

What is it?

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is integrated into the Security and Defence policies of Australia and Japan, two of NATO's Indo-Pacific partners. They are also making significant progress towards advancing WPS throughout the region through national capacity-building projects in areas such as disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, and humanitarian assistance.

Australia's 'Gender, Peace, and Security' (GPS) Mandate

The Australian Department of Defence integrates 'GPS' into all of its planning, operations and international engagements. The GPS covers 6 key lines of effort. Engagement with the Indo-Pacific region accounts for 60% of Australia's total international engagement, and they work with partner governments on various methods to cooperate and integrate UNSCR 1325. Climate security is a prominent focus, with gender advisors deployed to climate-related operations, exercises, and planning activities. Their Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE) 2023 seeks to strengthen these partnerships through joint training programmes for gender in military operations, women's participation in peacekeeping operations and GPS adventure training.

6 LINES OF EFFORT IN AUSTRALIA'S GPS MANDATE



NATO's Indo-Pacific Partnerships

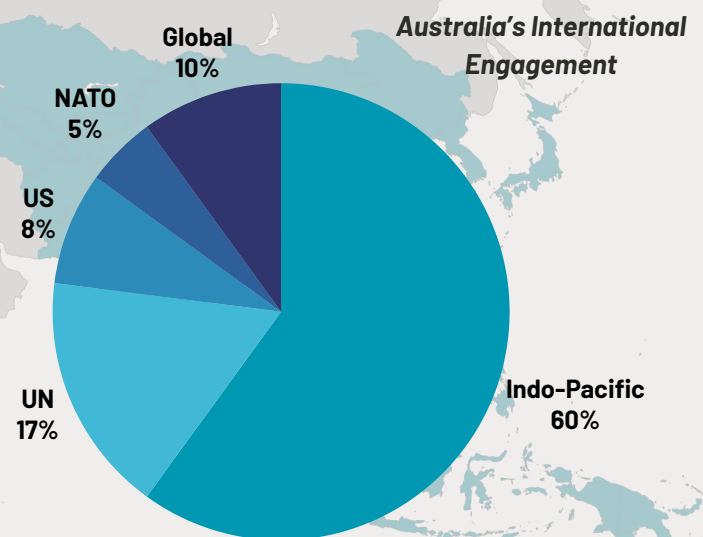
NATO is enhancing its dialogue and cooperation with Indo-Pacific partners: Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea. NATO strives to strengthen communication, unity of effort, and coherence through Individually Tailored Partnership Programmes (ITPPs). This enhanced engagement results in a greater ability to address cross-regional issues and advance common security interests. The WPS agenda is critical to these collaborations as a cross-cutting security challenge. ITPPs support the integration of the Gender Perspective in NATO's ties with its Indo-Pacific partners through mechanisms such as Gender courses and working platforms.

CONTEXT SPECIFICITY

Both Australia and Japan highlight the need to take customised approaches and respect the diverse national contexts of Indo-Pacific countries

Japan's WPS Agenda

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) is a venue for ASEAN and its eight Partners to deepen security and defence cooperation in the region for peace, security, and development. They focus on seven key areas of practical cooperation, through various Experts' Working Groups' (EWG). Japan is currently a co-chair for the Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) EWG, which has recognised WPS as a main objective. They have launched efforts such as the establishment of a WPS Platform and the hosting of WPS seminars with notable UN experts. Japan also assists Indo-Pacific partners with WPS training in multilateral PKO exercises, as well as in Capacity Building Programmes focused on areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.



NATO's Indo-Pacific partners are making significant strides towards advancing WPS in the region. NATO collaborates with its Indo-Pacific partners to address cross-cutting security issues while expanding the integration of the Gender Perspective.