

DRAFT for discussion, 2017-03-07

**A Conference for Consultations between the Government and Civil Society on the
Renewal of Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
Concept Note**

General: Canada's National Action Plan (C-NAP) for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) was launched in 2010 for five years and sunset in March 2016. The Government has announced that it will be renewed. Renewal preparations are underway and with the Government's WPS-related activities continuing unabated. The global history of WPS implementation indicates that close cooperation with civil society experts is an important element. The Government learned much about civil society concerns and ambitions with respect to C-NAP renewal through their excellent testimony and submissions to three consultations over the past year: the WPS study conducted by the Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development, the International Assistance Review, and the Review of Defence Policy.

In order to apply this wealth of information, as well as emerging issues, to the C-NAP renewal process, the Government and civil society under the auspices of the Women, Peace and Security Network - Canada (WPSN-C) will co-chair a two day consultation conference. The conference will bring together the government C-NAP partners [Parliamentarians, political staff] and civil society experts to build on what was heard during the above-mentioned consultations and exchange information on C-NAP renewal and to work collaboratively to forge a set of ideas for developing an ambitious and robust renewed C-NAP. The outcome will be a report to inform the final drafting of the new C-NAP.

Date and Venue: The conference is tentatively scheduled for 20-21 April 2017 at GAC headquarters in Ottawa.

Format: The conference will be co-chaired by GAC and WPSN-C. The first day will be devoted to discussion on WPS principal and emerging themes, lessons learned from the first C-NAP experience, and benchmarking against the experience of other NAP countries. The second day will focus on the modalities of structuring the new C-NAP with respect to the programs of C-NAP partners, baselines, targets, actions and indicators. There will be plenary sessions as well as focused small group interactive discussions. WPSN-C will support the conference by publishing a series of theme papers as well as thematic "webinars". A detailed WPS agenda is under development including objectives and desired outcomes for the sessions each day in collaboration between the co-hosts.

Participation will include about 50 civil society representatives and about 25 from government as follows:

- Extant C-NAP partners: GAC, DND, RCMP, PS, and SWC;
- Potential new C-NAP partners: justice, IRCC, CSC, and INAC
- Civil society will conduct a process of an open registration with positions reserved for selected experts;
- Selected foreign experts;
- How to include participation by Parliamentarians and political staff is under consideration.

Public Profile: The conference will be conducted under the "Chatham House Rule" for non-attributability of statements and comments by participants. A public communications plan will be developed.