



WPSN-C Remarks for Ministerial with CNAP Partners

Delivered by Katrina Leclerc
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Ministers, Ambassador, and colleagues, I would like to thank Minister Garneau and Ambassador O'Neill for this warm invitation. It is exciting to have this many ministers around one virtual table to discuss Canada's progress on implementing the WPS agenda.

I am very pleased to represent the WPS Network – Canada today. We are a network of over 80 Canadian organizations and individuals committed to promoting and monitoring the efforts of the Canadian Government to implement and support the WPS agenda. We have produced several reports on Canada's efforts to date and we would be happy to engage in follow-up discussions.

Permettez-moi de souligner quelques points forts du Plan canadien. Les signatures - à l'origine - de neuf ministres sur le Plan reconnaissent que l'agenda FPS couvre un large éventail de thèmes et d'obligations – que ce soit les perspectives de genre dans la lutte contre l'extrémisme violent, au le renforcement des investissements dans la prévention des conflits, au soutien des femmes défenseuses des droits de la personne, et bien plus.

[Delivered in French, translation: Let me highlight a few strengths of the Canadian Plan. The signatures - originally - of nine ministers on the Plan recognize that the WPS agenda covers a wide range of themes and obligations - from gender perspectives in countering violent extremism, to strengthening investments in conflict prevention, support for women human rights defenders, and more.]

Une deuxième force est la reconnaissance distincte des rôles clés joués par la société civile - au Canada et dans les zones de conflits. Nous convenons que les organismes menés par les femmes (y compris celles dirigées par des jeunes) sont des moteurs essentiels de la paix. Le Plan a également établi le Groupe consultatif FPS que nous sommes heureuses de coprésider avec Affaires mondiales Canada.

[Delivered in French, translation: A second strength is the distinct recognition of the key roles played by civil society - in Canada and in conflict zones. We agree that women-led organizations (including those led by youth) are essential agents of peace. The Plan also established the WPS Advisory Group which we are happy to co-chair with Global Affairs Canada.]

Troisièmement, nous avons salué les initiatives et les investissements clés : y compris la campagne Paix Au Féminin, la coprésidence du réseau de points focaux FPS et la nomination de notre ambassadrice pour l'agenda FPS.

[Delivered in French, translation: Third, we welcomed key initiatives and investments: including the Peace By Her campaign, the co-chair of the WPS Focal Points Network, and the appointment of our WPS Ambassador.]

There are also longstanding issues or concerns often raised by members of our Network.

- There are still startling inconsistencies in Canada's approach to WPS. Our global leadership is undermined by our support of arms exports to Saudi Arabia, our failure to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the continuing reports of sexual misconduct within our uniformed services.
- Second, financing the WPS agenda is a global challenge. While Canada has made financial commitments, including the welcomed \$5 million for grassroots women peacebuilders announced last October, we could do more. The UN Secretary-General's call to increase funding going to women's organizations in conflict situations five-fold provides a useful target.
- Third, assessing progress remains difficult. For instance, the report for the fiscal year that ended March 2020 has yet to be released. Furthermore, even with the progress reports, it is difficult to get a clear picture of advances, challenges, and lessons from across all the participating government departments.
- Fourth, despite almost 11 years of NAPs, there are still capacity gaps and a lack of understanding of the issues across

departments. If staff don't understand the issues, implementation will be illusive and incomplete.

As we look forward to the drafting of the 3rd NAP, here are several recommendations:

1. Be brave, be bold with how this government moves forward on defining and implementing its feminist approach to foreign policy. This is an excellent opportunity to advance the WPS agenda, as well as related issues.
2. Challenge your departments to work in new ways – be meaningfully intersectional, feminist, and inclusive (including by making links with other peace and security frameworks – like youth, peace and security).
3. Continue to draw on the expertise of civil society – we are here, we have the expertise, and we want to work with you.
4. Ensure the next NAP responds to emerging issues such as the climate-conflict-gender nexus and responds to the growing awareness of the importance of anti-oppression, anti-racism, and intersectionality in this agenda.

Dédiez les ressources et les capacités pour réaliser ces ambitions. Des visions audacieuses nécessitent des ressources et responsabilité. Merci encore pour cette opportunité. Il y a beaucoup plus que j'aurais pu inclure. Notre réseau reste prêt à s'engager et contribuer.

[Delivered in French, translation: Dedicate resources and capabilities to achieve these ambitions. Bold visions require resources and responsibility. Thank you again for this opportunity. There is a lot more that I could have included. Our network remains ready to engage and contribute.]

We look forward to our continued partnership, together ensuring Canada's continued leadership, including strong feminist approaches to peace, security, and equality - at home and abroad.