

The role of parliaments in NATO member countries in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda

A Survey by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (2018)



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NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'OTAN

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Executive summary

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) encourages member states and international organisations to involve women and integrate a gender perspective in national and multilateral security initiatives such as peace settlements and peace missions. Since its adoption, UNSCR 1325 has given rise to an expanding legal and policy framework: the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. NATO has contributed to this agenda by developing a policy and operational framework extending through the Alliance's structures and activities. Since 2007, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly has pursued an original and ground-breaking approach to WPS by mapping the distinctive contribution of parliaments to advancing the WPS agenda. This report continues this tradition by providing an up-to-date analysis of 28 NATO member countries' recent responses to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on this matter.

This report is driven by the question: how and to what extent have parliaments in NATO member countries contributed to advancing the WPS agenda between 2015 and 2018? Our main findings are as follows:

1. We observe an **increase in parliaments' reported activity** in the field of WPS, from 81% of respondents reporting some degree of involvement in 2015 to 100% in 2018. Countries with a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security remain twice as active as countries without a NAP.
2. Of all participating delegations, **91% report that women recently occupied prominent functions related to peace and security in their parliament**, thus contributing to enhancing women's leadership in public debate on peace and security.
3. Parliamentary reports suggest that **their engagement as legislative and oversight bodies has remained stable or slightly decreased in quantitative terms. Encouragingly, this engagement has nonetheless diversified in qualitative terms.** Parliaments now report the development of legislation and resolutions on a greater variety of WPS themes and 36% mention using two or more monitoring mechanisms in overseeing the implementation of the WPS agenda, an increase from 24% in 2015.
4. Parliaments of NATO member countries have taken up NATO policy recommendations regarding **dialogue with civil society organisations and cooperation with other NATO member states**, with 17 delegations (61% of respondents) now reporting some activity in this area.

In order to improve their contribution to the implementation of the WPS agenda, we recommend that parliaments of NATO member countries step up their involvement in four ways:

1. Parliaments could make **greater use of their legislative power** in the advancement of the WPS agenda. Only 39% of parliaments in NATO member countries report producing legislation or drafting parliamentary resolutions relevant to WPS in 2015-18.
2. Parliaments could exercise **more periodic oversight of the implementation of the WPS agenda by national executive entities.** Only 32% of parliaments report periodically overseeing the rolling out of WPS-related policy.
3. Parliaments should promote **a more holistic understanding of the WPS agenda, focused not only on women, but on gender relations.** This would entail paying more attention to men's potential exposure to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as to the role of social norms of masculine behaviour in fostering violence or inversely, social change that promotes peace.
4. Finally, parliaments should seek to further **promote men's positive and meaningful involvement** in the implementation of the WPS agenda, including through dedicated events. While women-focused initiatives remain important, events and structures dedicated to foster positive contributions by men in and outside of parliaments would contribute towards the implementation of the WPS agenda in a way that considers not solely women and girls, but gender relations as a whole.

Table 1. The role of parliaments in forwarding the Women, Peace and Security agenda in 28 NATO member countries with NAP (in white) and without a NAP (in blue)

<i>Women in prominent parliamentary positions</i>	<i>Promotion of the engagement of men as partners</i>	<i>Legislation and resolutions on:</i>	<i>Women in security institutions</i>	<i>Support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence</i>	<i>Gender-sensitive support to asylum-seekers and refugees</i>	<i>Prioritisation of gender equality in international development & trade</i>	<i>Monitoring through hearings, committee meetings, plenaries</i>	<i>Monitoring through questions</i>	<i>Monitoring through reports</i>	<i>Coalitions with civil society</i>	<i>National and international forums</i>
1	2	3	3a	3b	3c	3d	4	5	6	7	8

Albania	X											
Belgium	X		X			X			X	X	X	
Bulgaria	X											X
Canada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
Croatia	X		X	X	X	X						X
Czech Rep.	X						X					X
Denmark	X	X					X					X
Estonia	X		X	X					X			X
France	X		X		X			X	X			
Germany	X	X						X	X			
Greece	X	X	X			X	X					X
Hungary	X						X			X		
Iceland	X	X	X			X		X	X			X
Italy	X		X			X	X		X	X		
Latvia	X		X		X	X				X		
Lithuania	X									X		X
Luxembourg	X											
Montenegro	X						X	X		X		X
Netherlands	X						X		X			
Norway	X							X				X
Poland	X						X			X		
Portugal	X	X	X	X	X			X				X
Romania												X
Slovakia												X
Slovenia	X						X		X			
Spain	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X
Turkey	X							X	X			X
UK	X	X										
USA (no data provided)												

Total (NAP)	19	8	9	4	5	4	2	8	7	9	4	12
Total (no NAP)	7	0	2	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	3	5
Total	26	8	11	4	6	6	2	11	8	10	7	17

Introduction

On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 (hereafter UNSCR 1325), its first resolution ever on women, peace and security. UNSCR 1325 encourages states to actively involve women, and to integrate a gender perspective, in national and multilateral security initiatives such as peace settlements, peace missions, and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes. It is widely considered to be a ground-breaking step towards the recognition of women's roles and experiences in conflict prevention and peace-building as well as the integration of women's voices in debates and initiatives dealing with security issues and post-conflict reconstruction. Since its adoption in October 2000, UNSCR 1325 and seven subsequent resolutions have given rise to an expanding legal, normative, and policy framework, known as the Women, Peace and Security (hereafter WPS) agenda.

The purpose of the report is to answer the following question: how and to what extent have parliaments in NATO member countries contributed to advancing the WPS agenda in the period 2015-2018? We provide an up-to-date analysis of 28 national legislatures' reports submitted to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (hereafter NATO PA) on this question. This report is primarily intended for parliamentarians of NATO member countries, to whom it will be presented at the NATO PA 64th Annual Session in November 2018 in Halifax, Canada, to facilitate the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. The findings will also be of interest to parliamentarians beyond the North Atlantic space, as well as others working in the field of WPS in civil society organisations, research institutions and international and national agencies.

The report proceeds as follows: first, it summarises the key legal and policy elements of the WPS agenda at the international and national levels, with emphasis on recent developments within NATO. Second, it documents and details four types of activity through which parliaments of NATO member countries have contributed to the promotion, implementation, and monitoring of the WPS agenda: the implementation of gender-balanced parliamentary leadership; the adoption of legislative initiatives related to the agenda; the exercise of influence and oversight on its implementation through debates, questions and reports; and the promotion of civil society engagement and international cooperation. Third, it concludes with recommendations for parliamentarians.

Background: NATO and the Women, Peace and Security agenda

UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions: An evolving framework

UNSCR 1325 sets out the “four pillars” of the WPS agenda: it promotes the *prevention* of conflict as well as sexual and gender-based violence affecting primarily, but not only, women and girls (including sexual violence, human trafficking, and domestic violence) in conflict-affected contexts; the *protection* of the human rights and physical integrity of women and girls in such contexts; the *participation* of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as in peacekeeping activities; and finally the gender-mainstreaming of *relief and recovery* measures, notably through the provision of better responses to the needs of women and girls.¹

Since 2008, the United Nations Security Council has adopted seven subsequent resolutions reaffirming and developing the commitment to these four pillars. These resolutions promote the integration of a gender perspective in military and defence institutions, but also in the development and implementation of policies relevant to topics such as international development, refugee protection and counter-terrorism. Four resolutions focus on sexual violence in the context of armed conflict: UNSCRs 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013), calling on member states

¹ For more about the WPS agenda see: www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325

to recognise sexual violence as a serious violation of human rights and international law, prevent its occurrence, and mediate its impacts. UNSCRs 1889 (2009), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015) urge states to recognise women's roles as important agents not only in post-conflict recovery efforts, but in security initiatives more broadly speaking. Finally, UNSCR 2122 (2013) stresses the need for systematic reporting as well as increased measures and funding towards the implementation of the WPS agenda, and recognizes the importance of dialogue with civil society, especially women's organisations, in the pursuit of this objective.

NATO commitments to Women, Peace and Security

Since 2007, NATO has developed a policy and operational framework to implement the UNSCRs on WPS. The NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives has contributed significantly to the implementation of the WPS agenda, not only at the level of NATO's military and political leadership, but also in formal and informal cooperation with member states.² The 2010 NATO Summit endorsed the NATO Action Plan on Mainstreaming UNSCR 1325 into NATO-led Operations and Missions. In 2012, Mari Skåre was appointed as the NATO Secretary General's first ever Special Representative for WPS, a position made permanent in 2014 and currently held by Ambassador Clare Hutchinson. Over the years, NATO has adopted and updated the NATO-Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) Policy on Implementing UNSCR 1325 and the Bi-Strategic Command Directive (BI-SCD) 40-1 on Integrating UNSCR 1325 and Gender Perspective into the NATO Command Structure. The latter commits military organisations and forces in the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and NATO Force Structure (NFS) of the Alliance, as well as those within NATO-led operations, to the implementation of the WPS agenda. Finally, in 2016-17, NATO's governing body, the Standing Committee, reviewed and issued recommendations through three reports on the promotion of gender mainstreaming and gender balance in the NATO PA.³ These reports as well as the efforts of Angelien Eijsink, former NATO PA Vice-President, have raised awareness on the importance of gender mainstreaming within the NATO PA.

Three trends have characterized the advancement of the WPS agenda within NATO in recent years. First, NATO increasingly emphasizes linkages between the integration of a gender perspective "internally" (within NATO) and "externally" (in NATO's theatres of intervention).⁴ For instance, condemning gender-based violence applies both to interactions between NATO-led personnel, and to interactions between personnel and citizens from non-NATO states during operations. Consistency in the application of these principles is not only a matter of effectiveness but also "of credibility".⁵ Second, recent developments reflect a willingness to move beyond exclusively focusing on women and girls by also considering gender relations and roles more broadly, including with and between men and boys as well as between women and between men.⁶ Third and finally, recent NATO Special Representatives for WPS have stressed the need for strengthened dialogue with civil society. In 2016, former NATO Special Representative for WPS Mariët Schuurman convened NATO's Civil Society Advisory Panel, which gathers representatives from across the Alliance, for the first time.⁷ This Panel met for a second time in 2017 and was convened again in October 2018 by the current Special Representative for WPS, Ambassador Clare Hutchinson.

² For more on the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives, see: https://www.nato.int/cps/su/natohq/topics_101372.htm

³ For the 2017 report, see: <https://www.nato-pa.int/document/review-assemblys-consideration-gender>.

⁴ NATO Bi-Strategic Command Directive 040-001, Second Revision, 17 October 2017, 1-3c. Available at: https://www.nato.int/issues/women_nato/2017/Bi-SCD_40-1_2Rev.pdf.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid, 1-4.

⁷ Clare Hutchinson, 'NATO Statement in the UN Security Council on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence', transcript, 16 April 2018. Available at: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/opinions_153753.htm

In line with the recommendations of the UN Secretary General, NATO encourages member states to develop National Action Plans (hereafter NAPs) to support their implementation of the WPS agenda.⁸ As of August 2018, amongst the twenty-nine NATO member countries, twenty (69%) have adopted a NAP (see Table 2). Since 2015, three additional NATO member countries adopted their first NAP (Czech Republic, Luxembourg and Montenegro), and eleven others updated existing NAPs. This is a testament to the continuing prominence of NAPs as strategic tools for implementing UNSCR 1325 amongst NATO member nations. The NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives monitors the adoption and implementation of NAPs by member countries on an annual basis.⁹

Table 2. Status of NATO member countries with regards to the adoption of a NAP on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (as of August 2018)

States with a NAP, date of adoption (revision(s) of NAP)		States without a NAP	
Belgium	2009 (2013, 2017)	Luxembourg	2018
Canada	2010 (2017)	Montenegro	2017
Croatia	2011	Netherlands	2007 (2011, 2016)
Czech Republic	2017	Norway	2006 (2011, 2015)
Denmark	2005 (2008, 2014)	Portugal	2009 (2014)
Estonia	2010 (2015)	Slovenia	2010 (2018)
France	2010 (2015)	Spain	2007 (2017)
Germany	2013 (2017)	United Kingdom	2006 (2012, 2014, 2018)
Iceland	2008 (2013) ¹⁰	USA	2011 (2016)
Italy	2010 (2014, 2016)		
Lithuania	2011		
		Albania ¹¹	
		Bulgaria ¹²	
		Greece	
		Hungary	
		Latvia	
		Poland	
		Romania ¹³	
		Slovakia	
		Turkey	

The NATO PA has pursued an original and ground-breaking approach to WPS by examining and documenting the distinctive contributions of parliaments to advancing the WPS agenda. In 2011, the NATO PA Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security conducted the first NATO-wide survey of parliaments on this matter, which has been updated and renewed periodically in 2013,¹⁴ 2015,¹⁵ and now in 2018.

Methodology: Strengths and limitations

This report maps how and to what extent parliaments in NATO member countries contributed to advancing the WPS agenda in the period 2015-2018. The findings draw primarily on responses provided by member countries’ delegations to the NATO PA to a survey questionnaire circulated by the Director of the NATO PA Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security between June and September 2018. We, the authors, designed the questionnaire (see Annex 1) in collaboration with NATO PA and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. Of the twenty-nine

⁸ NATO/EAPC Women, Peace and Security Policy and Action Plan, 2018, para. 24.
⁹ See, for example, NATO, *Summary of the National Reports of NATO Member and Partner Countries to the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives 2016* (Brussels: NATO, 2016). Available at: https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2017_11/20171122_2016_Summary_of_NRs_to_NCGP.pdf
¹⁰ Iceland’s third NAP was underway in fall 2017 but is yet to be published as of October 2018.
¹¹ Albania is in the process of drafting a NAP.
¹² Bulgaria and Romania both adopted national action plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (in 2012 and 2014), but these are limited to the Ministry of Defence; in other countries NAPs involve two or more ministries.
¹³ See previous note.
¹⁴ Audrey Reeves, “Involvement of Parliaments in Advancing the ‘Women, Peace and Security’ Agenda in NATO Member Countries”, DCAF, 2013. Available at: <http://www.dcaf.ch/involvement-parliaments-advancing-women-peace-and-security-agenda-nato-member-countries>
¹⁵ Audrey Reeves, “The role of Parliaments in advancing the ‘Women, Peace and Security’ Agenda in NATO Member Countries”, DCAF, 2015. Available at: <http://www.dcaf.ch/role-parliaments-advancing-women-peace-and-security-agenda-nato-member-countries>

member countries of the Alliance, all but one (the United States) answered the survey (97%). Among the respondents this year are three countries (Albania, Luxembourg and Montenegro) that feature in the report for the first time. Any information on member countries' legislation and policies that is not explicitly referenced is drawn from these responses.¹⁶ In order to remain focused, the questionnaire and report only survey the contribution of parliaments; they do not survey the activities of governmental departments and defence institutions on which there is already ample research.¹⁷

In order to situate recent parliamentary practices within broader trends such as developments in the Alliance's approach to WPS, the analysis incorporates information from the 2013 and 2015 survey responses, as well as publicly available background information such as NATO policies. We also reviewed national legislation and parliamentary documents mentioned by delegations, whenever possible, but an exhaustive analysis of legislative measures to implement UNSCR 1325 in each member country is beyond the scope of this paper. As we mostly rely on what delegations reported, the findings of this report must be approached with some caution. Delegations' answers to the survey questionnaires depend on the knowledge and availability of the individuals who completed them. Sometimes, limitations in knowledge or availability lead delegations to under-report on their country's activities.

Nonetheless, comparisons between delegations' reports in 2018 with those provided in 2013 and 2015 allow us to draw some conclusions on the development of parliamentary activity on WPS over this period – presuming that under-reporting has remained more or less constant. Between 2015 and 2018, our response rate climbed from 75% to 97%. On average, delegations provided longer, more detailed answers and reported a more diverse set of activities than in the past. We believe this supports our claim, detailed below, that the nature of parliaments' engagement with the WPS agenda has diversified. There are, however, several caveats to this conclusion. First, the questionnaire has become more specific over the years, making it easier for delegations to identify more parliamentary contributions to the WPS agenda. Second, the increase in reported activity may partly reflect the longer period covered in this report (2015-18) compared to the previous one in particular (2013-2015). Finally, the effect of repeating the survey since 2011, combined with gender mainstreaming efforts in NATO PA in 2016-17, may have raised the profile of WPS within the NATO PA. While this may stimulate activity in support of WPS in member countries' parliaments, it may also have encouraged longer and more detailed answers on the part of national delegations. We thus remain cautiously optimistic in interpreting the delegations' reports as a sign of increased engagement and invite readers to exercise critical scrutiny.

Results: The diversifying contribution of parliaments to the Women, Peace and Security agenda

As of 2018, parliaments are reporting a greater and more diverse spectrum of contributions to the WPS agenda than they did in 2015 and 2013. Across member countries of the Alliance, 28 delegations (100% of respondents) report that their parliament has contributed to the advancement of the WPS agenda in one of the following areas: 1) gender-balanced parliamentary leadership; 2) relevant legislative initiatives; 3) the exercise of oversight over governmental activity; and 4) civil society engagement and international cooperation. This marks an increase from 2015, when 81% of respondents reported being active on WPS.

Parliaments of countries with a NAP remain on average more active in the promotion of the WPS agenda than countries without a NAP (see **Table 1**). This is particularly the case with regard to

¹⁶ Full survey responses will be made available on the NATO PA website: www.nato-pa.int.

¹⁷ For further resources on this subject, see: www.peacewomen.org.

putting forward legislation and parliamentary resolutions related to WPS: 47% of responding countries with a NAP did so since 2015, as opposed to 22% of those without one. Countries with a NAP also report having more women in prominent parliamentary positions related to peace and security, attending more international events, and a more diverse range of engagements in general. This year's findings thus corroborate the idea that the adoption of a NAP is correlated with greater and more diversified parliamentary activity in the promotion of the WPS agenda.

The rest of this section outlines several strategies through which parliamentarians of NATO member countries have promoted UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions. In this process, we assess how and to what extent these have contributed to advancing the WPS agenda by NATO member countries in the period 2015-2018.

1. Gender-balanced parliamentary leadership

First of all, parliaments contribute to the advancement of the WPS agenda by favouring the balanced presence of both women and men in leadership positions relevant to peace, security, and gender equality. On the one hand, women's participation and leadership is essential to "all discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding".¹⁸ As noted by NATO, women should not only be observers and beneficiaries of security policy, but also active and meaningful participants in decision-making processes and institutions relevant to peace and security.¹⁹ This includes parliaments, and particularly committees dealing with national defence and foreign affairs.

On the other hand, in parliaments as in other institutions handling questions of peace and security, men also have the capacity and responsibility to promote "women's participation in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations".²⁰ In particular, men should promote the safety of female parliamentarians by being attentive to, and raising awareness of, security problems that women identify within parliament itself. Moreover, men share with women the responsibility of keeping themselves informed on women's contributions to peace and security, and to challenge sexist or dismissive attitudes in this domain.

Involvement of women in prominent parliamentary functions relevant to security and peace

While no NATO member country has achieved absolute gender equality in its national parliamentary institutions,²¹ 91% of respondents report that women have recently occupied prominent parliamentary functions related to peace and security, such as chairs or deputy chairs of defence or foreign affairs committees. In addition, 11 member countries report that women recently acted as chair or deputy chair of national delegations to the parliamentary assemblies of NATO and/or the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The appointment of Rasa Juknevičienė of Lithuania as the first female President of NATO PA from September 2018 onwards provides one more example of this positive dynamic.

As NATO's WPS policy stresses, more balanced participation of men and women in security institutions, as well as women's equal access to leadership positions, is considered both "a goal in itself and [...] a means for improving performance".²² In the first instance, parliaments in which

¹⁸ United Nations Security Council Resolution 2122, 18 October 2013, para. 2c.

¹⁹ NATO/EAPC Policy for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and related Resolutions, 1 April 2014, last updated 30 August 2018, para. 2.

²⁰ United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242, 13 October 2015, preamble.

²¹ See Inter-Parliamentary Union 'Women in Politics in 2017' [Map], 2017. Available at: <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/infographics/2017-03/women-in-politics-2017>

²² Revised NATO/EAPC Policy for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS, para. 22.

women fill positions of influence honour women's democratic right to fully participate in security decision-making. In addition, women's participation is often said to facilitate the inclusion of security issues and approaches not traditionally prioritised by security institutions, including those relating to gender.²³ We find some evidence to support this. In Poland, the Women's Parliamentary Group, which gathers women who sit in the *Sejm*, the lower house, and in the Senate, has played an important role in raising issues related to WPS during sessions of the National Defence Committee. Further research is nonetheless needed to establish whether and under what conditions women's leadership in parliament favours parliamentary activity in the field of WPS.

Men's engagement with the Women, Peace and Security agenda

Eight parliaments (29% of respondents) also lead by example by including men in initiatives or structures that may play a role in the implementation of the WPS agenda or in oversight practices. First of all, in the wake of the UN's *He For She* campaign, the Icelandic Parliament acted as a trailblazer by organising a 'barbershop conference' on sexual violence and harassment within the political sphere for all members of parliaments in 2017. According to the Icelandic organisers, the conference allowed men to "educate themselves on how both genders gain from gender equality" and encouraged men's participation "in the gender equality discussion". In their effort to bring men to "step up their efforts to address their role in gender equality", the organisers remained sensitive to the critique that male-only debates are likely to reproduce the status quo²⁴, and involved women as participants and panellists. Handled with care, bringing barbershop conferences to the parliamentary world is an interesting development, but it remains to be seen whether such discussions lead to long-term changes towards more gender-balanced parliamentary participation and gender mainstreaming in parliamentary work on security.

Second, in the UK, men have engaged with the implementation of the WPS agenda by joining the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on WPS (APPG-WPS), which includes 9 men out of 55 members and promotes their role as partners in the implementation of the WPS agenda. While this initiative is a positive step towards the engagement of men and boys in the fight against gender inequality, they also attest to the necessity of better documenting how male parliamentarians contribute to the implementation of the WPS agenda. The participation of men in relevant groups or committees does not automatically imply that they make a positive contribution to the implementation of the WPS agenda. Thus, the parliaments of Greece and Portugal report including men in their committees dedicated to gender equality and non-discrimination, but exactly how and whether they supported the implementation of the WPS agenda remains to be established.

Finally, it would be worthwhile in the future to find more about how and whether parliaments, and the men within them, can facilitate the involvement of men in implementing the WPS agenda in other security institutions. Four parliaments report taking action in this respect. In the context of parliamentary committee discussions (Germany, Denmark), reports and hearings (Canada), and resolutions (Spain), these countries have addressed the role of men in implementing WPS objectives in military and defence institutions. Despite such promising steps, overall only 28% of responding parliaments report taking action to engage men in achieving WPS objectives. We hope this proportion will grow in the future.

²³ Krause J. et al (2018) 'Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace', *International Interactions*, 44:6, 985-1016; Koch, M., & Fulton, S. (2011). 'In the Defense of Women: Gender, Office Holding, and National Security Policy in Established Democracies'. *The Journal of Politics*, 73(1), 1-16.

²⁴ Ibid.

2. Legislation and resolutions

In addition to representing the electorate, one of parliaments' primary responsibilities is to codify acceptable social practice in and by the population by making laws and adopting resolutions. Of all respondents, 39% report that their parliament has contributed to the advancement of the WPS agenda in this capacity in the period 2015-18, a proportion similar to that registered for the 2013-15 period (38%). Laws and resolutions touch on four themes, listed below, with five countries (18% of respondents) reporting examples for more than one theme.

Table 3. Parliaments' reported involvement in the development of legislative initiatives related to the WPS agenda in 2015-2018

Reported legislative initiatives	2013-15	2015-18
4.1 Participation of women in security institutions	3	4
4.2 Support to survivors of sexual violence	2	6
4.3 Gender-sensitive support to asylum seekers and refugees	1	6
4.4 Prioritisation of gender equality in international development and trade	3	2

Participation of women in security institutions

Since 2015, 4 parliaments (14% of respondents) report new legislation and resolutions that seek to recognise and/or increase the role of women in security institutions. For example, in Spain, the Defence Committee of the Congress drafted a resolution extolling women's contribution to the armed forces at all levels and in all positions, thus marking the 30th anniversary of the law which first allowed women to join the Spanish Armed Forces.²⁵ In another case, the Portuguese Parliament issued two resolutions demanding new governmental measures to enhance the participation of women in security forces.²⁶ These initiatives are positive examples of parliaments actively promoting women's integration and leadership in security institutions. Many delegations stress that existing legislation or constitutional rules already enable women's participation in public institutions in general. The above examples show how parliaments can take more active steps to re-affirm and develop these principles with particular attention to security and military institutions, which historically have not always been welcoming to women.

Support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence

In 2015, Croatia adopted the Homeland War Act, which prescribes support measures for women who were victims of sexual violence during the wars of 1991-95. This ground-breaking legislation made Croatia a European leader as regards legislation on sexual violence in wartime. In the wake of these pioneering efforts, 5 other delegations report steps in the same direction. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the Spanish Congress adopted a resolution on the defence of women's rights in contexts of war and conflict, which compels the state to take measures to eradicate sexual violence in armed conflicts.²⁷ Echoing UNSCRs 1889 and 2242, this resolution underlines that female refugees in conflict-affected areas are particularly exposed to the risk of sexual violence. Like the Croatian Homeland War Act, Spain's new resolution nonetheless falls short of considering the potential

²⁵ The full text of this resolution is available [in Spanish] at:

[http://www.congreso.es/portal/page/portal/Congreso/PopUpCGI?CMD=VERLST&BASE=pu12&DOCS=1-1&DOCORDER=LIFO&QUERY=%28BOCG-12-D-355.CODI.%29#\(Página13\)](http://www.congreso.es/portal/page/portal/Congreso/PopUpCGI?CMD=VERLST&BASE=pu12&DOCS=1-1&DOCORDER=LIFO&QUERY=%28BOCG-12-D-355.CODI.%29#(Página13))

²⁶ The full text of these resolutions are available [in Portuguese] at:

<http://www.parlamento.pt/ActividadeParlamentar/Paginas/DetailheDiplomaAprovado.aspx?BID=20057> and <http://www.parlamento.pt/ActividadeParlamentar/Paginas/DetailheDiplomaAprovado.aspx?BID=21156>.

²⁷ The full text of this resolution is available [in Spanish] at:

[http://www.congreso.es/portal/page/portal/Congreso/PopUpCGI?CMD=VERLST&BASE=pu12&DOCS=1-1&DOCORDER=LIFO&QUERY=%28BOCG-12-D-342.CODI.%29#\(Página18\)](http://www.congreso.es/portal/page/portal/Congreso/PopUpCGI?CMD=VERLST&BASE=pu12&DOCS=1-1&DOCORDER=LIFO&QUERY=%28BOCG-12-D-342.CODI.%29#(Página18))

impact of sexual violence on men and boys. While it is understood that women and girls continue to be the majority of victims of sexual violence, the WPS agenda increasingly recognises the need to address sexual violence with attention to all victims. We hope that further national legislation on the matter will reflect this commitment.

Member countries' legislatures also report addressing the provision of support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence through recent national legislation on sexual violence or relevant international conventions. For instance, since 2015, Latvian law provides a wide range of support mechanisms to victims of sexual violence, including state-funded social rehabilitation, legal assistance and financial compensation. However, this legislation, similar to other new national legislation in Canada and France, has been designed for the national context during peacetime. Further research is needed to evaluate whether these laws would also guarantee support to survivors of sexual violence from conflict-affected areas, such as asylum seekers or immigrants trying to rebuild their life in a new country.

Gender-sensitive support to asylum seekers and refugees

In light of the ongoing humanitarian crisis surrounding refugees and internally displaced persons, UNSCR 1820 and 1889 have stressed the necessary application of the WPS agenda to asylum and refugee contexts, notably the need to prevent sexual violence in camps for refugees and internally displaced persons.²⁸ Six parliaments (21% of respondents) report new legislation or motions on the provision of gender-sensitive support for refugees and asylum seekers. First, the Icelandic Parliament adopted the 2016 Act on Foreigners, which recognizes that female asylum seekers and refugees should be given gender-sensitive support. Similarly, the Italian Parliament passed a motion in October 2016 committing the government to enforce respect for gender equality among immigrant communities in Italy.

Two parliaments of NATO member countries also report having taken steps to provide gender training to security personnel working with refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers. The *Saeima*, the Latvian Parliament, has promoted such training as part of the Asylum Law, adopted in December 2015 and amended in April 2017. This law demands that interviews with asylum seekers should be conducted by officials "sufficiently competent to take into account the personal and general circumstances of the asylum seeker" including sex, sexual orientation or gender identity. Similarly, Croatia adopted the International and Temporary Protection Act in 2015, which ensures that "appropriate support shall be provided for applications in relation to their [asylum seekers'] personal circumstances" through "special procedural and reception guarantees". These circumstances include gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and exposure to rape and sexual violence.

While parliaments of NATO member countries remain unequally seized of these issues, these legislative initiatives are positive examples of a crosscutting implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. Laws on border institutions and asylum policies have not typically been at the heart of the WPS agenda, and yet they constitute an area in which parliaments can significantly improve the security situation of conflict-affected women and men. We find it heartening that this is an area where parliaments have been most active and we stress the need for further initiatives.

²⁸ United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820, 19 June 2008, para. 10; United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889, 5 October 2009, para. 12.

Prioritisation of gender equality in international development and trade

NATO member countries also contribute to the implementation of the WPS agenda when they promote gender equality through legislation on international development and trade. They regulate relationships not only with countries currently involved in open warfare, but also those that may be at risk of spiralling into conflict, are recovering from a violent episode, or enable conflict by providing weapons. They are thus relevant to the implementation of the WPS agenda pillar concerned with conflict prevention. Two member countries (7% of respondents) report taking new steps in this area since 2015. In 2018, the Belgian Chamber of Deputies adopted a resolution demanding that the Belgian development agency collect gender-disaggregated data when conducting policy evaluation in order to assess their gender-differentiated impacts.²⁹ This measure supports the relief and recovery pillar of the WPS agenda, which stresses the necessity of meeting the needs of women and girls in development programmes in post-conflict areas.³⁰

In the field of international trade, the Canadian Parliament has recently been working on Bill C-47, which modifies the export and import control regime ahead of Canada's ratification of the UN's Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The bill requires Canadian authorities to consider, when studying applications for an arms trading permit, whether traded arms and ammunition could be used to commit or facilitate "serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children".³¹ If adopted, the bill would inscribe the gender-related stipulations of the ATT into domestic law.³² As of September 2018, 26 NATO member countries have ratified the ATT, and are thus bound by the same commitment. Countries that are major arms exporters, many of which are NATO member countries, have a responsibility to attend to the gender-differentiated impacts of arms sales. Small arms and light weapons, which are mostly owned and manipulated by men, often facilitate the perpetration of sexual violence, not only towards women and girls, but also towards men and boys. The Canadian initiative, if adopted, would therefore contribute to prevent sexual violence in conflict-affected contexts (the second pillar of WPS) by enshrining relevant provisions in national legislation.

3. Oversight practices to monitor implementation

In addition to their roles as representative and legislative institutions, 19 parliaments (68% of respondents) report having been active in overseeing the implementation of the WPS agenda by executive institutions. While this number includes three more parliaments than in 2015, the proportion of parliaments reportedly active in oversight has dropped since the prior edition, when 76% of respondents reported taking part in oversight. More promisingly, since 2015, the involvement of parliaments in the oversight and monitoring of NATO member countries' implementation of the WPS agenda appears to have diversified. In 2015, only five countries (24% of respondents) reported taking action through two or more strategies; in 2018, ten countries (36%) did so. Overall, while in 2015, parliaments reported mostly using debates and hearings, parliaments now report a more frequent use of questions and reports (see **Table 4**).

²⁹ Full text [in French and Dutch] available at: www.lachambre.be/kvvcr/showpage.cfm?section=/flwb&language=fr&cfm=/site/wwwcfm/flwb/flwbn.cfm?legislist=legisnr&dossierID=2211

³⁰ Peacewomen, 'Women, Peace, Security Panel Series: Relief and Recovery Pillar', 23 May 2013. Available at: www.peacewomen.org/e-news/article/women-peace-security-panel-series-wps-panel-series-relief-and-recovery-pillar

³¹ Full text available at: <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-47/third-reading>

³² United Nations, Arms Trade Treaty, 2013, article 7(4).

Table 4. Reported use of oversight and monitoring methods in NATO member countries, 2013-2018

Oversight and monitoring methods	Number of countries that report using this method	
	2013-2015	2015-2018
Parliamentary debates, committee meetings and hearings	17	11
Questions to governmental officials	4	8
Publication and/or examination of reports	1	10
Any oversight method	16	19

Another promising evolution is a slow transition towards more periodic oversight practices. Periodic plenary debates, committee meetings, hearings, or reports are particularly effective ways to exercise oversight, as they signal to executive authorities that their performance will be evaluated again in the future. A number of legislatures are moving in this direction, such as the Portuguese Parliament, which passed a resolution demanding the government to provide regular updates on the implementation of the NAP.³³

Table 5. Reported involvement of parliaments in periodic and ad hoc monitoring

	Periodic monitoring	Periodic and ad hoc	Ad hoc monitoring
With NAP	Belgium Slovenia	Canada Germany Iceland Italy Montenegro Netherlands	Czech Republic Denmark Estonia France Norway Portugal Spain
Without NAP	Hungary		Greece Poland Turkey
Total	3	6	10

In NATO member countries, NAPs are executive policy, but some parliaments oversee their content and their implementation. Recently, the Parliament of Montenegro was involved in designing the country's first NAP through the participation of the chairperson of its Gender Equality Committee in its drafting. The chairperson also took part in thematic seminars during the training of Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces staff, thus helping to ensure that gender training underpins "conflict analysis, planning and execution of operations and missions", as requested by NATO policy.³⁴ This attests to the importance of sustained dialogue between armed forces and parliamentarians, who can oversee the integration of valuable gender expertise into training initiatives for security personnel, and sometimes provide such expertise themselves.

More frequently, parliaments oversee the implementation of NAPs through plenary debates, committee meetings, hearings, questions to government officials or experts, and the production and examination of reports. Since 2015, two parliaments (Canada and Italy) report having been involved in such ways prior to the adoption of a NAP, and/or through an examination of former editions. As the rest of this section shows, parliaments' involvement in overseeing governments' implementation of UNSCR 1325 nonetheless goes beyond the monitoring of NAPs. They notably keep the government

³³ Full text available [in Portuguese] at: <https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/107584762>

³⁴ Revised NATO/EAPC Policy for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS, para. 24.

accountable with regards to their international engagements, and facilitate policy improvements, for instance by hearing international experts and civil society leaders in WPS advocacy.

Plenary debates

Three delegations report having overseen the implementation of WPS during plenary debates. In Estonia, this occurs on a periodic basis, as part of the evaluation of a yearly report on foreign policy. In the Netherlands, the House of Representatives tabled a motion in 2016 during a plenary session, asking that the Minister of Defence ensure full-time gender expertise within the Ministry of Defence and its operations, and that it facilitate women's participation in all its sections.

Committee meetings

Committee meetings also provide opportunities for oversight. In three countries, they are used for periodic monitoring, which happens either after the government submits a report on the implementation of the NAP to the relevant committee (Montenegro and Slovenia), or as part of the parliamentary budget cycle when the spending of governmental departments responsible for implementing the WPS agenda is examined (Canada). In Canada, two House of Commons Standing Committees, Foreign Affairs and International Development, and National Defence, jointly examine the spending of governmental departments responsible for the implementation of the WPS agenda at least three times a year. In 2018, this exercise saw parliamentarians question the Minister of National Defence on the recruitment of women, its commitments to peace operations, and its policies on the elimination of harmful and inappropriate sexual behaviour within the military. The regular meetings of committees and subcommittees concerned with gender equality (Czech Republic), national defence (Poland, Canada) or the armed forces (Spain) have also provided opportunities for ad hoc monitoring.

Hearings

Parliamentary committees have used hearings to question government officials, civil society experts and leaders, and NATO experts concerning the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. In Canada, the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence thus conducted a series of hearings on WPS, during which it heard from Canada's Ambassador to NATO, the Commandant at the NATO Defence College, and the Director of the Centre for International and Defence Policy at Queen's University. These hearings helped the Committee examine Canada's implementation of the WPS agenda including in the context of its membership within NATO. Similarly, the Czech Permanent Commission on Family Issues, Equal Opportunities and Minorities discussed the position of women in diplomatic services and the equal opportunities agenda of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with government representatives, NGOs and civil society representatives.

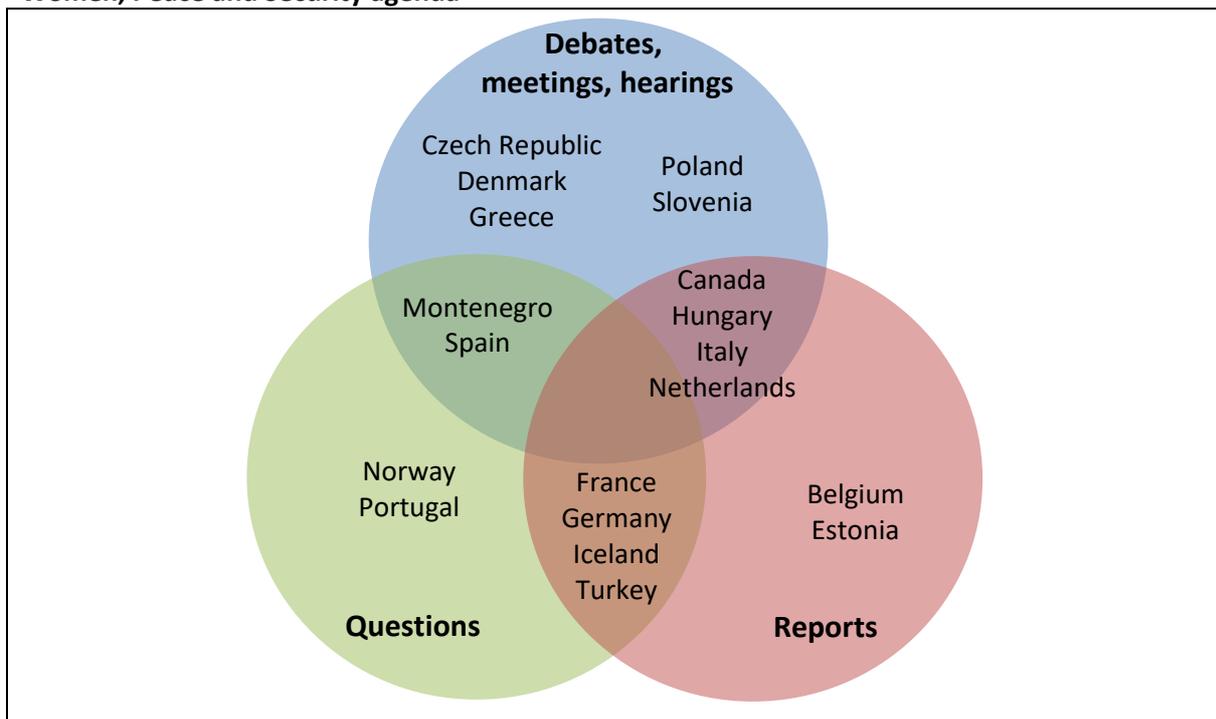
Questions

Eight parliaments reportedly oversee the government by asking questions. In contrast to other oversight practices that examine the implementation of the WPS agenda in relation to long-term goals and trends, parliamentarians use questions to react to emergencies, current events, and emerging priorities. For instance, in May 2018, German parliamentarians questioned the Federal Government on sexual violence in international missions a few months after OXFAM staff members were found to have sexually exploited victims of the 2010 Haiti earthquake. Similarly, the Turkish Parliament asked for updates from the Government regarding the constantly evolving situation of women displaced and affected by the Syrian conflict. Finally, in Iceland, the parliament sought information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on gender equality in international cooperation in the context of the Arctic Council and in initiatives on fighting climate change.

Reports

Parliaments produce and examine reports on the implementation of the WPS agenda. Four parliaments have produced reports issuing recommendations on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions. Canada reports the most extensive use of this oversight mechanism, with the publication of several ad-hoc reports, including one report dedicated to WPS and several others on related subjects that include recommendations on WPS, such as Canada's role in NATO and in peace operations. Other countries' parliaments similarly address WPS concerns when issuing reports on broader topics such as the government response to the situation of refugees (Turkey) and of women in the defence forces (Estonia).³⁵ In Italy, the NAP demands that the parliament's Cross-Party Caucus for Women, Women's Rights and Gender Equality publish an annual progress report on the implementation of the WPS agenda, in collaboration with civil society organisations and the Interdepartmental Committee for Human Rights. Parliaments also examine and discuss relevant governmental reports. In three countries (Montenegro, Belgium, and Canada), the parliament examines periodic governmental reports specific to WPS. Some NAPs have pre-established provisions to this effect. In two other countries (Iceland³⁶ and Slovenia), parliaments examine periodic governmental reports on foreign affairs, defence and/or gender equality policies with sections on WPS.

Table 6. Oversight practices reported by parliaments to monitor the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda



4. Dialogue with civil society organisations and international cooperation

In order to adequately represent their constituents, legislate, and oversee governmental activities, parliaments have a lot to gain from engaging civil society organisations and international forums. UNSCRs 2122 and 2242 both emphasize the crucial contributions of civil society organisations,

³⁵ Full text available at: https://icds.ee/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ICDS_Report_Women_in_the_Estonian_Defence_Forces_Andres_Siplane_December_2017.PDF

³⁶ Full text available at: <https://www.government.is/library/04-Legislation/Act%20on%20equal%20status%20and%20equal%20rights%20of%20women%20and%20men%20no%2010%20008%20as%20amended%20101%202018%20final.pdf>

including women's organisations, to the implementation of the WPS agenda.³⁷ They have underlined the need for sustained dialogue and collaboration between civil society organisation and decision-makers. In NATO member countries, seven parliaments (25% of respondents) report having built coalitions with civil society organisations involved in the implementation of the WPS agenda. In addition, 17 delegations (61%) contribute to exchanges on best practice and knowledge by taking part in forums relevant to WPS, including at the international level. These trends are in sync with NATO WPS policy, which emphasizes the need for continued dialogue with civil society not solely within national boundaries, but also internationally and transnationally, including in the context of other international organisations.³⁸

Sustainable coalitions with civil society leaders

Coalitions between parliamentarians and civil society organisation further the implementation of the WPS agenda in two ways. First, they give civil society leaders official recognition, credit, and legitimacy in the public arena. In this vein, the Belgian initiative *Plateforme 1325* has coordinated the Women of Peace³⁹ campaign since 2011. This annual initiative raises awareness by celebrating the contribution of female leaders to the WPS agenda at a ceremony held in the Belgian Senate. Second, coalitions between parliamentarians and civil society organisations foster dialogue and cooperation between civil society and government officials, and potentially bridge the gap between civil society priorities, legislation, and governmental activity. In the context of *Plateforme 1325*, a coalition of Belgian non-governmental organisations, members of parliaments, and government representatives jointly lobbies relevant executive institutions for the implementation of the Belgian NAP. Furthermore, in Montenegro, the Gender Equality Committee collaborated with the non-governmental organisation SPES in the drafting of the country's first NAP. Moreover, each year on International Women's Day (March 8th), the Montenegrin Parliament organises a session of the "Women's Parliament", where women with high positions in civil society together with prominent civil servants question the government on gender inequality, including the implementation of UNSCR 1325. These initiatives exemplify how parliamentarians can productively collaborate with civil society leaders. However, they tend to remain centred around female activists. We hope that men will become progressively more involved in supporting the WPS agenda in this way, alongside women.

Attendance at and organisation of national and international forums

Parliamentarians of NATO member countries take part in a wide range of events, such as forums, roundtables and conferences, both at the national and the international level. In 2015-18, parliamentarians attended events on women's representation in the defence system; gender mainstreaming in security sector reform; National Action Plans; gender-neutral conscription; the role of legislation in the effective elimination of violence against women and girls; the protection of women and girls in occupied territories and other conflict-affected areas; female refugees and maternal health; and human trafficking and modern slavery. Similar to parliamentarians' involvement with civil society organisations, their involvement in these forums supports the WPS agenda by granting it additional legitimacy, but also by supporting the core task of "cooperative security".⁴⁰ First, through these events parliamentarians find opportunities to deepen their knowledge of the WPS agenda and evolving priorities through "continued dialogue" with civil society leaders and practitioners.⁴¹ Second, international events allow them to "exchange information, best

³⁷ United Nations Security Council Resolution 2122, 18 October 2013, para. 6; United Nations Security Council Resolution 2242, 13 October 2015, paras 2 and 5c.

³⁸ Revised NATO/EAPC Policy for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS, para. 13.

³⁹ La force des femmes, une chance pour la paix, 'Hommage nouvelles femmes de paix', 17 May 2018. Available at: <http://vrouwenkracht.net/page?page=krachthome&lng=3>

⁴⁰ Revised NATO/EAPC Policy for Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on WPS, para. 10.

⁴¹ Ibid, para. 13.

practices and expertise⁴² with fellow parliamentarians from other countries, from both within the Alliance and its partners. Participation in these forums enables knowledge exchanges on WPS that are likely to prove invaluable for parliamentarians in their legislative and oversight work. However, the extent to which these conversations actually enhance parliaments' contribution to legislation and oversight in the sphere of WPS remains to be established.

Conclusions and recommendations

We now return to our initial question: how and to what extent have parliaments in NATO member countries contributed to the advancement of the WPS agenda since 2015? To start with, we are heartened to observe an increase in parliaments' reported activity in the field of WPS, with 100% of respondents reporting some degree of involvement. First, of all participating delegations, 91% report that women have recently occupied prominent functions related to peace and security in their parliament, thus enhancing women's leadership in public debate on peace and security. In addition, although their level of engagement has remained stable or slightly decreased in quantitative terms, parliaments now report a greater diversity of measures taken to implement the WPS agenda in the legislative and oversight spheres. Since 2015, some parliaments have adopted legislation addressing the gender-sensitive needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, and have mainstreamed gender in their international development and trade legislation. Parliaments also now make use of a more diverse range of oversight and monitoring mechanisms, including hearings, debates, questions and the publication or examination of reports, with a slight tendency towards more periodic monitoring. Finally, parliaments continue to collaborate and exchange with civil society organisations working on the WPS agenda and participate in national and international forums related to the WPS agenda, which provides them with knowledge and information that supports their legislative and oversight work.

While these tendencies are promising, the extent of parliament's involvement remains modest across the Alliance, and could be accelerated in the following ways.

- 1) Parliaments could make **greater use of their legislative power** in the advancement of the WPS agenda. Only 39% of parliaments in NATO member countries report drafting legislation or parliamentary resolutions relevant to WPS in 2015-18. While resolutions are positive gestures, they are usually non-binding; more legislative initiatives could be useful in translating the provisions of the four pillars of WPS into domestic law.
- 2) Parliaments could exercise **more periodic oversight over the implementation of the WPS agenda by national executive entities**. Only 32% of parliaments report overseeing the rolling out of WPS policy on a periodic basis. The accountability of executive institutions regarding the implementation of the WPS agenda would be strengthened considerably if monitoring practices occurred more regularly and systematically, and stipulations to this effect would be usefully included in future NAPs.
- 3) Parliaments should promote **a more holistic understanding of the WPS agenda, focused not only on women, but on gender relations**. This would entail paying more attention to men's potential exposure to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as to the role of social norms of masculine behaviour in either fostering violence or promoting peace through social change. We urge parliaments to heed NATO's call for greater consideration of "the social roles of *both men and women* and how these may lead to different risks and security needs".⁴³ This entails paying

⁴² Ibid, para. 11.

⁴³ Ibid, para. 8; emphasis added.

greater attention to men and boys as gendered individuals who both perpetrate and suffer violence, and who are capable of contributing to social change.

- 4) Parliaments should also seek to further **promote men’s positive and meaningful involvement in the implementation of the WPS agenda**. Men in parliaments can make positive contributions to the implementation of the WPS agenda by supporting women’s access to leadership positions within parliament, making productive contributions to improving legislation and oversight, and taking a stance against sexual harassment and sexual and gender-based violence in all security institutions, as well as in parliaments. More parliamentary attention to initiatives, such as barbershop conferences, that can foster positive contributions by men would be a significant step towards implementing the WPS agenda in way that considers not solely the needs of women and girls, but addresses gender relations more broadly.

Table 7. Summary of actions reported by parliamentarians to forward the Women, Peace and Security agenda, 2015-2018

≥ 75% of member countries
 ≥ 50%
 ≥ 25%
 < 25%

Actions		Number of countries who report action
Inclusive representation and leadership	1. Women in prominent parliamentary function relevant to peace and security	26
	2. Promotion of men’s engagement as partners in forwarding the WPS agenda	8
Legislation	3. Adoption of legislation (all initiatives)	11
	3a. Integration of women in security institutions and initiatives	4
	3b. Support to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence	6
	3c. Gender-sensitive support to asylum-seekers and refugees	6
	3d. Prioritisation of gender equality in international development and trade	2
Oversight	4. Use of debates, committee meeting and hearings	11
	5. Use of questions	8
	6. Writing and reading reports	10
Civil society engagement at home and abroad	7. Building of sustainable coalitions with civil society leaders	7
	8. Attendance at, or organisation of, national and international forums relevant to women, peace and security	17
Total number of countries taking action on at least one of the categories		28

Annex 1

Survey questionnaire:

The role of parliaments in NATO member countries in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda (Fourth edition)

Background: The **Women, Peace and Security agenda** encompasses policy initiatives and legal instruments promoting the integration of women and gender perspectives within peace and security initiatives and institutions. These include UNSCR 1325 (2000) and related UNSC resolutions, as well as NATO Bi.SC Directives 40-1. Prior NATO PA reports (2013, 2015) found that parliamentary institutions are increasingly active in the implementation and monitoring of this agenda. Your answers to this survey will help us document the best parliamentary practices in recent years (2015-2018).

Please send the responses until **13 August 2018**.
Please use **a maximum of four pages** for all your responses.

COUNTRY		
PARLIAMENTARY BODY/INSTITUTION		
DATE		
		Please use space below for any information.
Best practices 1. Representation and leadership		
a	Has your parliamentary body involved women in prominent parliamentary functions relevant to peace and security? Please provide examples, such as leadership roles in relevant committees, parliamentary groups, or caucuses.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
b	Has your parliamentary institution encouraged men's engagement as partners and allies in promoting gender sensitivity in peace and security initiatives? Please provide examples.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Best practices 2. Legislation		
A	Was your legislature involved in developing, adopting, or updating, a National Action Plan on women, peace and security? If so, how?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
B	Was your legislature involved in developing, adopting, or updating, legislation on: (please provide examples as appropriate)	
	- the integration and leadership of women in security institutions and initiatives, including peace operations, peace negotiations, post-conflict planning, and initiatives preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	- the provision of gender-sensitivity training to security personnel?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	- the provision of support to survivors of sexual violence (either women, men, girls, or boys) in the aftermath of armed conflict, including legal aid and facilitated access to judicial institutions?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	- the provision of gender sensitive support, in regard to asylum policies as well as integration policies, to refugees and asylum-seekers affected by armed conflict?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
	- the prioritisation of gender equality in contexts of international cooperation and diplomacy, as well as development and foreign aid programmes?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

Best practices 3. Oversight		
a	Has your parliamentary body used hearings, meetings, debates and/or questions to exercise oversight on the implementation of policy on women, peace and security? For instance, have oversight practices been used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - question government officials, for instance with regards to their compliance with relevant NATO policies; - learn from both NATO and civil society experts and leaders; or - recognise the contributions of leaders in women, peace and security advocacy? 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
b	Has your parliamentary institution commissioned studies or reports to monitor implementation of the government's commitments to women, peace and security? Please provide examples.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Are these monitoring practices occurring...		
c	...on an ad-hoc basis? If so, please provide at least one recent example, such as a relevant discussion, hearing, parliamentary question, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
d	...through a dedicated periodical review? If so, please specify since when and how often the parliament conducts the relevant oversight procedures and through what accountability mechanisms.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Best practices 4. Civil society engagement		
a	Has your parliamentary body built sustainable coalitions with government officials and civil society leaders, such as those involved with the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on Women, Peace and Security? Please provide examples.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
b	Has it attended national or international forums relevant to women, peace and security, or organised such forums?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Best practices 5. Any other.		
Use this space to provide any additional information/lessons learned/best practices you would like to share with other parliamentarians in the Euro-Atlantic area.		