

NAP SWEDEN

Summary

Sweden's third NAP on Women, Peace and Security was adopted by the government in May 2016. It will be implemented as part of a broader feminist foreign policy focused on promoting women's rights and representation as well as a gender equal distribution of resources. Compared to previous Swedish NAPs, the new plan sets out a more ambitious approach to implementing the WPS agenda with a stronger focus on political leadership; support to civil society; women's participation and conflict prevention; as well improved mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. It does not, however, secure any earmarked funding for implementation. The NAP was developed through broad consultations with very active participation and inclusion of civil society.

Strengths and weaknesses

The Swedish NAP is a largely strategic document that sets out overall priorities, goals and sub-goals. A more detailed operational matrix for its implementation and follow-up will be drawn up in the next step under the leadership of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with relevant government agencies. The NAP furthermore identifies 12 focus countries as particularly prioritized in the implementation process, with the aim to focus Sweden's efforts and learn from country-specific experiences. These are the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Liberia; Mali; Somalia; Afghanistan; Myanmar; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Ukraine; Colombia; Iraq; Palestine and Syria.

In terms of strategic focus, the Swedish NAP sets out four thematic priorities and identifies responsibilities for various government offices and agencies in implementing these goals and sub-goals. The overall priorities are as follows: Make visible and strengthen women's influence and meaningful participation in peace processes including broader peacebuilding and state building; include women and men to address structural root causes of conflict and violence; strengthen the protection of women and girls from all types of violence in conjunction with and following armed conflict; and ensure active leadership with accountability so that gender expertise and analyses are integrated into regular activities.

These goals are then operationalized into a number of sub-goals including e.g. support to CSOs in conflict and post-conflict countries that are working on peace processes and peacebuilding, dialogue, trust-building measures and conflict prevention work, with a special focus on women's rights organisations.

The NAP includes some provisions on disarmament, in that Sweden will work to promote women's influence and meaningful participation in discussions and negotiations on disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as ensuring a gender perspective is applied in relevant discussions, instruments and implementation efforts relating to in particular, small arms and light weapons (SALW). The NAP also includes provisions on supporting women's influence and meaningful participation in drawing up and implementing SSR and DDR programmes.

There will be annual reports on the implementation of the Swedish NAP. These will build on the matrix as well as on country-specific results from Swedish foreign missions in focus countries. The annual reports will include reporting from all affected government agencies, commissioned through the NAP to draw up agency-specific activities that will serve as basis for reporting.

The NAP does not, however, ensure any earmarked funding for implementing its goals, arguing instead that WPS implementation "must be included where regular decisions are made,

resources are allocated and norms are created.” Swedish CSOs have long held out the need for earmarked funding to ensure systematic integration of the WPS agenda, and the lack of such provisions leaves significant responsibility for decision-makers in all parts of the chain to ensure implementation efforts are accompanied with adequate financing.

Development process

The process of developing Sweden’s new NAP started in early 2014 with consultations lead by WILPF Sweden in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, financed by the MFA. Swedish government offices and agencies, CSOs, and academic experts participated in the consultation process, which also included meetings with women’s rights activists from conflict and post-conflict settings. After the government shift in October 2014, the MFA conducted further consultations in cooperation with Swedish embassies and Kvinna till Kvinna in five conflict-affected countries. Both of these consultations processes were summarised into recommendations reports that were submitted to the MFA.

Finally, a reference group with government agencies and CSOs, led by the MFA, was established in December 2015 to support the drafting process of the new NAP. As one of the members of the reference group, WILPF Sweden had the opportunity to comment and feed into drafts that were circulated with the group during spring 2016, after which the government decided on the final document in mid-May. The finalised NAP refers to the continued participation of this reference group that will now be transformed into Sweden’s working group for implementing the NAP.

<http://www.government.se/contentassets/8ae23198463f49269e25a14d4d14b9bc/senaste-versionen/swedens-national-action-plan-for-the-implementation-of-the-united-nations-security-council-resolutions-on-women-peace-and-security-2016-2020>