

Twelfth Meeting

11th July, 2017, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Iveagh House

Minutes: Formal Meeting

Attendees:

Oversight Group

1. Nora Owen, Independent Chair
2. Louise Synnott, An Garda Síochána
3. Michael Rowan, Independent Expert
4. Colm Byrne, Oxfam
5. Nura Hagi, Mind the Gap
6. Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair, Trócaire
7. Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross Border Studies
8. Ellen O'Malley Dunlop, National Women's Council of Ireland
9. Terry O'Hagan, Gender Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality
10. Gillian Collins, Defence Forces
11. Elaine Hollowed, Development Co-operation Division, DFAT

Secretariat:

11. Áine Hearn, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
12. Heidi Riley, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
13. William Barrett, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Apologies:

- Catherine O'Rourke, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster
- Walt Kilroy, School of Law and Governance, Dublin City University
- Diane Nurse, HSE
- Noreen Wolfe, Department of Defence
- Emer O'Brien, Development Co-operation Divisions, DFAT
- Sarah McGrath, IUKA
- AnnMarie Quarry, Department of Justice and Equality
- Anastasia Crickley, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University

1. Adoption of previous meeting's minutes

In opening the meeting, the Chair welcomed the group back to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and summarised the agenda for the day. She also took time to welcome Captain Gillian Collins, who has taken over from Eoghan McDermott as the Defence Forces representative. Approval of the previous minutes was brought before the group and there were no objections.

The following actions were raised in relation to the final evaluation of NAP 2:

- The Secretariat confirmed that following comments from the OG group, the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the consultancy for the final evaluation was now approved under Silent Procedure. The group had no objections and Ellen O'Malley-Dunlop noted that the NWCI had been very impressed by the TORs. The TORs have now been sent out to potential consultants and tender applications will be received by the 7th August.
- The Secretariat reminded OG members to return the completed progress forms that had been sent out by William Barrett on the 5th of July. These were due for return on the 20th of July. Some members were unsure if they had received them so they are now being resent. It would be appreciated if these forms could now be returned by 10th August as the information will be required for the final review of NAP2.

Update from the Secretariat

Beyond the information in the WPS newsletter the Secretariat provided further details on the following events:

Co-Sponsoring of Children in Armed Conflict Resolution

CRU were involved in putting together a briefing and speech for Katherine Zappone, TD Minister for Youth Affairs, on the issues of Children in Armed Conflict from the perspective of conflict prevention and sustainable peace. This included a WPS dimension as it highlighted the specific dangers faced by young girls in armed conflict and noted how failure to address this has implications for the prevention of long-term cyclical conflict. The initiative in taking a conflict prevention perspective on Children in Armed conflict was taken by Sweden, and Ireland has agreed to co-sponsor a resolution on this.

Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325 (RAR)

This event was held in Iveagh House on the 14th and 15th June. It was attended by representatives of OSCE, UNDPKO, NATO, EU and the African Union. This was the first time that there had been an African Union representative at an RAR and funding for this was provided by Ireland. This is the second time that Ireland has hosted an RAR meeting.

The theme of workshop was Monitoring and Evaluation and drew on Ireland's experience in this area. The sessions were facilitated by Bronagh Hinds and Debbie Donnelly from DemocraShe, and also Jacqueline O'Neill from Inclusive Security. A report is currently being produced.

Public Diplomacy event in Warsaw on WPS

On 28th of June, Áine Hearn, Director of CRU, was invited by Ireland's Ambassador to Poland, Gerard Keown to present on Ireland's experience of WPS at an event organized by the Embassy with the Women in International Security, Poland branch. The presentation was well received and initiated some interesting discussions. Ireland has already made the offer to assist in the development of a Polish National Action Plan and Áine is considering inviting Polish representatives to observe the consultations for NAP 3 at the end of the year. (The report from the Warsaw presentation was circulated last week).

EU Task Force Meeting

Heidi Riley attended the technical level informal Task Force Meeting on the 6th July in Brussels. The EU is currently in the process of developing a Revised Comprehensive Approach to Resolution 1325. This represents a recognition that the 2008 Comprehensive Approach is outdated and doesn't take into account contemporary global challenges, and progress in WPS that has taken place over the last decade.

Member states were provided with a draft of the new document prior to the meeting in order to make observations and comments. During the workshop member states were divided into working groups in order to deliberate on specific sections of the document. Civil society organizations in attendance were requested to conduct an in-depth review of the whole document.

A new draft, taking account of the outcomes of the meeting, has now been sent out to Member States for further observations. This will be reviewed over August and September, and the intention is that the new document will pass through the Commission by the end of the year.

For the afternoon session, Heidi presented on Ireland's experience of monitoring and evaluation and raised some points for broader discussion with the group. The point that triggered the most discussion was raising the possibility of shifting away from the use of the word 'indicators' in WPS evaluations, towards 'progress markers'. The rationale for this is that the use of progress marker can be understood as less threatening and therefore also allow for 'no progress' reporting, which implementing bodies are not normally inclined to report on. This therefore would allow for the gathering of more 'honest' data for evaluation.

White paper consultations

Irish Aid are currently in the process of finalizing the new White Paper on ODA, entitled "Transforming our World". Following on from the department consultations, there is now a call for public submissions. Oversight Group members are encouraged to make submissions, via the forms sent out last week. Public consultations will take place around the country in August and September. **Dates are listed below:**

Cork - 13th September

Galway - 17th September

Sligo - 18th September

Limerick - 20th September

Dublin - 2nd October

Written responses should be submitted by email following the submission guidelines by 5pm on 23 August 2018. Further details are available on

<https://www.irishaid.ie/about-us/policy-for-international-development/>

Balseskin Fáilte Project: Creating a Safe Space for Asylum Seekers

Information on Balseskin Fáilte Project was kindly sent in by Diane Nurse, this project is delivered by JRS Ireland in partnership with the HSE National Social Inclusion Office and Balseskin Reception Centre. It provides a range of targeted mental health and wellbeing supports early in the asylum process for recently arrived applicants onsite and has, so far, supported more than 500 asylum seekers in Balseskin Reception Centre over the past 12 months. More detailed information was provided in the printed briefing pack but for those that were not at the meeting, please see circulated.

Forthcoming Meetings and Events

- A provisional date for the next Oversight Group meeting is the **19th of September 2018**. The theme will be focused on WPS and Countering Violent Extremism. Dr Sahla Arrousi from Coventry University who has conducted research on this topic has agreed to present at the next meeting. The secretariat will also invite representation from International Security Policy Unit.

Upcoming Events

- The annual Ba'hai Summer School will be held in Kilkenny on 10th August next. This year's theme is entitled 'Peace Able - Learning to Make Peace' and will explore issues and initiatives around building peace at every level from grassroots to government. Marcella Smyth will be presenting on WPS and Peacebuilding on behalf of CRU.

AOB

The visit by Nora and another OG member to a Direct Provision centre is still in the process of being organised. The Secretariat will discuss the details with Nora in greater depth before the Oversight Group.

Secretariat to the Oversight Group to Ireland's 2nd National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

23rd July 2018