



Military Experts Meeting on Gender
“Defence and National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and related
resolutions:
where we are and future commitments”

26-27 October 2021
Italy (on-line meeting)

CONCEPT NOTE

General information

After twenty-one years from the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and after nine more related resolutions¹, it seems that Nations and International Organizations are still struggling to implement the WPS agenda. Almost every day, we hear words like gender mainstreaming, gender perspectives, gender equality, women empowerment, protection of civilians, sexual violence and sexual abuse. All of those topics are included in the WPS agenda; all of those topics are on the tables of politicians and international stakeholders; everybody seems to understand the gravity of the situation and everybody agrees that a change of direction is necessary. Nowadays, it seems that, as never before, themes related to the WPS agenda are present and affect our everyday life.

In 2005, the Security Council called on individual states to create National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on WPS and related resolutions. As of July 2021², ninety-eight countries have adopted a National Action Plan on WPS. All Member States of the regional initiative South-East Europe Defence Ministerial Process (SEDM) adopted either a NAP on WPS or a NAP on Gender Equality.

At international level, Italy is part of UN, EU and NATO and of a number of international and regional initiatives, including SEDM and its Female Leaders in the field of Security and Defence (FLSD) project. Italian military personnel participate in all international humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.

¹ UNSCR 1820 (2008), UNSCR 1888 (2009), UNSCR 1889 (2009), UNSCR 1960 (2010), UNSCR 2106 (2013), UNSCR 2122 (2013), UNSCR 2242 (2015), UNSCR 2467 (2019), UNSCR 2493 (2019).

² Source: <http://1325naps.peacewomen.org>.

At national level, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Human Rights (CIDU)³ is in charge of elaborating the NAP. In 2020, Italy adopted the fourth NAP on WPS, which includes also actions to be taken by the Italian Armed Forces. At defence level, the Joint Committee on Gender Perspectives has the role of advisory board of the Chief of Defence Staff on gender perspectives. Within the Personnel Division of the Defence General Staff, the Gender Policies Section is in charge of the implementation of the gender perspectives and equal opportunity in the military organization.

As a continuous commitment within SEDM's project FLSD, the Italian Defence is organizing an international conference, in VTC format. The event will take place on 27 and 28 October 2021 and wishes to be an occasion for each SEDM Member State to present an overall picture and the national status quo regarding the activities related to the WPS agenda, NAP on WPS and NAP on equal opportunity. The objective is to create a common intent focusing on future challenges.

The aim of the conference

Italian Defence proposal is to give the floor to each SEDM Member State Representative to present the actions taken to advance WPS agenda, the accomplishments, lessons learned and best practices. It would give the occasion to think about what is next step to take, perhaps by answering, for example, the following questions:

- Are the WPS agenda advancing?
- Is it still a priority?
- Are we doing the right steps?
- Why do we face continue difficulties?
- A cultural change is necessary but it is still to come. Is there something we do not do correctly?
- Are we involving the right people?
- Something is missing. Funds? Dedication? Leadership?

Conference objectives

- Share with SEDM FLSD community the commitments and actions included in the NAPs on WPS or in the Policy on equal opportunity;
- Identify lessons learned and best practices of military operations and activities related to the WPS agenda;
- Discuss national approaches and identify potential areas of cooperation.

Conference structure

Due to the limitations imposed by the measures related to the COVID-19 crisis, the event will take place in VTC format. The meeting will be on 27 and 28 October 2021. It will last 3/4 hours each morning. On the 26, there will be a technical rehearsal.

³ Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani.

The meeting will develop as follows:

- Welcome speech and opening remarks;
- Lecture about how to elaborate an effective National Action Plan on WPS agenda, by PhD Luisa Del Turco (expert on Women Peace and Security UNSCRs)
- Presentations regarding an overall pictures of the National Action Plans on WPS or National policy on equal opportunity, by SEDM Member State Representatives;
- Presentation on CIMIC activities in the Italian National Action Plan, by Multinational CIMIC Group (MNCG) representative
- National presentations on CIMIC activities, by SEDM Member State Representatives;
- Debate and Q&A time
- Identification of common key points and potential areas of cooperation;
- Conclusions and Minutes;
- Farewell speech and closing remarks.

Conference expectations

- Reaffirm national commitments in accordance with the aim of the SEDM and the FLSD project;
- Reaffirm the importance of continuing the efforts for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions;
- Compare similar/common approaches/activities/areas included in the NAPs;
- Explore the possibility to develop common paper/intent for future joint activities/exchanges;

Point of Contact

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Administrative details

- FLSD Conference Language: English;
- Conference Format: VTC;
- Connection: access link;
- Required computer applications: Explorer, Edge, Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox;
- Conditions for participation: reply via e-mail following the instruction on the invitation.