding from the Commonwealth Office for Women (OFW) to develop an Australian website promoting UNSCR 1325. In the same year, the Australian government invited WILPF Australia to suggest ideas on the best way forward to implementing a national action plan, as part of preparatory work for the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In 2008, in partnership with UNIFEM Australia (now UN Women National Committee Australia), WILPF Australia proposed to the former Minister for the Status of Women that not only should Australia develop a NAP but that the WPS agenda should be one of the top ten women’s priorities for action. As a result, in 2008 WILPF Australia was funded to run national consultations to inform the Australian government on the next steps towards the development of a NAP.

The recommendations derived from national consultation were captured in a discussion paper released in 2009 titled *Final Report: Developing a National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (Final Report)*.<sup>4</sup> The *Final Report* provided a comprehensive account of the appropriate scope of the NAP, and recommendations regarding governance structures, monitoring, and evaluation mechanisms. Following the release of the *Final Report*, OFW convened the Women, Peace and Security Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG), comprising representatives from the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Defence (ADF), Attorney General (AG), AusAID (now

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, *Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why It Matters* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2007), p. 7.

<sup>2</sup> See 2018 Civil Society Roundtable Background papers. <http://wpscoalition.org/background-papers-for-the-2018-annual-civil-society-dialogue/>

<sup>3</sup> Extended to 2019.

<sup>4</sup> WILPF Australia Section, *Final Report: Developing a National Action Plan on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325* (2009). Online, at <http://www.1325australia.org.au/textdocuments/FinalReportJuly2009.pdf> (accessed 25 September 2017).

DFAT), the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), and the Australian Federal Police (AFP). The IDWG was tasked with determining 'how Australia could better implement UNSCR 1325' and overseeing the 'development of a consultation draft National Action Plan, which was informed by key suggestions from WILPF Australia's work'.<sup>5</sup>

To date, civil society's role in the Australian NAP has not been clearly articulated and has evolved rather than being included as an integral part of the first NAP's implementation and monitoring. Before the launch of the first NAP in 2012, WILPF, UNIFEM (now UN Women) and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) announced their intention to conduct an Annual Civil Society Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security with government and produce an Annual Report Card on the implementation of the NAP. Since 2013, five Annual Civil Society Dialogues have been held. The first three (2013-2015) received funding from OFW and ACMC, and the remaining two (2016-2017) were funded entirely by ACMC. Through an ad hoc process, civil society (represented by the WPS Coalition) has also gained representation on the Australian NAP governance mechanisms: the Inter-Departmental Working Group (IDWG – now the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC)) from 2014 and the IDC's Sub-committee (from 2015).<sup>6</sup>

To inform the development of the second NAP, the WPS Coalition held a series of Civil Society Roundtables in 2017, enabling women across Australia to express their views on what peace and security mean in practice. The findings were summarised in the *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*.<sup>7</sup> The recommendations on the development of Australia's second NAP highlight the need for a focus on peace and conflict prevention across all aspects of policy development and implementation, and meaningful engagement with civil society, especially women's organisations.

## THE 2018 ANNUAL CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

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In 2018, the Dialogue will focus on the nature, resourcing and mechanisms for ongoing civil society engagement in the development, implementation and monitoring of the second NAP. The Dialogue provides an opportunity to discuss the use of the second NAP as a tool to bring about change in how government and civil society work together for peace, gender

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<sup>5</sup> Australian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2018). Online, at [https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05\\_2012/aus\\_nap\\_on\\_women\\_2012\\_2018.pdf](https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/aus_nap_on_women_2012_2018.pdf) (accessed 25 September 2017), p.16.

<sup>6</sup> The IDWG and the IDWG Sub-committee, in 2017 were renamed the Inter-departmental Committee (IDC) and IDC Sub-committee.

<sup>7</sup> Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security, 'The 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). Online, at [http://wpscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CivilSociety\\_2018\\_report\\_ART\\_web.pdf](http://wpscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CivilSociety_2018_report_ART_web.pdf).

justice and to strengthen diverse women's substantive participation in conflict prevention and all aspects of peacebuilding, peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction.

The Dialogue comprises two complementary parts: Civil Society Roundtables (the Roundtables); and the Civil Society-Government Policy Dialogue (the Policy Dialogue) scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> November.

## ***Civil Society Roundtables***

The Civil Society Roundtables were held 13-15 October 2018 in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra, with a teleconference on 16 October 2018. The purpose of the Roundtables was to generate ideas for dialogue within civil society and between civil society and government around civil society involvement in the development and implementation of the second NAP.

At each Roundtable, the focus of discussions was on *looking back* (asking: what worked well in the first NAP engagement? What didn't work effectively? What needs to be changed?); *looking around* (exploring good practice from across the world); and *looking forward* (asking, what will enable us to work effectively? Who should be involved in the development and implementation of the second NAP, and how?).

## ***Key Themes from the 2018 Roundtables***

This section provides an overview of the key themes discussed at the Civil Society Roundtables. Summarised below are key recommendations from the Roundtables. The intention is to generate ideas for ongoing dialogue about processes/mechanisms within civil society and between civil society and government on women, peace and security. Annex 1 provides a detailed outline of suggested outputs, activities, processes and mechanisms for actions: 1) between Australian government/ departments and civil society actions; 2) Australian government/ departments, and 3) civil society actions.

These themes and recommendations will inform the Civil Society - Government Policy Dialogue on 29 November 2018.

### **RESOURCING CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT**

Resourcing emerged as a critical issue for the second NAP. The issue of resourcing covered two levels:

- Resourcing ongoing engagement between civil society and government; and
- Resourcing the establishment of a civil society platform like the WPS Coalition.

From looking at examples of NAP practices across the world, a wide range of activities are funded by national governments to resource civil society and government engagement; from monitoring and reporting on NAP commitments, to organising roundtables/consultations within civil society organisations and between civil society and the government.

In some cases, national governments also contribute, in part, to core funding for a network/alliance/coalition on WPS. The United Kingdom is an exceptional case, where

organisations who are members of the WPS peak body - Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) UK pay a membership fee to fund dedicated staff. Across the board, networks/alliances/coalitions are heavily reliant on the voluntary labour of members to resource their organisation's work.

The implicit expectation by governments, and to some extent networks/alliances/coalitions, of the voluntary nature of engaging in these spaces and providing technical advice on the WPS agenda and the NAP, in particular, contributes to undervaluing the expertise, knowledge and skills that diverse women and their organisations have brought, and continue to bring to the WPS table over the years.

In Australia, the government's contribution has been to fund Annual Civil Society Dialogues and Reports (since 2013). Funding the Annual Civil Society Dialogues and Reports has been a positive foundation for the engagement of government with civil society once a year. However, reduced funding has affected the ability to build broader and more inclusive participation in the Annual Dialogues. Also, there is a lack of core resourcing for the WPS Coalition to carry out its role in organising the Dialogues, sustaining ongoing engagement with members and other CSO partners, and in representing civil society on NAP governance bodies, which is a fundamental challenge. These activities are maintained on behalf of civil society by individual volunteers and in-kind contributions from CSOs.

### ***Recommendations***

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- Explore options for core funding for a CSO platform/WPS Coalition to: share knowledge; provide technical advice to governments; monitor, and evaluate NAP commitments in particular and WPS commitments more broadly (e.g. shadow reporting etc.); raise awareness on WPS issues/NAP; serve as a convening body that brings diverse CSOs to discuss WPS issues (roundtables/annual dialogues/regular reflections etc.).
- Increase resources allocated to the Office for Women for their role in coordinating the work of government NAP stakeholders and engagement with CSOs.
- Commit to a fee for service model for advice provided to individual government NAP stakeholders by CSOs or CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
- Co-design a resourced Civil Society-Government engagement strategy that recognises the need for a range of approaches to engage with diverse civil society actors and groups (e.g. but not limited to annual dialogues, communities of practice, webinars, website, teleconference meetings etc.).

### ***ENABLING DIVERSITY***

A second theme emerged around enabling more effective engagement across the diversity of women and civil society organisations. Reaching out more widely to young women, Indigenous women, migrant and diaspora women, and disabled women, and the organisations that represent these communities was seen as challenging for both the government and the WPS Coalition. This theme connected two significant issues: the

alienating “bureaucratic/ technical/ public service language” of the NAP, and need to make a tangible and explicit the link between the domestic/ local relevance/ meaning of the NAP, and the international focus of the NAP.

There were multiple reasons including:

- Framing of peace and security as an aid and foreign policy agenda;
- The external focus of the current NAP and the lack of a role for domestic women’s organisations and women’s lived experience;
- Perceptions that CSOs working overseas have more involvement in dialogue with Government;
- Lack of resources to support outreach to diverse women’s groups; and
- The challenge of engaging with complexity and diversity where ‘one size’ does not fit all.

Specifically, the current NAP has created an impact on whether individuals or domestic organisation feel part of the WPS conversation. This means rethinking engagement and creating spaces beyond roundtables/ dialogues, which are safe, valued and respected. It also means a broader conceptualisation of civil society (more than just NGOs and INGOs) with a deeper reflection on who has (and does not have) the capacity to speak and be heard, particularly where bureaucratic/ technical language makes the WPS discussion inaccessible. CSOs and government will need to consider good practice in engaging men and working on masculinities in the WPS agenda.

More needs to be done by both government and civil society to engage diverse voices in all aspects of NAP development and implementation (including monitoring and evaluation) and WPS issues more broadly. Equally important is ensuring that any civil society platform (like the WPS Coalition) and government framework reflects diversity in its governance structures.

### ***Recommendations***

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- Make explicit the links between the WPS agenda and domestic issues of peace and security.
- Better, utilise the existing expansive networks of organisations to reach out to diverse groups.
- Ensure consultations/roundtables are inclusive by making concerted efforts to resource and reach out to young women, Indigenous women, migrant/diaspora women, and women with disabilities.
- Broaden the discussions and engagements beyond the NAP to focus on peace and security (i.e. to include human security issues).

- Better, understand the needs, interests, and capacities of diverse civil society organisations interested in peace and security issues.
- Commit to communicating in an accessible non-bureaucratic and technical language in the NAP and WPS discussions to promote broader engagement.
- Gather the views of diverse women in the region on WPS issues and how Australia's NAP affects them by reaching out to diverse women's civil society organisations beyond Australia.

### **REPRESENTATION, PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Linked to the theme of 'enabling diversity' is the issue of representation, particularly the question of *how civil society representatives reflect diverse voices when they speak with the government on current NAP governance structures* (i.e. the Interdepartmental Committee and its Subcommittee),<sup>8</sup> and also what civil society and government see as civil society's role on NAP governance.

For example, participating inside NAP governance means dealing with non-disclosure clauses and short turnaround times on documentation, which makes it especially challenging to canvass CSOs for their inputs widely as well as to provide feedback on discussions. There is also a concern among CSOs regarding the instrumentalisation of their engagement, where civil society is seen as a resource to inform policy and provide expertise and knowledge, rather than a partner and/ or collaborator in policymaking. This is particularly clear as the Australian government stakeholders own the NAP and lead on development and implementation. This leaves civil society with an important accountability role, but also a role that is currently complicated by differing principles around openness and transparency.

It is unclear whether these current governance structures are the most effective entry points for civil society to influence the NAP and the WPS agenda more broadly and to represent a diversity of interests. CSOs might be more influential if they were able to deliver a consistent message by leveraging their existing networks and linkages with the government.

Two things are clear. First, the second National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security must commit to creating a formal resourced space for CSOs, WPS Coalition and Government to engage in a meaningful manner to ensure equal representation of diverse views on peace and security. This space should be co-designed and co-led by the government and CSOs and focused on strategy and operations. The creation of a formal space will drive and institutionalise government-CSO engagement, particularly in a climate of shrinking civil society spaces.

Second, CSOs need space to facilitate more regular and sustained engagement outside formal mechanisms that focus on engaging with government. This would enable an expanded discourse on peace (beyond 'a lack of conflict') and security (protection of borders/ counter-terrorism) towards a progressive, holistic human security approach.

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<sup>8</sup> The WPS Coalition has one representative on the Interdepartmental Committee on the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (IDC) and two representatives on the IDC's Subcommittee

Looking at good practice from across the world<sup>9</sup> two consistent patterns emerge:

- Formal resourced spaces for Civil Society-Government engagement can take many forms including advisory groups, annual meetings, informal periodic meetings, annual consultations, roundtables etc.; and reflect what works best in a particular country context.
- The civil society only space (e.g. networks, alliances, coalitions) needs hosting, and clear and effective governance structures; a member of the network often provides a secretariat functionality as its in-kind contribution. Finding a registered network is rare.

### ***Recommendations***

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- CSOs and the WPS Coalition should:
  - Explore an appropriate structure for the civil society only platform.
  - Develop a strategy to promote greater involvement among members of the CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
  - Explore entry points, other than the NAP, to engage with the government in conversations on WPS.
  - Take leadership for “domesticating the NAP” by articulating key domestic issues related to peace and security tracking government’s commitments on these issues.
  - Commit to developing shadow reports (e.g. like CEDAW).
- Commit to resourcing a co-designed and co-led space for regular and meaningful Civil Society-Government engagement focussing on outcomes-based engagement between civil society and government.

### **STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY**

Accountability was acknowledged as a key theme at the roundtables. There was a critical message about the lack of information sharing by government around the NAP and WPS, and where information did exist it was not easily accessible in terms of bureaucratic/ technical language.

Currently, the only form of accountability that exists is vertical; i.e. the tabling of the government’s progress reports before the Australian Senate. There appears to be little discussion of the reports’ content in the Australian Parliament. Equally, there appears to be no obligation for the government to respond to recommendations and assessments in the

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<sup>9</sup> [What’s happening in other countries?](#) – This brief presents rapid research outlining the work of civil society networks in Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden Switzerland, United States and the United Kingdom.

Civil Society Annual Dialogue reports or the independent reviews undertaken as part of the first NAP's monitoring and evaluation.

A significant challenge repeatedly highlighted and acknowledged by government and CSOs, is the lack of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework informed by a theory of change. This gap makes it difficult to assess progress and impact of the NAP. Along with the lack of information sharing by the government (and despite NAP Progress Reports), it remains difficult to determine what is happening in the women peace and security space in Australia.

At the same time, the WPS Coalition, or whatever form the CSO platform/network/alliance takes, must be accountable to its members. The inclusion of civil society representatives in the current NAP governance structure (as discussed earlier) has implications for downward accountability to WPS Coalition / CSO platform members. If the current NAP governance structure were to continue, then the WPS Coalition or any future CSO platform/network/alliance must consider the implications of non-disclosure clauses and manage the associated risk to membership accountability.

The development of second NAP presents an opportunity to strengthen accountability to NAP commitments as well as WPS commitments more broadly.

### ***Recommendations***

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- Principles of transparency and openness must govern CSOs engagement with each other and Civil Society-Government engagement.
- The second NAP must include adequate resources to enable government reporting on the NAP, CSOs annual/shadow reports, and independent reviews of the NAP.
- The second NAP needs to develop a clear Communications Strategy to ensure timely and effective information sharing by government around the NAP and WPS, with easily accessible language.
- Mandate the need for the government to respond to recommendations in the CSO annual/shadow reports and independent reviews.
- Government-led consultations should provide feedback to participants regarding the outcomes of government-civil society consultations (e.g. emerging themes, next steps, information about which recommendations were taken up, which were not and why).

## **NEXT STEPS**

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The second part of the 2018 Dialogue, to be held on 29 November in Canberra, is a facilitated Civil Society and Government Policy Dialogue with relevant government stakeholders, diverse women's organisations and other civil society organisations. At this half-day Policy Dialogue, the findings from the Civil Society Roundtables and the

implications of these for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the second NAP will be shared. Discussions will centre on two questions:

- How do the issues raised at the civil society roundtables confirm, challenge and/or develop understandings of civil society's engagement in NAP development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation?
- What mechanisms/processes should be established to promote ongoing engagement between civil society and the Government including government departments around the second NAP, and how should these mechanisms/processes be resourced?

# ANNEX 1 KEY THEMES FROM THE 2018 CIVIL SOCIETY ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

## *Resourcing civil society engagement*

**What can the Australian Government/departments and CSO do about the issue of resourcing?**

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Co-design a resourced Civil Society-Government engagement strategy that recognises the need for a range of approaches to engage with diverse civil society actors and groups.	Cost (in dollars and time) and set limits on voluntary and in-kind contributions (for certain tasks) undertaken by members of the CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
	Financial contribution from Australian Government/departments for certain tasks (e.g. including technical expertise, participation in government panels).

**What can the Australian Government/departments do?**

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Core funding for a CSO platform (this could take the form of a network, alliance or coalition)/WPS Coalition.	Financial contribution from government stakeholders of the NAP – similar to funding received to support the secretariats of the National Women's Alliances.
	Government grants which the CSO platform/WPS Coalition and other CSOs can apply for.
Increased resources for the Office for Women for NAP coordination role, in particular, to support CSO engagement in the NAP.	Through the Commonwealth Budget.
Resource technical advice provided to the Australian Government/departments by CSOs or CSO platform/WPS Coalition.	Implementation budgets of Australian Government/departments to include a budget line for resourcing technical services provided.

**What can the CSOs, the CSO Platform/WPS Coalition do?**

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Core funding for a CSO platform (this could take the form of a network, alliance or coalition)/WPS Coalition.	Membership fees support the work of a CSO platform/ WPS coalition.
	Cost (in dollars and time) and set limits on voluntary and in-kind contributions (for certain tasks) undertaken by members of the CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
	Explore philanthropic funding.

## *Enabling diversity*

### **What can the Australian Government/departments and CSO do about the issue of diversity?**

<b>What should be done?</b>	<b>How should we do it?</b>
Make explicit the links between the WPS agenda and domestic issues of peace and security.	Assist CSOs to “read themselves” into the WPS agenda by linking domestic and international WPS issues
Better utilise the existing expansive networks of CSOs to reach out to diverse groups.	Co-develop an information campaign on WPS and the NAP, with non-technical language and tangible/ meaningful examples.
Inclusive consultations/ roundtables	Consultations and roundtables should be more frequent and issues based so that diverse groups will have multiple opportunities to participate and have their voices heard.
	Organise smaller discussion groups in the lead up to the annual dialogues/meetings to allow enough lead time, so organisations are better prepared to attend consultations/roundtables.
	Build partnerships with multicultural services to create a forum that focuses on creating new narratives on peace and security as a means to help organisations and individuals to prepare ahead of time to participate in consultations/roundtables
	Understand barriers/concerns around engagement and work in partnership with organisations overcome these

### **What can the Australian Government/departments do?**

<b>What should be done?</b>	<b>How should we do it?</b>
Commit to resourcing multiple modes of engagement.	Resource participation in face to face workshops/meetings; compliment face to face workshops/meetings with use of technology (e.g. Zoom/ Skype/ teleconference/ discussion boards etc.).
Commit to communicating where possible in an accessible non-bureaucratic and technical language.	Translate bureaucratic and technical language in the NAP and WPS related documents into accessible language to promote broader engagement.

### What can the CSOs, the CSO Platform/WPS Coalition do?

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Make explicit the links between the WPS agenda and domestic issues of peace and security.	Organise a women peace and justice forum to draw out connections between civil society and issue areas and reframe the meaning of peace and security.
Better utilise the existing expansive networks of organisations to reach out to diverse groups.	Communicate the importance of engaging in CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
	Disseminate more broadly the information shared at consultations and roundtables and invite feedback.
Inclusive consultations/ roundtables.	Work with and build partnerships with multicultural services to secure resources to create a forum that focuses on creating new narratives on peace and security as a means to help organisations and individuals to prepare ahead of time to participate in consultations/roundtables.
Broaden the discussions and engagements beyond the NAP to focus on peace and security (e.g. human security issues).	Organising short learning and sharing events.
Better understanding the needs, interests, capacities of diverse civil society organisations interested in peace and security issues.	Gender and power stakeholder analysis and adopt a tier-based approach to ensure inclusion– who are making key decisions and who are being impacted by the decisions.
Commit to using multiple modes of engagement.	Compliment participation in face to face workshops/meetings with the use of technology-assisted meetings spaces (e.g. Zoom/skype/teleconference/discussion boards)
Reach out beyond Australia to gather the views of diverse women in the region on WPS issues and how Australia’s NAP impacts them.	Link with networks in the region (Asia Pacific).

## **Representation, partnerships and collaboration**

**What can the Australian Government/departments and CSO do about the issues of representation, partnerships and collaboration?**

<b>What should be done?</b>	<b>How should we do it?</b>
Co-design and co-lead outcomes-based engagement space between CSOs and the government.	The co-designed and co-led Civil society engagement strategy (discussed in Resourcing civil society engagement) must articulate purpose, principles (e.g. transparency, openness) modalities, feedback/accountability mechanisms.
	The co-designed and co-led CSO engagement strategy must work at both a strategic level and an operational level.
	The co-designed and co-led Civil society engagement strategy must explore key entry points for Ministerial engagement with CSOs (e.g. Anti-Slavery NAP has an Annual CSO-Portfolio Ministerial meeting that is co-hosted by the government and CSOs) as well as NAP Governance structures.
	Increase frequency of meetings between government and CSOs.

**What can the Australian Government/departments do?**

<b>What should be done?</b>	<b>How should we do it?</b>
Include in the second NAP a commitment to resource a co-designed and co-led space for Civil society-Government engagement.	Work with civil society to identify indicators in the NAP's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework to measure the effectiveness of Civil society-Government engagement.

**What can the CSOs, the CSO Platform/WPS Coalition do?**

<b>What should be done?</b>	<b>How should we do it?</b>
Explore an appropriate structure for the Civil society only network/alliance/coalition.	Since 2013 some form of the WPS Coalition has been in existence – review the role and governance structure to assess its suitability to serve as an ongoing platform for engagement.
	Discuss with existing WPS Coalition's organisational members the different WPS network models (e.g. Swiss, Swedish, British) with the intention to see what might work in the Australian context.
	Discuss different Australian CSOs network/peak body models (e.g. ACFID's Humanitarian Reference group; National Women's Alliances) to identify lessons learned and explore what might work for the WPS/NAP context.

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Develop a strategy to promote greater involvement among members of the CSO platforms/WPS Coalition.	Establish working groups on WPS issues of interest to promote more diverse representation from CSOs.
	Increase frequency of meetings between members of the CSO platform/WPS Coalition.
	Improve communications between members of the CSO platform/WPS Coalition. (e.g. newsletters).
Explore entry points to engage with the government in conversations on peace and security (the NAP is only one mechanism through which CSOs can engage with the government).	Undertake shadow reporting on the NAP (e.g. like CEDAW).
	Develop a WPS Tracker (to track what is being done by government and CSOs).
	Ensure that WPS issues form part of CEDAW shadow reporting, UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic review.
	Contribute WPS perspectives during Australia's term on the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) – through contributing views in advance of each HRC session and participate in annual 'DFAT-NGO Forums on Human Rights'.
Take leadership for “domesticating the NAP” - articulate key domestic issues related to peace and security that CSOs would like track government's commitments.	Government's progress on domestic WPS issues can form part of civil society's shadow reporting on the NAP (e.g. CSOs in the UK track issues of interest not in the NAP – refugee policy, trafficking, arms trade etc.).

## Strengthening accountability

### What can the Australian Government/departments and CSO do about the issue of accountability?

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Principles of transparency and openness govern Civil society-Government's engagement with each other.	The government must provide a written report, publicly available, that outlines how the engagement with CSO informed government decision-making – i.e. what advice was taken up, what was not taken up and why.
Include in the NAP adequate resources to enable government reporting on the NAP; CSOs annual/shadow reports and independent reviews of the NAP	As part of the release of the Government's progress report, independent reviews and CSO shadow reports organise a learning event to discuss them.
Develop a clear Communications Strategy to ensure timely and effective information sharing by government around the NAP and WPS.	As part of monitoring and evaluation and reporting, the Government needs to provide information to all stakeholders in easily accessible language.

### What can the Australian Government/departments do?

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Mandate the need for the government to respond to recommendations in the CSO annual/shadow reports and independent reviews.	Include in the NAP mechanisms to respond to recommendations in the CSO annual/shadow reports and independent reviews.
Government-led consultations should feedback to participants the outcomes of the consultation (emerging themes, next steps, what recommendations were taken up and which ones were not and why).	Disseminate more widely (not just via a website) reports from Government – led consultations.

### What can the CSOs, the CSO Platform/WPS Coalition do?

What should be done?	How should we do it?
Principles of transparency and openness govern CSOs engagement with each other.	Explore the extent to which the minutes of the meetings can be made publicly available.
	Greater transparency on which members/partners of the WPS Coalition/future CSO platform were engaged in the development of position statements, decision-making, providing feedback on government submissions etc.
	Give something back (tools, skills, data sharing etc.) to CSOs involved in the WPS Coalition/future CSO platform.
	Use the WPS Coalition/ CSO platform website to share information on NAP progress, and provide opportunities to contribute to the work of the WPS Coalition/ future CSO platform.
	The WPS Coalition/ CSO platform should hold annual reflections on its effectiveness in engaging with its members and with the government. These reflections should inform future decisions about engagement.
Commit to developing NAP shadow reports (e.g. like CEDAW reports).	CSO shadow reports should follow the government's NAP Progress reports
	Establish a shadow report working group comprising members from the CSO platform/WPS Coalition.