

Civil society input on Women, Peace and Security **Mandate renewal UNAMA, Afghanistan**

On March 17th 2018 the UN Security Council (UNSC) will decide on the renewal of the mandate of UNAMA in Afghanistan. Many civil society signatories of the Dutch National Action Plan 1325 (NAP1325), as well as members and partners of WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform have a longstanding relationship with Afghanistan. Organizations such as Cordaid, Oxfam Novib, Gender Concerns, Voice of Afghan Women, ZOA, CARE, HealthNet TPO and Save the Children support inclusive peace and security in close cooperation with Afghan women's rights organizations and peacebuilding groups.

The new resolution on UNAMA is a chance to further support inclusive peace processes. Therefore, civil society organizations that work in and on Afghanistan call upon the UNSC to take into account the following recommendations:

- = **Request UNAMA to directly support the Afghan government to overcome the challenges surrounding the implementation of Afghanistan's NAP1325.** As Oxfam Novib Netherlands and its local partners indicate: "Most of the challenges are still related to coordination and financing of the Afghan NAP1325." UNAMA should address this matter, and have a role in assisting the Afghan government to coordinate efforts supporting the implementation of the NAP1325, in close coordination with UN Women and other relevant (local) organizations.
- = **Urge UNAMA to actively advocate the meaningful participation of women in all formal and informal peace processes.** The NGO Working Group on WPS already in [December 2017](#) pointed down that "despite the appointment of one woman to the High Peace Council, the appointment of more women in senior roles is needed in order to contribute to a peace process wherein women's participation in general remains woefully inadequate (CEDAW/C/AFG/CO/1-2)". UNAMA should advocate consistently for Afghan women's inclusion, particularly from civil society, in peace dialogues, UN supported reconciliation and reintegration processes. To ensure the discussions reflect the concerns and needs of the whole population ([S/RES/2242 \(2015\)](#)).
- = **Request UNAMA to support women's electoral participation in regard to upcoming elections in Afghanistan.** Participation is one of the important pillars in the 3-P approach of UNSCR 1325. A large part of civil society and especially women's organisations are raising their voices for their political participation and fair share in decision-making processes. In the [Kabul Conference 2015](#), organized by Gender Concerns International, leading Afghan women's organisations identified women's electoral participation as integral to ensuring the broader societal and political participation of women in Afghanistan. With recent discussion around NUG's possible extension, and the gloomy future of the upcoming elections in Afghanistan, UNAMA and the international community must support women's political and electoral participation.
- = **Request UNAMA to continue and strengthen its support for the inclusion of women in the Afghan National Security Forces.** This includes the Afghan police force and the relevant line ministries, acknowledging UNAMA's important work supporting women police associations. As various members mention, among which Oxfam Novib: "Despite past efforts, the current reality is that the numbers of women in Afghan police force and the army are not really increasing, protection and complaints mechanisms are not working well and there is still neither critical mass nor an organizational culture within Afghan institutions."
- = **Urge UNAMA and international donors to continue their support for the Afghan government to address and break down structural institutional and cultural barriers as well**

as social attitudes that restrict women from participating in decision making and security forces. UNAMA should support the recruitment and protection of female recruits and ensure sufficient female security forces to enable women to safely exercise rights such as voting or attending meetings.

- = **Request UNAMA to urge the Afghan government and its international partners to improve efforts to prevent targeted attacks on Afghan women human right defenders as well as other women leaders and public figures.** While attacks on – among other women leaders – provincial council members and female police women persist, the Afghan Government does not keep records of civilian female government employees who have been targeted for their work. This lack of reliable data and information results in a general lack of awareness about the gravity of the problem¹. UNAMA should condemn these attacks in the strongest words and urge the Afghan government to bring perpetrators to justice.
- = **Request UNAMA to urge the Afghan government to restore the chapter on the Elimination of Violence Against Women that was removed during the translation from Dari to Pashto in the penal code².**
- = **Urge UNAMA to improve the quarterly SG reports on the integration of Afghan women in political, social and economic life.** This includes the collection and use of sex disaggregated data, and information on the impact of UNAMA's activities. F.e. recent SG reports reflect on events organized or supported by UNAMA such as an event on electoral processes and a national conference on the Afghan People's Dialogue and Peace. While it is indeed important to report, the impact of these events misses: what is done with the suggestions that were raised? How did the 16 Days of Activism on Violence Against Women Campaign contribute to national awareness?³ Comprehensive reporting on levels of women's representation and meaningful participation in peace processes – including peace jirgas, prior consultations and participation of women in the ANSF – is needed.
- = **Reflect the international community's commitment to Afghanistan people by increasing efforts to support women's voices in peace and security decision-making.** By not attending any meeting in which no women attend or civil society's voice is not taken into account. By urging international donors to continue support to awareness raising campaigns and to support the participation of local Afghan women's organizations in international events.

About WO=MEN

WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform is a network of development, peace building and (women's) diaspora organizations, women's rights and gender justice organizations, academics, students, journalists, military and police. Together we aim for women's rights and gender justice worldwide. In joint cooperation with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs we coordinate the Dutch National Action Plan on the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325.

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<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Forgotten%20Heroes%20Afghan%20Women%20Leaders%20Killed%20in%20Impunity%20Ignored%20in%20Justice.pdf>

² SG Report on Afghanistan, 15 December 2017, p. 10: <https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/sg-report-on-afghanistan-15-december-2017.pdf>

³ SG Report on Afghanistan, 15 December 2017, p. 4, 5 and 8.