NOTICE
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Silence Procedure ends:
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PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATIVE SECURITY COMMITTEE IN EAPC FORMAT

REPORT OF THE 4TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY PANEL ON WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY

Note by the Acting Chairperson

References: EAPC(C)D(2019)0004 and AS1,
AC/340(EAPC)N(2019)0017

1. Please find attached, for your information, the report of the 4th Annual Meeting of the Civil Society Advisory Panel (CSAP) on Women, Peace and Security, which took place at NATO HQ on 12-13 November 2019.

2. It is my intention to make the report of the 4th Annual Meeting of CSAP releasable to the public. Unless I hear to the contrary therefore by close of business on Friday, 17 January 2020, I will assume that I have your approval of this decision.

(Signed) Clare HUTCHINSON
NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security

3 Annexes

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Original: English
REPORT OF THE 4TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ADVISORY PANEL ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Introduction
The 4th Annual Meeting of the Civil Society Advisory Panel (CSAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) took place at NATO HQ, Brussels on 12-13 November 2019. The Annual Meeting followed the revision of the CSAP Terms of Reference, a document which was approved by Council on 23 May 2019 (EAPC(C)D(2019)0004). Following this agreement, NATO Allied Nations and Partners that have associated themselves with the NATO/EAPC Policy and Action Plan on WPS were invited to make recommendations regarding the Panel’s membership. Additionally, the Special Representative consulted with civil society, which provided a set of supplementary recommendations. On the basis of all recommendations received, the WPS office selected the composition of CSAP membership, and circulated this information to Nations on 23 September 2019.

The objectives of the 4th Annual Meeting were to:
1) introduce new Panel members to NATO and to specific ongoing or projected projects of interest to collaborative engagement;
2) set priorities together for the few years ahead.

The agenda of the meeting is at Annex 2, a draft of which was circulated to Allies and Partners on 5 November 2019 (AC/340(EAPC)N(2019)0017). The Annual Meeting was attended by a total of 11 civil society organizations (Annex 3).

The Annual Meeting was opened by NATO’s Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Mircea Geoană. He expressed his support of the work already conducted by CSAP in past years, and underlined that NATO continues to recognize the important role of civil society in promoting and implementing the WPS agenda and in strengthening the voices of those most affected by conflict.

Overview of Women, Peace and Security at NATO
Following the formal introductions, the WPS office outlined CSAP’s history and achievements to date, and presented the outcomes of CSAP’s independent assessment which fed into the revision of the CSAP Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference were shared with the group ahead of the Annual Meeting. The revised CSAP consists of representatives of dedicated civil society organizations with a focus on gender equality and/or WPS. Additionally, the structure of the revised CSAP has been simplified; CSAP consists of a total of 15 organizations, of which 5 represent Allies, 5 represent Partners, and 5 represent conflict-affected countries.

In keeping with the innovative approach, a marketplace-style session was held where divisions and entities from NATO HQ were available to present their work, including the role of the WPS mandate and of civil society. Represented at this session were the International Military Staff, Emerging Security Challenges, Executive Management, and Political Affairs and Security Policy.
All participants of the marketplace-style session joined WPS stakeholders from Allies and Partners at a networking lunch hosted by the Swiss Mission to NATO.

Closed Session for CSAP
Lunch was followed by a brief tour of NATO HQ, including the Agora and Conference Centre, following which CSAP representatives were given the opportunity to present to the WPS office their organizations and their reasons for wanting to be part of the Panel. CSAP then had some executive time alone to discuss the ways in which it wishes to engage with NATO as well as the types of issues it would like to focus on. This closed session also gave CSAP the opportunity to get to know each other a little better, as well as to prepare for its participation in the Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee, a meeting of which would take place the following day.

External Communications
Day 2 of the Annual Meeting kicked off with a briefing by representatives from the Public Diplomacy Division about the NATO external outreach campaign, the different methods used by NATO to reach diverse audiences across the Alliances, and the challenges experienced in externally communicating NATO’s role, mission and core values. CSAP was consulted to learn more about ways in which NATO’s communication strategy is externally perceived and to think of new ideas to improve its messaging. The overall response from the group focused on the necessity to communicate to and with women more proactively.

It was also recommended that NATO communicate an image that is genuine and matches its policies, programs and activities, not one that is assumed to be most attractive to ill-informed external audiences.

The WPS office’s presentation of the ‘Women’s Defense Dialogues’ – a project recently launched to analyze women’s perception of security, defense, and NATO – was positively received both by CSAP as well as by the Public Diplomacy Division. Through a series of roundtables which will bring together a diverse group of women, NATO would like to learn more about how women view certain questions of security and defense, what women’s thoughts are on their own security needs, and what their views are on NATO. It is expected this project will assist in refining NATO’s external communications strategies vis-à-vis female audiences in particular.

Informal Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee
An informal meeting of the Partnerships and Cooperative Security Committee (PCSC) took place on 13 November 2019 and was chaired by the Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. The objective of the meeting was to provide Allies and Partners with an opportunity for exchange with CSAP representatives, and to discuss strategic priorities for NATO’s work with civil society on Women, Peace and Security the next year.

An opening statement was delivered by Sonja Lokar from the Women’s Lobby of Slovenia and by Pnina Sharvit Baruch from Forum Dvorah. Both emphasized that women continue to be insufficiently included in decision-making about matters of conflict, security and defense,
and advocated that NATO can only be effective at its core tasks if it includes the voices of women and of civil society into all its policies and programs.

Many Nations expressed their support to CSAP's mission and advisory role to NATO, and echoed the important role of women and of civil society in crisis prevention, response, and resolution. Several Nations inquired about specific ways in which NATO could be of assistance to CSAP and its mission, particularly in view of the upcoming 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2020. They also asked about specific obstacles to the effective implementation of the WPS agenda still in place today.

CSAP recommends that in preparation of every new NATO mission and/or operation, local civil society organizations be consulted to contribute to the strategic security assessment of the country and/or region concerned. CSAP mentioned men are essential yet oftentimes absent contributors to the implementation of WPS at NATO, which is not a women's only agenda. Violence against women in and beyond war and conflict was highlighted as a key component to gender equality, and CSAP called upon NATO to put in place the appropriate policy framework to prevent and respond to this problem most effectively.

The Special Representative wrapped up the PCSC meeting by outlining to both CSAP and Nations the exact ways in which the WPS office and NATO are planning to engage with one another in 2020. Further details of this overview are provided below.

Interactive Discussion with the Operations Division
Following lunch, two representatives from the Operations Division at NATO HQ joined CSAP for an interactive discussion on the way in which NATO considers gender perspectives as it plans for and executes its missions and operations. They thereby elaborated on the differences between NATO’s past and present engagement in Afghanistan and that in Iraq. Additionally, the Operations Divisions underlined that to NATO, the integration of gender perspectives involves an internal dimension that applies solely to deployed personnel, as well as an external dimension that related to the local population. Also discussed was the importance of grassroots and civil society perspectives in ensuring the appropriate consideration of gender perspectives for operational effectiveness.

Way Ahead
The remainder of the Annual Meeting was dedicated to a discussion between CSAP and the WPS office about the concrete way forward, in relation to both the way in which CSAP and NATO will work together, as well as to the specific content and projects that CSAP may be involved with. The conclusions of this exchange are the following:
On process

1) CSAP has agreed it will not at this stage set up a Steering Committee. The small size of the group and the necessity to safeguard full transparency within CSAP makes that a Steering Committee is currently not deemed necessary.

2) CSAP and the WPS office have agreed to increase regularity of contact, to include as many conference calls as needed.

3) In terms of membership, two slots within the ‘conflict-affected regions’ category are currently still open. The WPS office has encouraged CSAP to come forward with recommendations of civil society organizations that could be taken into consideration to join CSAP.

4) CSAP and the WPS office agree that meaningful engagement between NATO and civil society requires appropriate financial support from Allies and Partners. Liaison efforts with national governments will be strengthened to ensure that CSAP can continue to carry out its core mission in support of WPS at NATO.

On content (in support of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325)

1) The WPS office has committed to the development and release of an essay series to mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in October 2020. CSAP members have been invited to contribute to that publication and to reflect on the future of the implementation of the WPS mandate at NATO and beyond.

2) CSAP has been invited to support several projects ongoing in the WPS office. More specifically, CSAP will be involved in:
   a. the organization of the Women’s Defense Dialogues in countries represented on CSAP;
   b. the collation of best practices in gender mainstreaming (both in the civilian as well as military sphere), with a focus on how civil society has effected change;
   c. the development and delivery of training on the Women, Peace and Security mandate and/or on gender (mainstreaming) to NATO personnel;
   d. supporting, as appropriate, the development and/or revision of several NATO policies, including on Women, Peace and Security, Human Trafficking, and Children and Armed Conflict;

3) NATO and CSAP will work together to encourage and support Nations to develop and adopt National Action Plans (NAPs) in consultation with national civil society organizations;

4) CSAP recommends that NATO engage with women’s civil society organizations in all countries with a NATO mission and/or operation;

5) The WPS office will facilitate meaningful advocacy opportunities for CSAP at future meetings of the PCSC.
Tuesday, November 12

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome to NATO (1)
Speaker: Ms. Clare Hutchinson, NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome to NATO (2)
Speaker: Mr. Mircea Geoană, Deputy Secretary General, NATO.

09:45 – 11:00 Overview of CSAP / Introducing CSAP to NATO
Speaker from WPS office and CSAP representatives introduce themselves and outline their main focus areas.

11:00 – 12:00 Women, Peace and Security across NATO HQ
Marketplace-style session with representatives from a diverse group of entities from NATO HQ.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch hosted by the Swiss Mission to NATO

13:00 – 14:00 Walking tour of NATO HQ

14:00 – 17:00 Closed session for CSAP
CSAP discusses its main expectations and priorities without NATO.

Wednesday, November 13

09:00 – 10:00 Women’s Defense Dialogues

10:00 – 12:00 Informal PCSC(EAPC) + 7 with CSAP Members

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch hosted by the Belgian Delegation to NATO

14:00 – 15:00 Interactive discussion between CSAP and Operations Division

15:00 – 16:00 Way Ahead
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Philippa HENTY - Humanitarian Advisory Group
Iulia KCHARASHVILI - IDP Women Association “Consent”
Sonja LOKAR - Women’s Lobby of Slovenia
Nataša MILOJEVIĆ - Fund for Social and Democratic Initiatives
Hilde RØREN - CARE Norway
Paula SAN PEDRO - Oxfam Intermón
Annika SCHABBAUER - Operation 1325
Mahbouba SERAJ - Afghan Women’s Network
Pnina SHARVIT BARUH - Forum Dvorah
Irma ŠILJAK - Association “Medica” Zenica
Olena SUSLOVA - Women’s Information Consultative Center