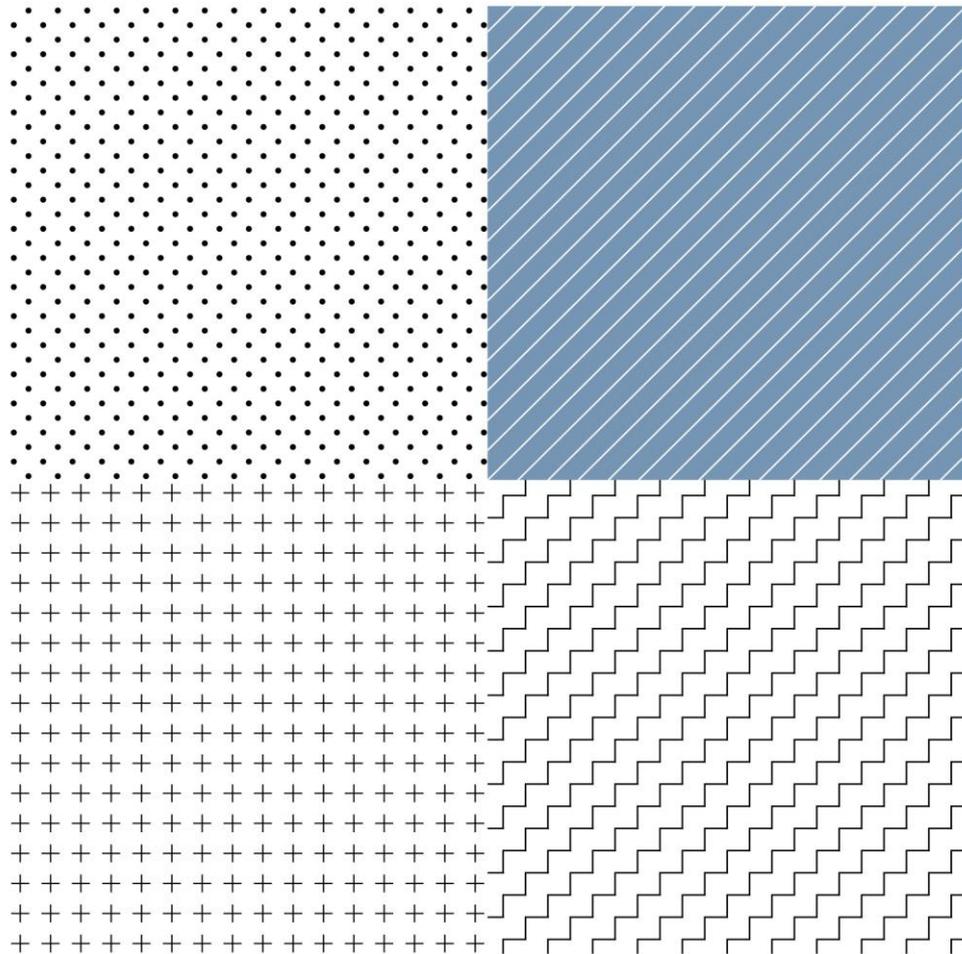


W O S C A P

ENHANCING EU PEACEBUILDING CAPABILITIES



Community of Practice Roundtable: The gender, peace and security agenda in mediation and dialogue processes

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Colophon

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ROUNDTABLE ON GENDER

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Deliverable 4.3: Community of Practice Event on Gender

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Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

This WOSCAP roundtable focused on the role of third parties in the promotion of the gender, peace and security agenda in mediation and dialogue processes. It aimed to reflect on lessons learned and good practices with the objective of strengthening the EU's capacities in introducing a gender perspective to peace processes. For that aim, this event focused on one hand on the EU's potential as a promoter of the gender, peace and security agenda in multi-track diplomacy, with special attention to lessons learned coming from EU's experience as well as to civil society insights on this field. In order to contribute to EU's capacities, this event also focused on experiences from other international actors in promoting the gender, peace and security agenda in dialogue processes. This roundtable gathered together local and international actors working on UNSCR 1325, EU's approach to UNSCR 1325 and gender and multi-track diplomacy. Participants included academics, government representatives, practitioners and civil society.



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Summary Report – The gender, peace and security agenda in mediation and dialogue processes: The role of third parties, lessons learned for the EU.

Roundtable speakers:

- Irina Bratosin D’Almeida, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)
- Kristian Herbolzheimer, Conciliation Resources
- Laura Mitchell, Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF)

Discussion Summary

The community of practice event brought up many issues regarding the gender, peace and security agenda in relation to the role of third actors in mediation and dialogue processes. The discussion dealt with conceptual and practical elements (role of mediators, design of peace processes...) and it included examples of good (and bad) practices that offer useful learnings and insights for the EU. See Annex 1 for the agenda of the event.

Conceptual learnings, challenges and good practices

- There are conceptual questions on the understanding of a given conflict itself. The way conflicts are understood shape the way to find solutions and solutions themselves (e.g. a deal between arms actors at a narrow peace table; or more inclusive processes with higher levels of participation and ownership). So far, approaches continue to be predominantly narrow, despite normative commitments to UNSCR1325 and WPS by 3rd actors.
- Conceptually (and practically) there is a need for further interaction between the peace and security agenda and the women, peace and security agenda, including within EEAS. Both fields would benefit of deeper engagement.
- There is a need to distinguish between women’s participation and integration of gender in peace processes, as there is often confusion on that. Both are crucial but integrating gender perspectives means much more than having women participating in peace processes.
- Women’s participation and integration of gender involve both political and technical elements. Different stakeholders may put different emphasis on each of them. Both dimensions provide entry points for practical engagement of 3rd parties (see section on ‘Practical learnings’).

- Acknowledgement of intersectionality is crucial for gender-sensitive effective and successful peace mediation and facilitation. Intersectionality implies acknowledging and integrating the wide variety of positions and differences within populations that intersect in a given context. Cases such as Colombia and Philippines provide example of the differences between rural and urban women, Muslim and religious minorities women, indigenous and non-indigenous, elite and grassroots women, LGBTBI, etc., as well as differences between men, and within any given sector of society, and how all these aspects intersect with each other. Intersectionality –which relates to a whole of society approach- has key implications in terms of how to design and implement third-party support.
- Conceptual elements are related to issues of rights, but also ownership, sustainability of peace and innovation, among others. There is a long way to go, and a lot of windows of opportunity for third actors to innovate by broadening conceptual approaches to multi-track diplomacy and by making institutional decisions to take the risks of continuous innovation.

Practical learnings, challenges and good practices

- Regarding practical engagement of third parties, there are dilemmas on the issue of mandates and gender requirements. On one hand, mediators are still predominantly reluctant to regulations, unless they see the ‘benefit’ of doing differently. Still, norms and frameworks (CEDAW, UNSCR 1325...) are considered important. In addition there are gaps in implementation of mandates and commitments (e.g. EUSRs with mandates related to peace diplomacy do not engage in a regular basis through a gender approach). Therefore, key questions relate to ‘how to make the case?’ (How to sensitize facilitators on this?; and how can mediators sensitize conflict parties?), as well as to processes of appointment of mediators and mediation skills. Cases such as the Philippines demonstrate that mediators can be convinced by role models and effective practice of the importance of women participation in facilitation and mediation roles. There are also good practices of how gender-sensitive facilitation roles can be effectively be undertaken by committed men. Regarding conflict parties, even if mediators do not set the agenda, they are still able to shape it and to engage with the conflict parties on various issues, including the gender perspective. There can be different entry points for this (e.g. empowerment language, as with the MILF).
- Experiences like the Nordic Women Mediators Network or other state and regional women mediation networks are innovative tools that can be useful for other actors, including EUMS and the EU itself. They can provide detailed mapping of women involvement in the multiplicity of public and non-public roles within past and current peace processes. These networks are also engaged in knowledge-sharing, in collaborative learning, in reaching out and supporting women’s groups in peace processes.
- Systematic mapping, consulting and listening to local women’s groups are key practices for peace mediation and facilitation. These allow for more complex and nuanced conflict maps and therefore allow for better-designed interventions, as demonstrated in

the Philippines. Systematic gender analysis is also considered crucial for better informed facilitation. There is interest on potential impacts of recent mandatory gender analysis in all EU Delegations.

- Local women's organizations, networks and movements play crucial roles to advance gender-sensitive peace processes. Good practice of this includes the role of Colombian women's organizations and their holding of 1st National Women Summit, which managed to pressure the conflict parties into engendering the peace negotiations and establishing a gender sub-commission within the formal negotiation architecture. In addition, there are entry points for external support (also for the EU) to local women's groups, which is also considered crucial. This support can take various forms (recognition, acknowledgement, support to their capacity to influence high-level processes, logistical support, assistance for provision of technical inputs to substantive agenda items, support in early identification of entry points for influencing post conflict state budget programming, funding support to peace diaspora initiatives, among many others). There are many challenges for 3rd parties related to countries with much state-pressure on civil society or with no strong local women's movements. Besides, there are perceptions by some civil society actors of an alleged huge distance between the EU and grassroots organizations' realities, assets and needs.
- Early women's engagement is crucial for effective gender-sensitive peace processes and outcomes. Thus, external support on this should also be at early stages. There is a need to think more on pre-negotiations. E.g. the gender sub-commission in Colombia was established late, and thus it had to revise all documents of the previous two and half years to provide input.
- Past and current experiences point to the importance of cross-national knowledge-sharing between actors, including women's organizations. This can be also an entry-point for external third party support. Good practices of this include cross-national knowledge-sharing between women from Colombia and the Philippines, which led for example to the ground-breaking experiences of 'difficult dialogues' (e.g. dialogues between women of civil society and women of armed forces and police in Colombia, which are the 1st of this type).
- Multi-track diplomacy. Third parties can engage in peace processes through different and complementary tracks. All tracks are considered important and necessary. Discussions highlighted the importance of informal networks of actors (e.g. how work and contacts developed by civil society, researchers and humanitarian actors can feed into peace diplomacy work; how silent active engagement of female Ambassadors, including EU female Ambassadors, contributes to gender inclusivity initiatives, among others).
- The EU itself is considered to be well placed to engage in multi-track diplomacy, with presence all over the world and with its various institutions that play or can play facilitation and peace support roles (HR/VP, EUSRs, HoD, EP). However, there are many challenges for the EU, that include perception and communication gaps between

conflict-affected grassroots women and EU institutions; data collection; insufficient interaction between the peace and security agenda and the women, peace and security agenda within the EU; limitations so far in the implementation of work by EUSRs from a gender perspective; male-predominance among EU high level positions; missed opportunities of earlier engagements in given contexts, etc. There is interest among national constituencies on EUMS gender champions and on entry points to influence and interact with the EU through state advocacy.

- The establishment by the EU of a Principal Advisor on 1325 has generated much interest. Nonetheless, there is concern about its capacity to influence EU foreign policy and peace diplomacy, its priorities and resources, its low visibility among the general public of this position, questions over future accountability of this position, etcetera.
- There are missed opportunities regarding coordination on gender of external actors in peace mediation. This includes the failure in the Philippines of external actors, including EUMS and EU itself and others, in agreeing, coordinating and supporting the proposed idea of an international action plan on WPS.
- NAPs on 1325 are important for state and regional organisations, as they provide guidelines. The Comprehensive Approach of the EU is somehow a regional NAP, but there are challenges and limitations, including in terms of objectives, resources, timelines... There are expectations on potential future improvement. At national level, there are interesting innovations, like Netherlands' NAP, which has led to joint gender analysis of priority countries by government and civil society; or the specific new NAP of the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Norway that goes deeper than the previous inter-ministry NAP. These provide learnings for EUMS and EU.

Organisation of the event and additional remarks

The event gathered over twenty international and local actors from different fields: peace practitioners, gender experts, civil society working on gender & peace (Spain, Colombia, Philippines), think tanks and academics on peace & security and International Relations, gender focal points and officials from governmental agencies. Preparations of the CoP event on gender had included extensive contacts with a variety of local and international actors, including the EU informal Task Force on UNSCR 1325 and EEAS's Mediation Support Team. Results will be shared with them. The event was considered very useful by participants during the discussion itself and in subsequent feedbacks. In addition, it is worth mentioning there has been a lot of interest in the idea of community of practice, as a way to share evidence-based knowledge, to bring up insights from different backgrounds and sectors, to build up synergies and come up with practical-oriented recommendations and action proposals. Thus, WOSCAP project itself and EU support to community of practices has generated interest and expectations and is considered useful for actors involved in peace support and women, peace and security.

Annex 1. Agenda of Community of Practice event on Gender



THE GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA IN MEDIATION AND DIALOGUE PROCESSES: THE ROLE OF THIRD PARTIES. LESSONS LEARNED FOR THE EU

Barcelona, Thursday 22 September 2016

Working session organised as part of the international project “Whole of Society Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” (WOSCAP), aimed at strengthening the EU’s capacities in conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Since UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was passed in 2000, the international gender, peace and security agenda has highlighted the need to take the impacts of conflicts into account from a gender perspective, the important role played by women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and the importance of women’s participation in decision-making spaces in this area. Implementation of this gender, peace and security agenda is obligatory for international stakeholders and the European Union (EU) has promoted the development of policies and the establishment of an architecture of actors responsible for its implementation, while also pervading its interventions abroad. The EU has adopted several commitments in terms of mediation and dialogue, such as promoting women’s participation in peace processes, increasing the number of female mediators, supporting local women’s organisations in their peacebuilding efforts, among others, but like in other areas, implementation of the gender, peace and security agenda faces a series of challenges, including the gap between political commitments and practice, the persistence of gender inequality in high-level positions, the need for better coordination between European institutions and member states, the deficit in human and financial resources and insufficient clarity about how to transfer the gender, peace and security agenda to the EU’s different areas of external action. Given the situation, this seminar aims to reflect on lessons learned and good practices to strengthen the EU’s capacities in introducing a gender perspective to peace processes.

Programme

10.45	Registration
11.00 – 11.15	Welcome, presentation of the WOSCAP project and objectives of the session Introduction to the gender, peace and security agenda in peace processes
11.15 – 12.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Civil society perspectives on introducing a gender perspective into mediation and dialogue initiatives: experiences and lessons for the EU Speaker: Irina Bratosin, European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)▪ The role of third parties in promoting the gender, peace and security agenda in peace processes: the cases of Colombia and the Philippines Speaker: Kristian Herbolzheimer, Conciliation Resources▪ Reflections on Norway's experience in facilitating peace processes with a gender perspective Speaker: Laura Mitchell, Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF)
12.15 – 13.30	Discussion with attendants
13.30	Lunch /Networking

Those attending the seminar are invited to contribute to the joint reflection and discussion, which will address questions such as: What gender architectures promote the implementation of the gender, peace and security agenda in mediation processes (stakeholders, mechanisms, competences)? What positive or negative experiences in introducing a gender perspective to peace processes and in effectively including women can provide lessons to guide and enhance the EU's actions in this area?

Attendance by invitation

Working language: Spanish (with some presentations in English)

Time: 11 am to 1.30 pm, followed by a networking lunch

Venue: Pati Manning, Sala Plató del Cerc, Carrer de Montalegre, 7, 08001, Barcelona

Contact: Pamela Urrutia, pamela.urrutia@uab.cat

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