

IMS Office of the Gender Advisor: NAPs and the Gender Perspective

What is it?

The evolution of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plans (NAPs) has seen a significant increase in global commitments. With over 600 million women and children affected by conflict, the importance of the WPS NAPs must be stressed in strengthening women's leadership, preventing conflict and addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Examples from Romania, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands demonstrate different approaches to NAP implementation.

WPS NAP: a Global Overview

NAPs provide an opportunity for national stakeholders to identify priorities, determine responsibilities, allocate resources and initiate strategic actions. The role of UNSCRs in shaping global commitments to WPS encouraged the adoption of **WPS NAPs** across **108 countries**. However, these resolutions underscore the importance of inclusive consultations, multi-stakeholder engagement, adequate funding, monitoring and evaluation in achieving objectives of WPS NAPs. As a result, WPS NAPs have become more inclusive, comprehensive and actionable in recent years.

NAPs IN SECURITY SECTOR

88% advocate for increased female representation in defence sectors and armed forces

promote gender-responsive policies and operations **55%**

11% include mechanisms for improving accountability for SGBV in military

include strategies for vetting new soldiers for SGBV **0%**

Example 1: Romania's WPS NAP

Romania's approach to the implementation of WPS NAPs is led by the Ministry of National Defence and its Gender Management Office. Key aspects of Romania's NAP is the establishment of a robust legal framework to facilitate collaboration with civil society and academia, as well as appointing dedicated national implementation group for monitoring and evaluation. The importance of transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in ensuring the success of NAP implementation efforts was emphasised.



Example 2: UK Ministry of Defence's approach to WPS Integration

The UK Ministry of Defence approach emphasises the importance of reshaping the narrative surrounding WPS since it is imperative to position the gender perspective as **central to military objectives**. UK's NAP comprises practical aspects, focusing on strategic objectives, implementation, focus countries and fragile contexts, governance and accountability and delivery plans. The UK endeavours to address internal challenges and promote gender equality in its military and society as a whole.

The UK seeks to integrate the gender perspective into the way **defence operates and engages**. This resulted in a strong support of WPS delivery in multilateral forums, such as **NATO**, the UN and the OSCE.

Example 3: The Netherlands' collaborative WPS NAP

The Netherlands' approach in developing and implementing the WPS NAP is a collaborative effort, including partnerships between different Ministries, the police and 60 civil society organizations. In addition, the Netherlands implemented its **Defence Action Plan 1325** (DAP 1325) after recognising that the security sector had **unique needs and actions** in terms of gender. The DAP is both inward and outward facing. It aims to raise gender awareness and expertise, increase gender responsiveness within the organisation and in missions or operations, create an inclusive culture, collaborate with diversity and inclusion colleagues, and engage with partners on WPS.

Implementation by security sector institutions is instrumental to delivering on these NAPs in line with WPS agenda. These NAPs underscore the importance of women at all stages of the conflict cycle, including in conflict prevention, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform and military operations.