



**Debriefing on the April 2018 Women, Peace and Security
Focal Points Network Meeting in Berlin, and follow-up actions in New York**
Thursday, 24 May 2018, 11:15am – 12:30pm, UNHQ CR6

Chair's Summary

On May 24, 2018, New York representatives of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network (WPS-FPN) met in New York for the debriefing of the annual capital-level meeting of the Network, which took place in Berlin, Germany on April 9-10, 2018 under the theme, **“Building Alliances to Advance the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.”** About 60 Permanent Missions to the United Nations (UN) were represented at the debriefing, along with UN agencies and civil society organizations.

The WPS Focal Points Network currently has a membership of more than 80¹ UN member states and regional organizations. The leadership troika of the Network comprises Germany as current Chair of the Network, Spain as 2017 Chair and Namibia as 2019 Chair. UN Women serves as Permanent Secretariat of the Network.

The debriefing, which was held at the United Nations Headquarters, was hosted by the Permanent Representatives of Germany, Spain and Namibia to the UN, in collaboration with UN Women, at the level of Permanent and Deputy Permanent Representatives of Missions to the United Nations. The meeting objectives were to:

- (1) provide an overview of the activities of the WPS Focal Points Network to date;
- (2) share highlights and recommendations from the Berlin meeting including the joint communique; and
- (3) discuss how to translate the recommendations and outcomes from the Berlin meeting into concrete actions in the UN Security Council and other processes in New York and in capitals.

Discussion Summary

Interventions were made by Ambassador Christoph Heusgen, Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN, Ambassador Jorge Moragas, Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN and Ms. Åsa Regnér, Deputy Executive Director for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships at UN Women. Further interventions were made by Colombia, the Economic Community of West African States, Sweden, Mexico, the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Hungary, Canada, France, El Salvador, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Morocco and Liechtenstein. The discussion was moderated by Ms. Kaoru Okuizumi, Team Leader, Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict, Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Drawing from the communique of the Berlin meeting, attendees emphasized the importance of collaboration between local, national and regional actors to implement the women, peace and security agenda. They discussed that concrete action should be taken in New York to increase and safeguard gender expertise and

¹ Afghanistan, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, African Union, Council of Europe, Economic Community of West African States, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Union for the Mediterranean

women's participation in the security sector and in peacekeeping missions. Specific recommendations were made for comprehensive mainstreaming of the WPS agenda in all relevant UN fora and to strengthen WPS accountability mechanisms. Also underscored was the necessity for Member States to push back against the shrinking space for civil society. The importance of more focused collaboration between Network members serving on the UN Security Council, and strengthening the Network's link with other mechanisms was also highlighted.

Summary of Recommendations

Participation and Representation

- Member States are encouraged to join the WPS Focal Points Network and ensure representation at capital level at the **2019 annual meeting** of the Network in Windhoek, Namibia.
- Include **women briefers** from government and civil society working on the ground at open debates and side events in all relevant UN fora, including the Security Council.
- Advocate for **gender expertise at the UN Secretariat** and for women leaders to be appointed as Secretary and Deputy Secretary-Generals.
- Encourage use of **gender-disaggregated data** to correctly diagnose WPS problems and relevant statistics to enable the right actions to be taken.
- Ensure **gender expertise in the field** – senior gender advisors, women in peacekeeping operations and female personnel in other positions – with the support of defense ministries.
- Support the **whole peacekeeping mission staffing** to include women and child protection advisors, judicial affairs and human rights officers, and police who focus on sexual and gender-based violence.
- Promote a gender perspective in all peacekeeping operations at all levels starting from the planning process, as well as a **greater presence of women** in peace negotiations, as mediators, candidates for high-level political operations, and as diplomats in multi-lateral fora.
- Member states should provide **political and financial support** for the work of women peacebuilders at national, regional and international level, particularly in the context of daily threats and intimidation.
- The Network should exercise its collective **responsibility to protect** civil society and women's rights organizations, and to preserve their rights and access.

Accountability and Advocacy

- Member States should also draw on the positive experiences made – across regions – with the designation of a specific **focal point** for women, peace and security and the adoption of a **national action plan** on UN Security Council resolution 1325. National action plans should be complemented with action plans at the local, sub-regional and regional levels.
- Establish a stronger link between implementation of the legally binding **Convention on the Elimination on All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** and the Security Council's WPS agenda.
- Make better use of the **sanctions regimes** of the Security Council to help end impunity for sexual violence.
- Ensure more regular reactions of the **Security Council** in the form of press communiqués, press statements, etc. in any instance of conflict-related sexual violence.
- Ensure the application of a more gendered lens on national action plans and strategies on **preventing and countering violent extremism**.
- Engage **men and boys** in implementing the WPS agenda and urge more consistent attention from the Security Council on sexual violence against men and boys.
- Network members should advocate for gender considerations and the WPS agenda in the work of the **Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund**, the upcoming June review of the UN Program Action on small arms and light weapons and the second summit of UN Chiefs of Police in June.
- The mandates of **peacekeeping missions** should include the specific concerns of the WPS agenda, including accountability for conflict-related sexual violence.

- The Network should impact Security Council **mandate** language and implementation and highlight how civil society can contribute to the WPS elements of mandate implementation.
- Members of the Network who are also members of the Security Council should form a small **group of friends in the Security Council** and work closely to ensure implementation of Network recommendations.

Building Alliances

- Collaborate with **existing mechanisms** such as the Group of Friends on WPS, the Informal Experts Group on WPS, the UN Group of Friends for Gender Parity and the UN Gender Champions initiative on Panel Parity.
- Introduce the **Berlin meeting communique** and the issues raised in Network discussions in the Peacebuilding Commission, to inform the work of the Commission.
- Developing and developed countries should work together more closely during **negotiations** in all domains at the UN and to ensure gender-sensitive declarations which include gender equality and women's economic empowerment.
- The Network should be vigilant and use its **collective political strength** to prevent the roll-back of WPS progress, whether in constitutional or legislative reform.
- The Network should continuously highlight WPS issues that are not in the **spotlight**.

Planned Activities of the Network in 2018

The WPS Focal Points Network plans to host a side event on the margins of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly and an expert-level meeting in New York in the fall. The Network will also issue joint statements and newsletters over the course of the year.