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The Implementation of the Women, Peace and  
Security (WPS) Agenda: ASEAN and the Region

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## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations' Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has emerged over the past decade and a half as a significant cross-cutting thematic program for achieving global peace and security. Its significance lies not just in its recognition of the unique impact that conflict has upon women and girls, but also in its advocacy for the inclusion of women in conflict prevention, transition and peace processes. Growing research demonstrates that women's participation – particularly in leadership roles – increases the likelihood of achieving sustainable peace and security.

However, the ongoing challenge of the WPS agenda has been ensuring its effective implementation. The translation of the agenda from ideal to practice requires the development of strategies and plans across different stakeholder groups, the allocation of sufficient resources to ensure a sustained approach to implementation, and processes to monitor, evaluate and hold relevant actors accountable to their WPS responsibilities.

Early efforts to implement the WPS agenda have been led by Europe and other parts of the world. However, significant implementation programs have emerged in Asia and the Pacific in recent years. This has built a strong momentum for WPS that includes significant, wide-ranging and context-specific initiatives on implementation. Given the unique peace and security challenges faced in the region, organisations such as ASEAN, its member states, and partner states like Australia, are well placed to undertake both a regional and global leadership role in championing the implementation of the WPS agenda.

The purpose of this background paper is not just to introduce the WPS agenda and existing implementation strategies, but also to highlight the implementation strategies already employed in the region by ASEAN and other actors. In doing so it demonstrates the growing momentum for WPS engagement and the opportunities the region has for strong leadership in this area.

## THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 (2000) and seven subsequent resolutions make up the cross-cutting United Nations' Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda (see Annex 1). This agenda is a significant international normative and policy framework that addresses the gender-specific impacts of conflict, political crisis, displacement, disaster, violent extremism, and mass atrocities on women and girls. The Security Council has admitted deep concerns about the “persistent obstacles and challenges to women's participation and full involvement” (UNSCR1820 preamble); the “underrepresentation of women at all stages of peace processes” (UNSCR1888; UNSCR1889; UNSCR1960 preambles); and the negative impact of limited WPS implementation on “durable peace, security and reconciliation” (UNSCR1889 preamble).

As noted in the Introduction, the success of the agenda requires effective implementation. The WPS agenda has urged the UN and member states to demonstrate “greater commitment to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda, notably through more systematic and concrete reporting” (UNSCR1325), and called for “women's full and meaningful participation and leadership in all efforts to maintain peace and security, including with regard to preventing conflict, sustaining peace, and responding to new threats.”<sup>1</sup>

UNSCR1325 referred to the responsibility of states, regional organisations and international organisations,

namely the UN, to create conditions that address women's right to peace and security. The resolution noted that the maintenance of international peace and security can only be achieved by direct efforts to improve and maintain women's security, as well as the engagement and inclusion of women in peace and security efforts. These include conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace building, security sector reform, and political settlements. Since then, as requested in UNSCR1325, the UN Secretary-General has issued annual reports on implementation by the UN, its organisations and agencies, of the four pillars equally essential for the realisation of the WPS agenda – prevention, protection, participation, and relief and recovery.

**THE WPS AGENDA has urged the UN and member states to demonstrate “greater commitment to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda, notably through more systematic and concrete reporting”**

## NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

In 2004, the UN Secretary-General recommended that states adopt National Action Plans (NAPs) on WPS. These NAPs, which can range in their period of implementation, focus, and targets, are to specify each government's commitment to mainstreaming provisions that incorporate the four aforementioned pillars of UNSCR1325 into political decision-making, peace processes, defence and transitional justice, humanitarian affairs, and disaster response.

To date (March 2018), 75 countries have adopted WPS National Action Plans (see Annex 2). There has been a two-fold increase in NAP adoption since 2014. This increase is reflected within Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, New Zealand, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Thailand and Timor Leste have all adopted first, and in some cases second, generation NAPs. Asia and the Pacific have established significant momentum in the implementation of the WPS agenda.

It is worth discussing the profile of those states that have committed to WPS implementation through NAPs and/or made declarations or commitments at the regional level (see Figure 1). In a study on global patterns of WPS diffusion focused on National Action Plans and regional commitments, Jacqui True found that international influences to adopt NAPs are not conflict driven – i.e., states engaged in civil or interstate war are not more or less likely to adopt a NAP.<sup>2</sup> Neither is Security Council membership (whether permanent or non-permanent) a driving influence on states' adoption of NAPs. Instead, a particularly significant international trend is that countries with a strong commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and states with minimal or no reservations to the Treaty, will be more likely to adopt a commitment to NAPs. Similarly, the existence of transnational civil society networks that promote women's rights appears to be another important trend that indicates whether a state will have an NAP.<sup>3</sup>

The domestic factors that influence NAP adoption are equally revealing. The presence of positive democratisation trends appears to be significant in the sense that it permits civil society actors to advocate and champion policy change. Finally, the promotion of women to senior executive roles in government and the increase of women's representation in (federal) parliament positively correlate with the adoption of NAPs.<sup>4</sup>

However, NAPs are not the only pathway for WPS implementation. In fact, there are a number of global and regional mechanisms that can be leveraged by both state and non-state actors to strengthen WPS implementation.

## FACTORS SUPPORTING WPS IMPLEMENTATION

### CEDAW

Research shows that countries with strong commitments to CEDAW are more likely to adopt NAPs

### CIVIL SOCIETY

The promotion of women's rights through transnational civil society networks supports the development of NAPs

### DEMOCRATISATION

Trends towards democratisation within a state can support both civil society and policy change in ways that can promote WPS implementation

### WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The presence of women within senior leadership roles in government and the peace and security sector positively correlates with NAP development

### GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The mainstreaming of gender in peace and security activities makes WPS implementation the 'everyday business' of peace and security

### NORM ENTREPRENEURS

Internal leadership by individuals within government agencies can be significant factors in the development of a state's NAP

Reference: J. True. "Explaining the global diffusion of the WPS agenda." *International Political Science Review* 37, no. 3 (2016): 307-323 and B. Trojanowska, et al. "National Action Plans on WPS: Eight Countries in Focus" (2018)

**FIGURE 1: FACTORS SUPPORTING WPS IMPLEMENTATION**

## CEDAW GR30 (2013)

### 28. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT STATE PARTIES:

- (a) Ensure that national action plans and strategies to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions are compliant with the Convention, and that adequate budgets are allocated for their implementation;
- (b) Ensure that the implementation of Security Council commitments reflects a model of substantive equality and takes into account the impact of conflict and postconflict contexts on all rights enshrined in the Convention, in addition to those violations concerning conflict-related gender-based violence, including sexual violence;
- (c) Cooperate with all United Nations networks, departments, agencies, funds and programmes in relation to the full spectrum of conflict processes, including conflict prevention, conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction to give effect to the provisions of the Convention;
- (d) Enhance collaboration with civil society and non-governmental organizations working on the implementation of the Security Council agenda on women, peace and security.

**FIGURE 2: EXCERPT FROM CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 30**

### CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 30

In October 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted *General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations*.<sup>5</sup>

The recommendation cross-references the WPS agenda and this has made it a useful tool for WPS implementation. In fact, it has been argued that “GR30 has allowed for a more robust and holistic interpretation of the UN Security Council Resolutions.”<sup>6</sup>

Using a human rights-based approach, GR30 calls for WPS implementation to be based upon a broader model of substantive equality that is consistent in CEDAW’s work (see Figure 2). The Committee reiterated “the need for a concerted and integrated approach that places the implementation of the Security Council

agenda on women, peace and security into the broader framework of the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol.”<sup>7</sup>

In doing so, it provides guidance to states on the implementation of CEDAW in circumstances before, during and after conflict, offering significant overlap with the content of the WPS resolutions (including the focus upon women’s participation, conflict prevention, and gender-based violence).

Importantly, there is also integration with WPS in terms of reporting requirements. GR30 requires states to report on their implementation of CEDAW, including in conflict-related situations. The Committee noted that under article 18 of CEDAW, there is a reporting procedure for all states parties “to report on measures that they have adopted to implement the provisions of the Convention, including in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.” The Committee further noted that: “Using the reporting procedure to include information on the implementation of Security Council commitments can consolidate the Convention and the Council’s agenda and therefore broaden, strengthen and operationalize gender equality.”<sup>8</sup>

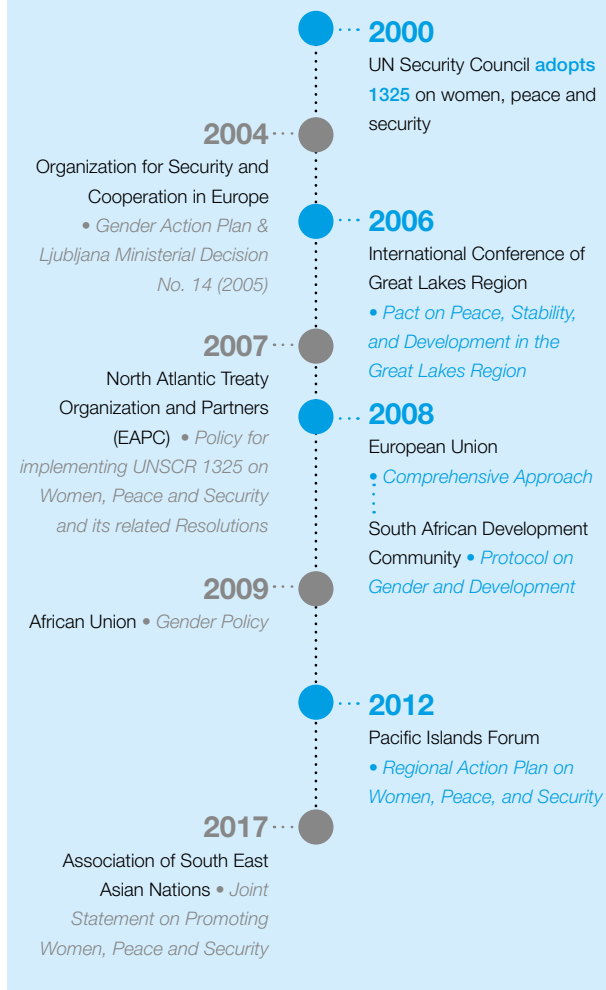
### HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The United Nations Human Rights Council also provides opportunities to advance the WPS agenda. In October 2017 Australia was elected to the HRC for the term 2018–2020. In its campaign it listed gender equality as the first of five pillars that it intends to focus upon. Australia pledged to: “work with other governments and civil society to convert the objectives of the women, peace and security agenda into effective action.” Like CEDAW GR30, the HRC offers an opportunity for states to align WPS with its other human rights commitments. In Australia’s case, it has pledged to do so by working “collaboratively across all regions and forums to eliminate violence against women, support women’s voices and agency and increase and enhance economic opportunities for women.”

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development similarly provide opportunities to align the WPS agenda with broader peace and security initiatives. While the goals themselves (and their attending indicators) do not draw links with the WPS agenda, Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) clearly overlap with WPS concerns. It therefore provides opportunities for states and regional actors to link the agendas in the design of their activities, implementation strategies and reporting. An illustration of this is when, at 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit, ASEAN adopted its gender-responsive plan on the implementation of the SDGs alongside its *Joint Statement on Women, Peace and Security*.

## UNSCR 1325 DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL POLICIES



**FIGURE 3: THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT UNSCR1325**

## REGIONAL APPROACHES TO WPS IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to global initiatives, several regional organisations have referred to and integrated UNSCR1325 into their activities through action plans, statements and declarations (see Figure 3). To date, the African Union (AU), European Union (EU), International Conference of Great Lakes Region (IGLR), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and its Partners (NATO/EAPC), Organisation for American States (OAS), Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and South African Development Community (SADC) have all sought to implement the WPS agenda into their work.<sup>9</sup>

In November 2017, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) joined this regional ensemble with its *Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security* (see Annex 3).<sup>10</sup>

While this is not an exhaustive list, it demonstrates that in addition to NAPs there is a range of mechanisms that can be directly employed, leveraged, or aligned to support WPS implementation. What is clear is that WPS implementation is strengthened by the introduction of positive international and domestic measures that support the realisation of women's rights, and women's participation in the political, security, and justice spheres of government. Moreover, it can be reliably said that countries who are progressing gender mainstreaming and women's human rights into formal legislative and institutional processes are more likely to adopt strategies for WPS implementation than those that are not. The key lies in securing champions within political institutions who will promote gender mainstreaming, and creating a space for civil society to positively engage with and collaborate in discussions on the connections between women, peace and security.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

The mechanisms and frameworks listed above highlight some of the opportunities for states and regional actors to implement the WPS agenda. However, it is important to recognise that these global approaches often work alongside context-specific initiatives adopted at more localised national and regional levels. In some cases, local/regional efforts for achieving gender equality pre-date UNSCR1325, but nonetheless align with its core objectives. This is the case in Asia and the Pacific. In this region, the goals and objectives of the Women, Peace and Security agenda are – and have been – pursued simultaneously via multiple initiatives, at varying levels, and in different forums.

Australia's approach to the implementation of the WPS agenda offers one such example of this. Australia's

main vehicle for the implementation of the WPS agenda is through *Australia's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2012–2018*. However, as previously noted, it also implements the agenda through its current role on the Human Rights Council, as it did during its non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2013–2014. Furthermore, it seeks to support the implementation of WPS through alignment with related policy doctrines and by supporting and engaging in dialogue with regional partners on implementation strategies, experiences and opportunities. In fact, this is true of many states in the region that work with state and non-state stakeholders at the global, regional, national and community levels to advance WPS. Efforts to align WPS with pre-existing or emerging efforts in all areas of gender equality (such as combating violence against women, and promoting women's

economic empowerment and leadership) create a broad and interconnected supporting structure that facilitates WPS implementation. As a major regional actor, ASEAN is well-placed to lead a collaborative approach to WPS implementation in the region and has undertaken numerous initiatives towards that end.

## PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN ASEAN

The establishment of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) Charter in 2009 has facilitated much of this leadership. The ASEAN Charter outlines a “firm foundation in achieving the ASEAN Community by providing legal status and institutional framework for ASEAN. It also codifies ASEAN norms, rules and values; sets clear targets for ASEAN; and presents accountability and compliance.”<sup>11</sup> Importantly, the adoption of the ASEAN Charter led to establishment of rights-centred institutions that support gender equality. These include: the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, and the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR). The ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, with a growing number of declarations and action plans, has made significant contributions to realising the four-pillar WPS agenda of women’s protection, participation, relief and recovery, and prevention. These institutions have been essential for progressing a regional approach to gender equality (see Figure 4).

The ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) has been the longest-serving primary mechanism for coordinating and monitoring ASEAN activities on the status of women. Primarily located within the Economic Community and Socio-Cultural Community, issues crucial to women’s security such as economic, health and education inequality have been pursued through these committees. In recent years numerous activities have been undertaken including projects on: capacity building for women in information and communication technology in ASEAN, expanding skills training for women, coordinating the ASEAN-Australia project against people trafficking in Southeast Asia, overseeing the operationalisation of both the *Declaration of the Elimination of Violence against Women in the ASEAN Region* and the *Declaration of the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region*, encouraging ASEAN bodies and member states to integrate gender mainstreaming in their policies and actions, and sharing best practices.

Gender equality is further promoted through the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Women (AMMW). This is a recent mechanism developed within ASEAN to institutionalise gender mainstreaming, and commits all ten ASEAN Member states to promoting the status of women at the regional level (ASEAN 2012). Notably, the ACW and the AMMW have been crucial regional advocates for the creation of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).



**FIGURE 4:** ASEAN STATEMENTS, DECLARATIONS AND ACTION PLANS THAT REFERENCE WOMEN’S PROTECTION, PARTICIPATION, RELIEF AND RECOVERY, AND PREVENTION.

**AS A MAJOR regional actor, ASEAN is well-placed to lead a collaborative approach to WPS implementation in the region and has undertaken numerous initiatives towards that end.**

The ACWC has proven to be a formidable institutional arrangement in its use of the provisions within the ASEAN Charter, and its own mandate, to promote gender equality across the ASEAN structure.

## PROMOTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

In the economic space increasing attention is also being given to the positive role that ASEAN can play in regard to its membership concerning gender equity and economic empowerment. The ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) has been taking positive steps to address gender-responsive participation in sustainable development, economic growth, and labour. In 2017, for example, the ASEAN High-level Policy Dialogue on Women Migrant Workers in the AEC was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. At this forum AEC delegates reiterated their commitment to the *ASEAN Declaration on the Promotion and Protection of Migrant Workers*.

## ASEAN COMMISSION ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

The ACWC has proven to be a formidable institutional arrangement in its use of the provisions within the ASEAN Charter, and its own mandate, to promote gender equality across the ASEAN structure. The ACWC mandate includes the promotion of “the implementation of international instruments, ASEAN instruments and other instruments related to the rights of women and children” and the obligation “[t]o encourage ASEAN Member States to consider acceding to, and ratifying, international human rights instruments related to women and children.”<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, the ACWC terms directly reference the *Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)* – whose committee adopted General recommendation No. 30 (2013). As discussed above, GR30 identifies the integral relationship between WPS and CEDAW.

Furthermore, the ACWC presented to ASEAN member states a draft declaration on the prevention of violence against women (VAW) and children, which was adopted in October 2013

as the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children*. The declaration called for all member states to introduce or amend laws that address VAW and included a provision for the ACWC to collect data on VAW in ASEAN states. Moreover, the declaration covered “vulnerabilities and emerging forms of abuse confronted by women and children”, including “conflict, migration, disaster emergency situations, climate change, human trafficking, labor, cyber-based abuses, persons with disabilities, statelessness and belonging to ethnic and/or indigenous groups.”<sup>13</sup>

In 2015 the ACWC and ACW presented the *ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women*, which highlighted national and regional action to prioritise the prevention of violence against women. Crucially, this document referred to the commitment of ASEAN member states to the WPS agenda.<sup>14</sup> It also identified the need to address gender inequalities and gender stereotypes within the region as well as gender inclusive practices in the design and delivery of protection, prevention, justice and security sectors responsible for addressing violence against women.

The ACWC has increasingly made reference to the WPS agenda in the context of its work, and it has sought to include regional civil society organisations in its activities.<sup>15</sup> It is important to note that the ACWC has a “stronger mandate to engage with CSOs than the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).”<sup>16</sup> This has led to the ACWC being able to seek collaboration with ASEAN member states and civil society to promote an end to human trafficking, progress disability rights, women’s access to education, and gender, peace and security. Partnerships supported by the ACWC promote cross-community action between the Political and Security, Economic, and Socio-Cultural Committees. For example, at a five-day training event in March 2017, ACWC members were invited to the Asia Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (Brisbane, Australia) to discuss, engage with, and exchange ideas on the relationship between their mandate and the WPS agenda. At the event there were shared experiences of gender-responsive policies in legal, economic, and political institutions between the ACWC members and the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Federal Police, and the Department of Defence.<sup>17</sup> One of the recommendations made by the ACWC after this engagement was that they would propose an ASEAN statement on Women, Peace and Security for adoption at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit, to be held in November 2017 in the Philippines.



## 2017 ASEAN JOINT STATEMENT ON WPS

Following this recommendation, the first *ASEAN Joint Statement on Women, Peace and Security* was adopted at the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit (see Annex 3). This statement was crucial for two reasons. First, it was the region's first explicit affirmation of support for the WPS agenda:

**RECOGNISING FURTHER the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which recognises the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, the occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflict, and emphasizes the importance of women's equal, full and effective participation at all stages of peace processes given their necessary role in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, as embodied in UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009).**

Second, the statement advanced a four-pillar agenda to support the region's realisation of the WPS agenda. The statement explicitly refers to the importance of women's participation in the political, security, and justice sectors. It identifies gender inequality as a root cause of conflict and a contributing factor in the risk of violent extremism. There is reference to the need to recognise and support the role of women as peacebuilding negotiators, mediators, and first responders. Similarly highlighted is the importance of a gender perspective in all conflict prevention initiatives, including the prevention of violent extremism, and the full participation of women in peace processes.

## CONCLUSION

*Effective WPS implementation requires a broad, sustained, and multifaceted approach to gender equality and women's rights. This can take the form of strategic investment at the global level (such as the UNSC or CEDAW), in regional engagements (such as within ASEAN, or between ASEAN and regional partners) and through state-based initiatives (such as NAPs). Moreover, it requires an infrastructure that is sufficiently resourced and committed to the WPS agenda. It can also be enhanced when stakeholders (including non-state actors) work together to share resources, lessons learnt, expertise and experiences; and to identify a collaborative, clearly aligned implementation strategy.*

*With this in mind, there is exciting potential for WPS implementation and leadership by ASEAN and its partners in the region. While this background paper is not an exhaustive history of ASEAN's – or the broader region's – engagement in WPS, it does provide sufficient evidence of both a foundation for and commitment to WPS implementation and gender equality in three aspects: political and security institutions, economic integration, and socio-legal policies and legislation. The 2017 Joint Statement therefore marks an important point in these developments, as it offers an invitation to strengthen and further commit to the achievement of peace and security in the region.*

## ANNEX 1: THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION (year)	OVERVIEW
1325 (2000)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Affirms the importance of women's participation and inclusion in peace processes, humanitarian response, peacekeeping and post-conflict governance and peacebuilding.
1820 (2008)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Recognises sexual violence as a weapon of war. Calls on the international community to adopt a security response to sexual violence through training of troops and deployment of more women in peace operations.
1888 (2009)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Reiterates that sexual violence exacerbates armed conflict and impedes international peace and security. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for leadership to address conflict-related sexual violence, including for deployment of a Team of Experts on rule of law and sexual violence in conflict to conflict areas.</li> </ul>
1889 (2009)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Reiterates the importance of women's participation and inclusion in peace processes and post-conflict peace building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for better accountability procedures including indicators to measure the implementation of 1325 and reporting by the Secretary-General.</li> </ul>
1960 (2010)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Reiterates the call for an end to sexual violence in armed conflict. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes a monitoring and reporting mechanism on sexual violence in conflict to promote accountability and prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict</li> </ul>
2106 (2013)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Calls for better implementation of existing obligations (previous resolutions). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes language on women's participation in combating sexual violence;</li> <li>• Supports recourse to avenues of justice.</li> </ul>
2122 (2013)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Asserts that gender equality and women's empowerment are critical for peace and security. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out concrete approaches to combating the lack of female participation;</li> <li>• Calls on states to address root causes of armed conflict and security risks faced by women;</li> <li>• Calls for the provision of multi-sectoral services for women affected by conflict; and</li> <li>• Calls for the implementation of the WPS agenda across all areas of the Security Council's work.</li> </ul>
2242 (2015)	<b>MAIN FOCUS:</b> Calls for the better implementation of UNSCR1325. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls for better resourcing to the implementation of the resolutions</li> <li>• Recognises relationship between WPS and countering violent extremism</li> <li>• Recognises the need to integrate WPS across all country contexts</li> </ul>

Source: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Peacewomen), '2.2.1 Table: UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace & Security', available at: <http://www.peacewomen.org/why-WPS/solutions/resolutions/>; UN Women (2017), 'Poster: Security Council resolutions: Women peace and security', available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2017/1/poster-security-council-resolutions>

## ANNEX 2: COUNTRIES WITH NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR WPS



Please note that this graphic does not include Thailand, which in 2016 adopted national guidelines on WPS that encompass prevention, protection, capacity-building and empowerment.

Source: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom: *Peacewomen*, 'Member States: National Action Plans for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security', available at <http://peacewomen.org/member-states>



## ANNEX 3: JOINT STATEMENT ON PROMOTING WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN ASEAN

**WE**, the Heads of State/Government of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as "ASEAN"), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, on the occasion of the 31st ASEAN Summit:

**RECALLING** our commitment to promote regional peace and stability, sustainable development and prosperity for our citizens as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter, and our commitment to ensure gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, towards realising an inclusive, people-oriented, people-centred ASEAN Community, as reflected in the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025;

**REAFFIRMING** the goals and our commitments to eliminate violence against women and girls, as reflected in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region adopted at the 37th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (2004), The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children (2013), Ha Noi Declaration on the Enhancement of the Welfare and Development of ASEAN Women and Children (2010) and the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (2015);

**REAFFIRMING FURTHER** our commitments to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Declaration on Violence Against Women (Vienna Declaration), the Beijing Platform of Action, the BPFA + 20 and its Outcome Document, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the efforts of ASEAN on peacebuilding, including the increasing public spending and investment on social services, such as those for education and health, which serve to reinforce peace in the region;

**CONCERNED** by the increasing and unprecedented threats posed by conflicts, the rise of violent extremism, and the increasing numbers of refugees and displaced persons, including women and children;

**RECOGNISING** that peace and security are essential to the achievement of sustainable development, and are interconnected and vital to the future of ASEAN;

**RECOGNISING FURTHER** the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which recognises the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women, the occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflict, and emphasizes the importance of women's equal, full and effective participation at all stages of peace processes given their necessary role in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, as embodied in UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), and 1889 (2009).

## DO HEREBY:

**PROMOTE** a culture of peace and prevention that educates and empowers people, detects and prevents armed conflicts, and sustains peace through a cross-sectoral, comprehensive, and integrated approach.

**COMMIT** to continue addressing the root causes of armed conflicts such as poverty, discrimination, gender inequality, social injustice, economic, and social exclusion of persons and communities vulnerable to and at risk of radicalisation, violent extremism, and terrorism.

**PLEDGE** to promote gender equality and reduce social inequalities between men and women in our societies as a way to contribute as well to longstanding peace and prosperity.

**ENCOURAGE** the integration of gender perspective in all conflict prevention initiatives and strategies, and ensure the full participation of women in peace processes such as conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation processes.

**ENCOURAGE** the inclusion of the women, peace and security agenda in policies and programmes for the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence before, during and after armed conflict, and the creation of greater and wider spaces for participation in peacebuilding and post-reconstruction processes.

**BUILD** the capacity of women as peace builders either as mediators, negotiators and/ or first responders at the regional, national and local levels.

**COMMIT** to engage men and boys within the broader women, peace and security agenda.

**LEVERAGE** the role of regional inter-governmental organisations and development partners to support the implementation of global obligations and commitments in advancing the women, peace and security agenda to better protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and social exclusion.

**TASK** relevant ASEAN bodies to work together to promote the women, peace and security agenda in the ASEAN region.

**Adopted on the Thirteenth Day of November in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen (2017)  
in Manila, the Philippines.**

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Monash Gender, Peace & Security is a group of policy and community engaged scholars whose research is focused in the field of gender, peace and security. We seek to use our research to inform scholarly debate, policy development and implementation, public understanding about the gendered politics of armed conflict and the search for peace.

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