



Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security Concept Note

1. Background

UN Security Council Resolution 1325, unanimously adopted in October 2000, stressed the importance of the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for maintaining and promoting peace and security. In the years since, seven further resolutions on women, peace and security (WPS) have been adopted, creating a robust framework for the implementation of the WPS agenda and reinforcing existing global commitments, treaties and conventions on women's rights including the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

To deliver these commitments at the national level, the UN has encouraged member states to adopt National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS as one of a range of mechanisms that implements the resolutions and monitors the progress of the WPS agenda.

As of May 2016, 63 countries have adopted NAPs, including 9 in the Asia-Pacific region, with several currently in development. While most countries in the region have aligned the development of their NAP to global trends, key lessons have yet to be shared on local, national and regional experiences of implementation strategies, and monitoring and evaluation of the current NAPs.

UN Women and the Government of Japan will convene a joint **Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security**, that will take place from **July 11 – 13, 2016** in Bangkok. This three-day symposium will bring together regional government representatives including Ministers and senior Parliamentarians, leading academics and experts, civil society stakeholders, as well as representatives from UN entities, to lay the groundwork for effective implementation at all stages of the NAP cycle and to consider concrete measures to ensure that NAPs have a beneficial impact on women affected by conflict.

2. Objectives

Building on the key findings and recommendations of UN Women's landmark 2015 Global Study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, as well as the 2013 Global Technical Review Meeting on "Building accountability for implementation of Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security", the regional symposium will provide a forum to reflect on the development, implementation and review process of NAPs, and share experiences with counterparts in the region, who are also in the process of, or intend to start, developing a national action plan. In addition, the conference will consider regional thematic priorities, and discuss current tools and approaches for effective NAP implementation, including useful monitoring and evaluation frameworks, dedicated and sustainable budget allocations, as well as localization strategies.

The **Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security** aims to:

- a) Promote knowledge exchange and sharing of lessons learned on the effective development, implementation, monitoring and review of NAPs;
- b) Review the thematic priorities for the Asia-Pacific region on WPS, with regard to emerging issues including the prevention of violence, climate change and displacement;
- c) Develop joint strategies for strengthening NAP implementation, including through localization initiatives, ensuring that NAPs are adequately financed, and facilitating civil society participation that extends through all stages of the NAP cycle, in order to improve benefits for conflict-affected women.

3. Format

The three-day regional symposium will follow a participatory format that will include (i) the commissioning and presentation of two discussion papers on NAPs, specific to the needs of the region; (ii) presentations and panel discussions by government representatives, academics, civil society members and UN entities to highlight lessons learned at various stages of the NAP development, implementation and monitoring cycle for the benefit of other participants; and (iii) working group breakout sessions. Plenary sessions will be complemented by in-depth discussion and sharing of lessons learned in smaller groups. The participants will reconvene in plenary to agree on key findings and recommendations to enhance NAP development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation processes in the region.

The conference hopes to conclude with a statement on emerging trends and potential forward looking recommendations that could benefit NAP processes and the advancement of the international women, peace and security agenda. A comprehensive report will also be prepared following the meeting, to further disseminate the key lessons and recommendations that will come out of the meeting.