



Dutch National Action Plan (2012-2015) *Women: Powerful Agents for Peace and Security*



NAP II is a declaration of intent between **57 Dutch organizations and ministries** (4 Ministries (Foreign Affairs | Defense | Security and Justice | Education, Culture and Science), National Police, and numerous smaller and larger civil society organizations) to support the active execution of the Dutch National Action Plan for the urgent implementation of United Nations Security Council Women, Peace and Security Resolutions, with respect for each partner's role, mandate and expertise. We declare:

1. To **collaborate effectively and efficiently** between us as NAP signatories and other relevant stakeholders, increase our efforts in 6 focus countries and focus region, specifically in the field of women's leadership and political participation.
2. Our collective, overarching goal is "to jointly facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for **women's leadership and political participation** in fragile states, conflict and post-conflict

areas and transition countries, allowing for more inclusive, just and sustainable peace, recovery and reconstruction processes”.

3. To **integrate** gender aspects and UNSCR 1325 consistently into all our **policies and actions** on fragile states and countries in transition and/or in our peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts .
4. To **increase awareness and public support** in the Netherlands, the European Union, the United Nations, and other regional and international bodies and their member states of the importance of gender and conflict, the implementation of UNSCR 1325 with a focus on women’s leadership and political participation.

Based on the learnings from the first action plan, the second national action plan has:

- A **clear thematic and regional focus**: female leadership and political participation – there are 6 focus countries (Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan) and 1 region (Middle East & Northern Africa).
- Defined that these strong, courageous and resourceful women and men living with the daily reality of violence, chaos and insecurity in the NAP focus countries are the **key stakeholders** in this plan and their opinions as to what actions are needed are decisive. This means that the NAP signatories will adopt a **demand driven approach**.
- Allocated a **specific budget for joint initiatives among NAP signatories**: 2 million € for the six focus countries per year and 2 million € for MENA region per year. The country/region groups have developed joint multiannual in-country program which is currently being implemented as well as and a country strategy (not all).
- A **NAP Pilot Fund for smaller initiatives** (approved in 2014), named “Small Seeds for Big Baobabs”, to start up small scale joint NAP projects. This Pilot Fund was developed after a thorough and democratic process with all NAP-signatories; the fund is not managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but by a larger NAP signatory (Cordaid). It also has modalities for capacity strengthening and a ‘rapid action facility’ for activities to be deployed within one month time in the focus countries.
- A clear **coordination structure** and cooperation mechanism: there are country groups per focus country, M&E group, communication group and a 1325 in missions group. There are two to three signatories coordination meetings per year. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (on behalf of the government) and WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform (on behalf of civil society) share the coordination.

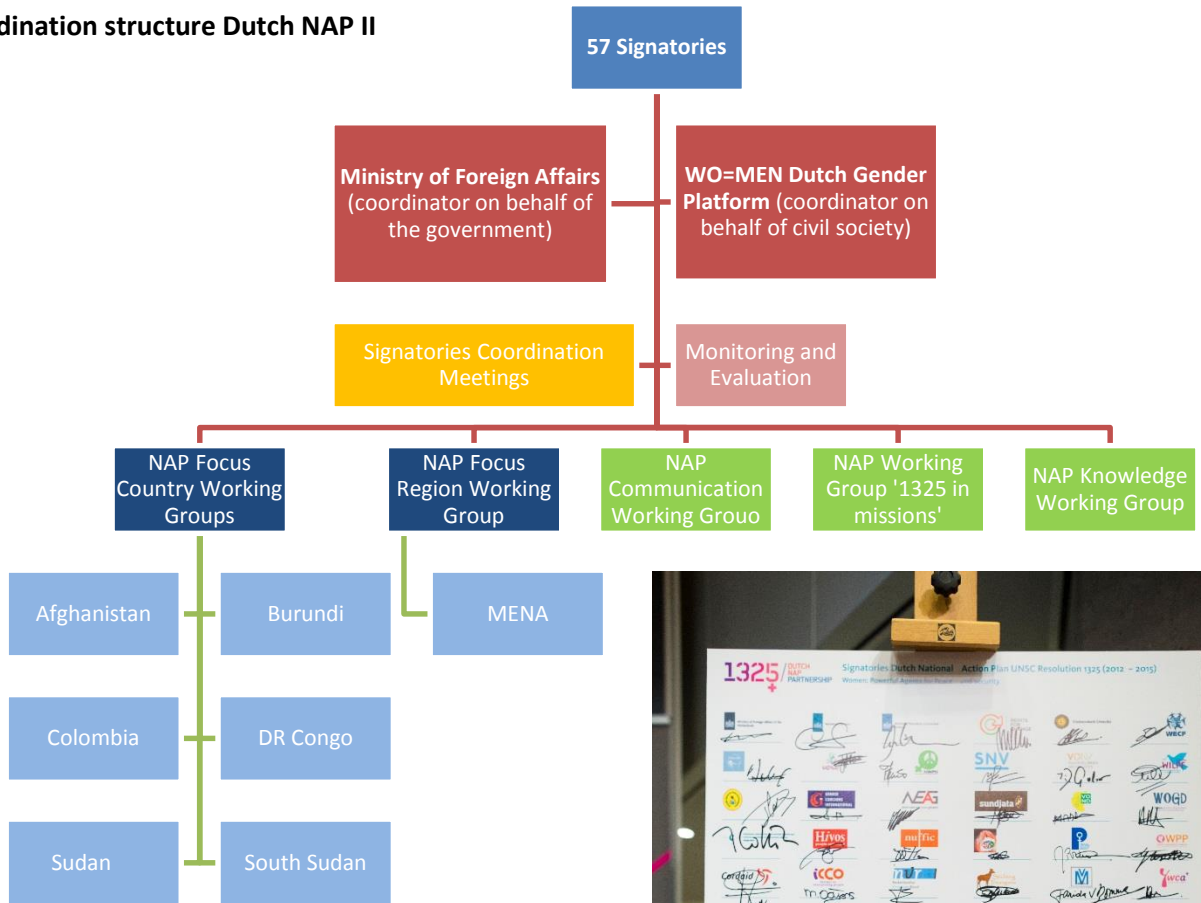
NAP 1325 review (2011) – Moving from NAP I to NAP II

The Netherlands developed its first NAP for the period 2008 – 2011. This NAP was signed by 19 signatories, amongst which 3 Ministries, and was endorsed in December 2007. Based on the recommendations of an ministerial taskforce on “Women, Security and Conflict”, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs drafted the NAPI in cooperation with Dutch civil society and knowledge institutes.

Some findings of the first action plan:

- NAPI didn’t initially focus much on actual cooperation but more on **sharing information and mapping of activities**. A need for more coordination and cooperation was identified.
- The **coordination** of the action plan was foremost in the hands of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In a later phase civil society started to organise themselves more prominently and the WO=MEN platform naturally developed a more coordinating position.
- NAPI **didn’t have a specific budget** allocated to stimulate and initiate concrete and innovative (joint) actions in line with UNSCR1325.
- NAPI had 5 thematic focus areas, and within these focus areas 19 goals and more than 70 activities were defined. The **lack of focus** was a clear learning point. This was already adjusted in a later phase during NAPI, focussing the Dutch NAP on one single pillar of the UNSCR1325 -female leadership and political participation- in five focus countries (Afghanistan, DRC, Burundi, Sudan, Colombia), paving the way for the framework of NAPII.

Coordination structure Dutch NAP II



15 new signatories in December 2013



All 57 NAP signatures