

Network Of Women, Peace And Security Focal Points Meets For The First Time To Spur Progress On The Agenda

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The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) National Focal Points Network, launched on 23 September 2016, to strengthen the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, will meet for the first time on April 26-27, in Alicante, Spain.

UN Women's Deputy Executive Director Yannick Glemarec will participate in the opening plenary of the two-day event. The National Focal Point Network will facilitate exchange of experiences and best practices to advance women's participation in national-level peace and security policies and programmes. The meeting will focus on how to integrate existing international commitments into domestic policies and normative frameworks and to address challenges in their implementation.

Women are not only victims of conflicts, but also powerful agents for peace. They play a crucial role in bolstering conflict prevention, leading efforts aimed at preventive dialogue and act as early warning systems. In the long term, they can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the causes and solutions to a conflict, as well as promote actions aimed at conflict resolution. Yet their presence is often lacking in formal peacebuilding efforts. The discussions at the National Focal Point Network meeting will include strategies on how to close the gaps between research and practice on this issue. The meeting will also be an opportunity to improve the coordination of funding and assistance programmes in this area of work.

The Network will meet once a year in one of its Member States. Following the first in-country meeting in Spain, Germany has offered to host the second one in 2018.

As the Secretariat of the WPS National Focal Points Network, UN Women commits to supporting Member States, other UN agencies, as well as regional organizations and civil society partners to strengthen advocacy, develop implementation synergies, and support monitoring efforts towards advancing the women, peace and security agenda.

The WPS National Focal Points Network was announced as one of Spain's national commitments in relation to the women and peace and security agenda at the high-level review of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which took place in October 2015.