

GENDER EQUALITY

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Regional cooperation to advance the women, peace and security agenda

Lessons learned from the national action plans of Chile, Colombia and Mexico

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Introduction

The adoption of Security Council [resolution 1325](#) (2000) constituted a landmark in the recognition of the differentiated impact of armed conflicts on women and girls and the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building. Drawing on this and subsequent resolutions under the women, peace and security agenda, States have made progress in establishing national action plans on women, peace and security,¹ which are the main instruments for translating international commitments into tangible public policies at national level. These plans enable the coordination of inter-agency action, the establishment of strategic priorities, the allocation of resources, the definition of monitoring and accountability mechanisms, and the substantive participation of women and civil society in peace and security processes.

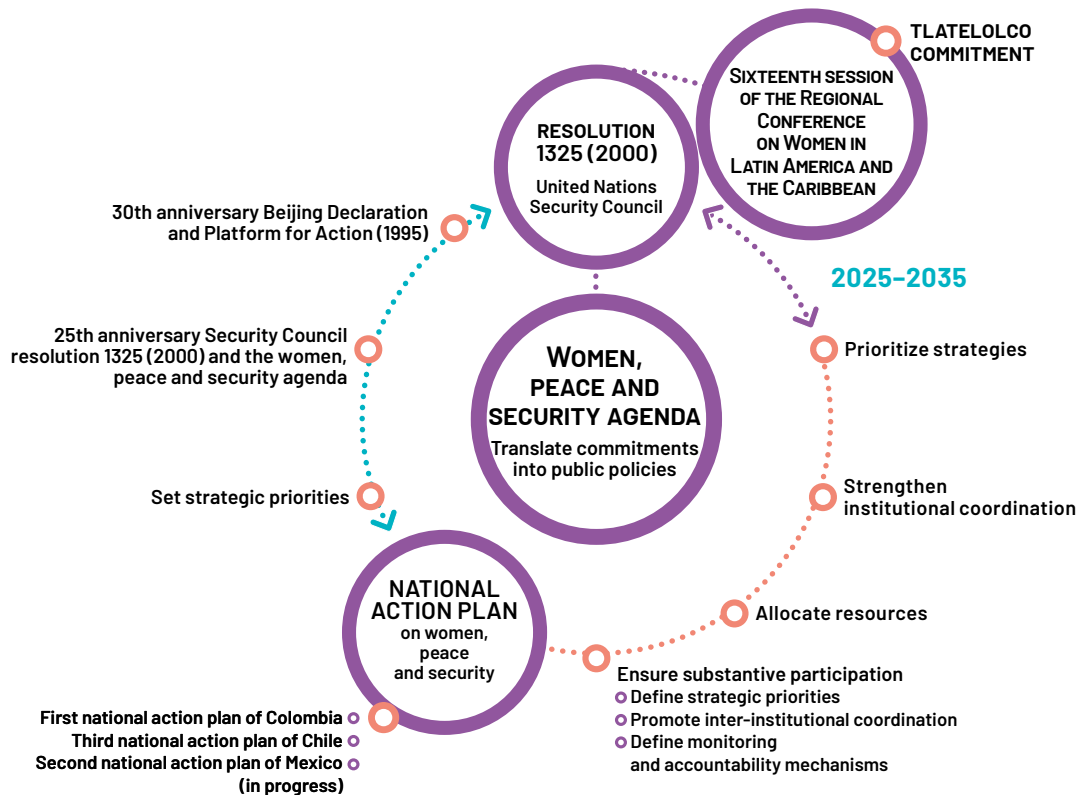
The commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) also coincided with the thirtieth anniversary of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) and the holding of the [sixteenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), at which member States adopted the [Tlatelolco Commitment](#). The Commitment sets out a decade of action (2025–2035) to achieve substantive gender equality and the care society in the region, while strengthening the integration of the women, peace and security agenda within regional and national public policy frameworks. In the Commitment, countries “underscore the importance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other resolutions relating to the women, peace and security agenda, foster multilateral cooperation to implement the provisions of international humanitarian law, maintain international peace and security, and formulate and implement national action plans with a view to protecting the rights of women, adolescents and girls in all their diversity, in particular those currently in conflict situations around the world” (ECLAC, 2025a, 7).

¹ In statement S/PRST/2004/40 delivered on 28 October 2004, the President of the Security Council welcomed the efforts of Member States in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) at the national level, including the development of national action plans.



■ **Diagram 1**

Regional and global frameworks for advancing the women, peace and security agenda



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this regard, and in the framework of the project “Strengthening feminist foreign policy and feminist international cooperation through a community of practice between Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Germany and ECLAC”, also referred to as the CoPEF project, a study and exchange visit was held on the design, implementation and evaluation of national action plans on women, peace and security. The project, jointly implemented by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with funding from the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany, has served as a strategic platform for promoting dialogue, cooperation and mutual learning among partner countries, linking feminist foreign policies with international development cooperation. The initiative also benefited from the strategic support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWomen) in the co-design and co-facilitation of the meeting, in line with its mandate to provide technical assistance to States in the development, implementation, monitoring and financing of national action plans on women, peace and security, as well as in strengthening the participation of civil society in the women, peace and security agenda.

The study and exchange visit took place on 3 and 4 December 2025 at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago and responded to the interest of the participating countries in strengthening their technical capacities through a space for horizontal learning and South-South and triangular cooperation. It brought together the teams from Chile, Colombia and Mexico responsible for national action plans on women, peace and security with a view to exchanging experiences in the design, implementation, evaluation and updating of these instruments, identifying common challenges, sharing solutions and good practices and exploring opportunities for future collaboration.

The participating countries are at different stages in the implementation of their national action plans. Chile, a pioneer in the region, is implementing its [Third National Action Plan](#) (2025–2030) (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2024), incorporating lessons learned and emerging issues. In 2025, following an extensive participatory process consistent with its experience in peacebuilding and its feminist foreign policy, Colombia formally adopted its [first National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security](#) (PAN 1325), for the period 2024–2034.

Mexico adopted its first [National Action Plan](#) in follow-up to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security (PNA-1325) for the 2021–2025 period and has initiated preparatory work on a second plan, to be developed from 2026, with a view to strengthening linkages between the women, peace and security agenda, its feminist foreign policy and other national and regional processes. These are complemented by Germany's experience from three national action plans, currently reflected in the implementation of its [Third Action Plan of the Federal Government on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council's Agenda on Women, Peace and Security](#), 2021 to 2024, and in the mainstreaming of the women, peace and security agenda in its foreign policy and international development cooperation.

A participatory, learning-oriented methodology was adopted for the exchange, combining country presentations, plenary sessions and collaborative working spaces. The crosscutting approach made it possible to identify shared lessons on the strategic role of national action plans on women, peace and security as instruments for operationalizing the agenda in the Global South. Discussions underscored the importance of having plans that are grounded in territorial realities, designed with intersectoral and participatory approaches, and coordinated with effective State capacities and the substantive participation of women's and civil society organizations. The value of South–South and triangular cooperation as key mechanisms for mutual learning and for consolidating a regional community of practice was reaffirmed, alongside the importance of aligning national action plans on women, peace and security with the [Regional Gender Agenda](#) and the [Tlatelolco Commitment](#) as a strategic framework for strengthening the sustainability and reach of the women, peace and security agenda in the region. The technical assistance provided by ECLAC and UNWomen was also highlighted for its role in deepening substantive analysis, facilitating spaces for collective reflection and supporting the identification of specific steps to be taken in subsequent phases of national action plans.

I. Current status of national action plans on women, peace and security in Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Germany

National action plans on women, peace and security operationalize Security Council [resolution 1325](#) (2000) and related resolutions² at national level. The landmark resolution recognized that women's inclusion in decision-making contributes to building and sustaining peace and stability for all. It established four fundamental pillars: (i) women's role in conflict prevention; (ii) women's participation in all decision-making related to peace and security; (iii) the protection of the rights and security of women and girls; and (iv) the specific needs of women during repatriation and resettlement and for post-conflict rehabilitation, reintegration and reconstruction. Since its adoption, national action plans on women, peace and security have enabled several countries to institutionalize this agenda, advance concrete measures to strengthen the participation of women and women's organizations in peace and security processes, and give greater visibility to the historic role women have played as peacebuilders in their communities.

According to the 2025 report of the Secretary-General on women, peace and security, 113 countries had adopted national action plans, 55% of which included explicit commitments on women's participation in peace processes, and women made up only 7% of negotiators worldwide (United Nations, 2025). In addition, only 29 of those plans included a dedicated budget at the time of their adoption (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, 2025b).

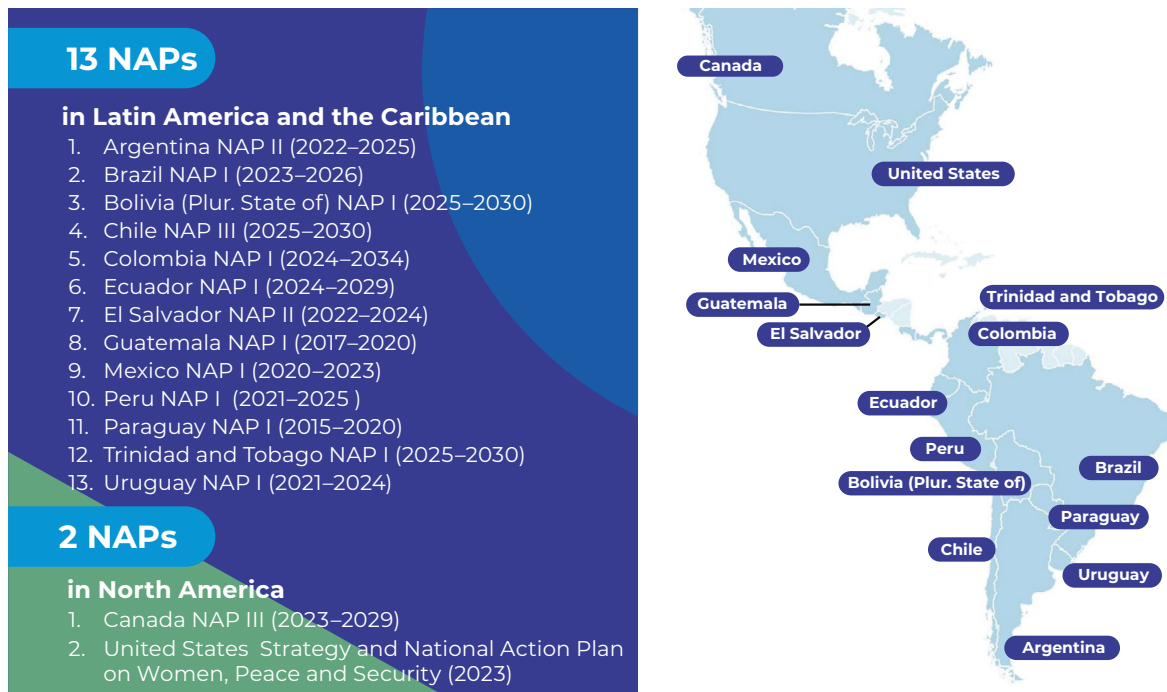
In Latin America and the Caribbean, 13 countries³ have developed national action plans (see infographic II.1), reflecting the region's increasing commitment to institutionalizing and advancing the women, peace and security agenda. These plans have evolved to respond to the region's complex realities, characterized by high levels of violence, organized crime, forced displacement and socioenvironmental conflicts. National action plans on women, peace and security have shifted from approaches traditionally centred on women's participation in United Nations peace operations towards broader agendas that incorporate dimensions such as human security, human mobility, the right to care, territorial justice and community-based peacebuilding. This shift reflects efforts to respond to the multidimensional crises affecting the region, while at the same time building on accumulated institutional capacities and on women's historic leadership as peacebuilders in their communities.

² The United Nations Security Council adopted nine further resolutions (1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2160, 2122, 2242, 2467 and 2493), which, together with resolution 1325 (2000), form the women, peace and security agenda.

³ Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

▪ Infographic 1

Latin America and the Caribbean and North America: countries that have adopted national action plans on women, peace and security



Source: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.

Note: NAP = national action plan

• Chile

Chile has been a pioneer in the region, becoming the first country to adopt a [national action plan on women, peace and security in 2009](#). The plan focused primarily on increasing women's participation in defence institutions and on promoting cultural change within those institutions. It was structured around four pillars aimed at ensuring zero tolerance for sexual violence and abuse, and at integrating gender and human rights approaches into peace operations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2009).

The [Second National Plan of Action](#), adopted in 2015, aimed to consolidate the progress under the first plan by strengthening the response to gender-based violence, monitoring and evaluation through results-based indicators, and engagement with civil society and international organizations. It was structured around four pillars related to prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile et al., 2015).

In September 2025, Chile adopted its [Third National Plan of Action on women, peace and security \(2025–2030\)](#), building on the experience gained from the two previous plans and in a context marked by significant international and national changes that have given rise to new and emerging challenges. The third plan is broader in scope, incorporating a more comprehensive understanding of the women, peace and security agenda, grounded in [Security Council resolution 2242](#) (2015), and adopting the approach associated with “new generation” national action plans. It also incorporates cross-cutting approaches—the gender perspective, nondiscrimination and substantive equality, human rights, intersectorality and interculturality and a territorial approach—for the formulation and implementation of specific actions (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2024).

The thematic scope of the national action plan on women, peace and security is also expanded to cover new areas, including climate change, disaster risk management, socioenvironmental conflict and transnational organized crime, alongside international security and peacekeeping operations, and is aligned with [Chile's feminist foreign policy](#) adopted in 2023. The most recent national action plan sets out six expected outcomes, to be pursued through 32 lines of action, supported by indicators and monitoring mechanisms. Monitoring and evaluation will

be conducted on a periodic basis, with evaluations every two years through 2030. This framework provides for the establishment of an observatory on resolution 1325 that includes civil society representatives (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, 2024).

• Colombia

Colombia formulated and formally adopted its [first National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security](#), covering the period 2024–2034, in response to a longstanding historical debt to women in the territories most affected by the armed conflict in that country. The plan was developed building on the sustained work of women's organizations in advancing the women, peace and security agenda over recent decades, explicitly reflecting the differentiated impacts of the conflict on women's lives, and set out measures to ensure their substantive participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping, in line with the commitments of the [Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace](#) (Colombia, 2016) and the country's feminist foreign policy.

[Colombia's national action plan](#) is characterized by a territorial, ethnic and gender-responsive approach, as well as by a broad, participatory and intersectoral process that incorporated proposals from more than 1,500 women in all their diversity through macroregional forums, population group forums, and territorial dialogues held across different regions of the country. The plan is structured around seven thematic lines addressing women's participation in peace processes and negotiations; health and comprehensive well-being; a life free from violence; access to justice; territorial protection; economic autonomy; and human mobility. It also sets out 105 actions to be implemented by 33 national-level government entities, together with monitoring, follow-up and budget-allocation mechanisms, positioning the national action plan as an umbrella policy for international cooperation and as a platform for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation, with lessons that can be transferred to other regional contexts (Colombia, 2025).

• Mexico

In 2021, Mexico adopted its [first national action plan on women, peace and security](#) for the period 2021–2024, in line with the [feminist foreign policy](#) adopted in 2020. The aim of the plan was to mainstream gender equality and promote the substantive participation of women in conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as well as in peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, including through their predeployment training for United Nations peace operations (Mexico, 2021).

The plan was structured around four pillars –prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery– and comprised 10 strategic objectives, 16 lines of action and 23 indicators. It also established a monitoring mechanism with annual progress reports, of which three were produced during the implementation period (Mexico, 2021).

Mexico is currently evaluating its first national action plan with a view to the formulation of a second national action plan for the period 2026–2030, which is expected to be presented in 2026. This second plan will incorporate lessons learned from the first while introducing new lines of action, including: the implementation of the National Action Plan on Gender and Climate Change to support national implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030; the integration of an intergenerational approach within the women, peace and security agenda and the implementation of the youth, peace and security agenda; support for the implementation of the [Tejedoras de la Patria strategy](#), aimed at strengthening communities in Mexico through women's community leadership; and the strengthening of the work of the [Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators](#) (RIMM),⁴ which coordinates efforts to enhance women's participation in conflict prevention and mediation, as well as in peacebuilding.

• Germany

At the international level, and within the framework of the CoPEF project, Germany is an important reference point for the comparative analysis of the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, both because of the continuity of its national action plans and because of the integration of this agenda with its foreign policy and international cooperation. Germany has implemented three consecutive national action plans, demonstrating a sustained and long-term commitment to the agenda established by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

⁴ Andorra, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Spain and Uruguay are members of this Network.

The [first national action plan](#) (2013–2016) defined six core thematic areas —prevention; participation; protection; reintegration and reconstruction; criminal prosecution; and the preparation of operations— laying the foundations for the systematic mainstreaming of gender in the fields of peace and security (Germany, 2012). The [second national action plan](#) (2017–2020) expanded this approach by strengthening the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda at the international level and consolidating mechanisms for structured dialogue with civil society, including through the establishment of an advisory group that meets on a semi-annual basis (Germany, 2017). The [third national action plan](#) (2021–2024) introduced a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, supported by 46 indicators, as well as defined responsibilities and timelines to track implementation, thereby strengthening accountability and results-based monitoring (Federal Foreign Office of Germany, 2021).

These national action plans on women, peace and security have been implemented primarily through international cooperation, including through action to support victims of sexual violence, financing for women's organizations and women peacebuilders at the local level, strengthening networks of women leaders, training of women mediators and the mainstreaming of the women, peace and security agenda in all government action.

II. Main themes and takeaways from the exchange

To deepen the analysis and facilitate the exchange of experiences on the main challenges and opportunities in the design and implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security, the study visit combined thematic group work with structured peer exchange among participants. The working groups brought together government representatives from several countries, who shared experiences and perspectives through a series of discussions.

The working groups focused on strategic themes for strengthening national action plans on women, peace and security, including: the design and content of the plans and their integration with emerging issues such as care, the environment, internal conflict and human mobility; financing; institutional coordination and ownership; civil society participation and coordination; territorial and intersectional approaches; and partnerships and international development cooperation. The interactive discussions and guiding questions formed the basis for a set of conclusions summarizing the main lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the exchange.

A. Design and content of national action plans on women, peace and security

In the discussions, it was noted that, in Latin America, national action plans on women, peace and security were being consolidated not only as frameworks for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), strictly speaking, but also as policy instruments that helped to link and align broader national policies and debates within the women, peace and security agenda. In that context, the need to move towards strategic and realistic plan designs was emphasized, with clear prioritization of results, well-defined governance arrangements, effective inter-institutional coordination, including at the subnational level, and strengthened institutional and community capacities. That was essential to ensure that the systematic integration of the agenda translated into concrete, feasible, adequately financed and sustainable territorial actions, extending beyond political cycles.

It was clear from the discussions that national action plans on women, peace and security must be aligned with existing national, regional and international legal and policy frameworks. Participants underscored the importance of linking national action plans to existing legislative tools and normative frameworks, including national policies, gender equality plans and the Regional Gender Agenda, as well as to the international human rights normative framework. Special emphasis was placed on [general recommendation No. 30](#) (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and postconflict situations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and other relevant international human rights instruments, as a means of strengthening the legitimacy, coherence and effectiveness of implementation.

It was noted that, in the region, domestic challenges such as territorial conflicts, institutional weakening and human security challenges increasingly shaped national action plans on women, peace and security, underscoring the importance of integrating crosscutting issues to strengthen the political and operational relevance of these plans.

A significant focus of the exchange was the integration of the care agenda as a strategic entry point for strengthening conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It was noted that collective care practices, particularly those carried out by women in communities affected by violence, helped to preserve the social fabric, community cohesion

and the sustainability of dialogue and peace processes. The central role of women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders was recognized, not only in promoting and defending rights, but also in care for life, community assistance and social support in areas with high levels of conflict. It was therefore important to frame care not only as a community approach, but also as encompassing selfcare and psychosocial support. From this perspective, integrating the care agenda into national action plans on women, peace and security offered a means of giving due recognition to these contributions, link the women, peace and security agenda with social programmes and local capacities, and strengthen territorial implementation through a preventive approach to conflict and to sustainable peace.

It was emphasized that national action plans on women, peace and security should explicitly incorporate security, protection and self-care measures for women human rights defenders and women peacebuilders, in recognition of the differentiated risks they face in contexts of violence, organized crime and territorial conflict. Colombia's national action plan was highlighted as a good practice, given its inclusion of specific measures for the comprehensive protection of women leaders and defenders, combining institutional mechanisms with collective care and self-care approaches, and recognizing their strategic role in the territorial implementation of the agenda.

Discussions also focused on the potential of the environment as a cross-cutting theme within the women, peace and security agenda, particularly in contexts where socio-environmental conflicts, disputes over territorial control and environmental degradation contributed to patterns of violence and rights violations. Attention was drawn to the situation of women environmental human rights defenders, who faced specific risks while playing a key role in the protection of territories, common goods and community ways of life. The inclusion of this dimension in Colombia's first national action plan, which recognized the work of women environmental human rights defenders, and in Chile's third national action plan, which linked environmental commitments with frameworks promoting access to information, participation and the protection of human rights defenders, was recognized as a step towards a broader understanding of peace grounded in environmental sustainability and the care for life.

A cross-cutting thread in the discussions was the need to ensure that the women, peace and security agenda was not limited to the traditional notion of armed conflict and that the differentiated impacts on women and girls, gender-based social norms and roles that generated and perpetuated extreme violence, organized crime and territorial conflicts were addressed, taking into account regional and national contexts. In that regard, attention was drawn to the challenge of designing national action plans capable of responding to contemporary threats and evolving territorial realities, while strengthening human rights-based, intersectional and territorial approaches, and ensuring coherence with existing instruments in order to avoid duplication and institutional fragmentation.

In conclusion, there was consensus that the integration of cross-cutting issues, such as care, the protection of women human rights defenders and the environment, strengthened the legitimacy, applicability and sustainability of national action plans on women, peace and security, by linking them to current public policy agendas and concrete territorial needs. At the same time, the importance of avoiding overly complex frameworks that hindered implementation was reiterated, underscoring the need for strategic design, clear governance, sustained coordination and capacity-building, to translate the agendas into tangible and sustainable results.

B. Financing of national plans on women, peace and security

The dialogue and exchange made it possible to identify enabling factors and structural gaps that had a cross-cutting impact on the development, implementation and sustainability of national action plans on women, peace and security. In particular, discussions highlighted that political, institutional and budgetary factors often affected the availability and continuity of funding for such plans, especially when there were changes in government or when gender equality policies were not sufficiently prioritized. This situation undermined the role of the plans as strategic instruments and weakened the sustained allocation of resources over their period of implementation. A recurrent gap was also identified, as responsibility for coordinating national action plans remained with ministries of foreign affairs, rather than being more evenly shared across other entities, which limited the effective availability of budgetary resources for implementation and follow-up.

Such gaps were compounded by limitations in the financial planning of national action plans. In many cases, they lacked detailed costing and medium- and long-term projections, making it difficult to sustain financing throughout implementation. In addition, fiscal rules and annual budget cycles often imposed short timeframes for resource execution or created discontinuities when plan implementation extended beyond a single government

term. From a territorial perspective, ensuring that resources allocated to the women, peace and security agenda effectively reached subnational levels and the territories most affected by various forms of conflict remained a significant challenge, particularly with regard to direct support for women's organizations.

With regard to mechanisms, partnerships and innovations that could help to close these gaps, reference was made to significant opportunities to strengthen the financing of national action plans on women, peace and security through policy alignment and coherence. In particular, the importance of linking the women, peace and security agenda with other public policy priorities —such as climate change response, public security, violence prevention and disaster risk management— was underscored, as a way to mobilize existing resources and create strategic entry points for plan implementation. Similarly, the value of advancing towards the recognition of national action plans as State policies was emphasized, thereby reducing their vulnerability to political change and increasing their financial sustainability.

With regard to useful experiences in the region, a number of practices were highlighted that could serve as reference points for other countries. These included Colombia's experience in assigning budgetary responsibilities across the institutions involved in the implementation of the national action plan; Mexico's use of budget-tagging mechanisms, such as [Annex 13 of the Federal Expenditure Budget](#),⁵ earmarking resources for gender equality; and Chile's third national action plan, which required each ministry to include the necessary resources in its annual budget, reinforcing institutional coresponsibility. In addition, the role of national planning agencies in ensuring the integration of national action plans into State planning and budgeting instruments was recognized.

Lastly, proposals were identified to strengthen national and international cooperation, in its various modalities, for the financing of national action plans on women, peace and security. These included exploring joint projects with development and peace actors, as well as with universities and academic institutions; leveraging existing bilateral, South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms; and identifying synergies with the private sector, based on clear incentives aligned with the women, peace and security agenda. In addition, attention was drawn to the need to build capacities and knowledge among key actors, including the legislative branch and territorial authorities, and to support local leadership for effective local implementation.

C. Institutional coordination and ownership

The exchange on coordination and institutional ownership of national action plans on women, peace and security highlighted the need to strengthen coordination among a broad range of key actors to ensure effective implementation. In that regard, the importance of robust interministerial coordination was underscored, bringing together foreign ministries, ministries of the interior, finance and social development, national machineries for the advancement of women, as well as other relevant portfolios, including defence and environment. The strategic role of cooperation agencies, the private sector, and, in particular, the legislative branch was also underscored, both in the adoption of regulatory frameworks and in the allocation and safeguarding of the necessary funding. From a territorial perspective, coordination with subnational and local governments was identified as a priority.

One of the main challenges identified was policy coordination across different branches of the State and levels of government, which could hinder joint decision-making and resource allocation. In addition, tensions arising from the budgetary autonomy and prioritization decisions of local governments were noted, along with limitations related to largely formal or procedural coordination that did not always translate into effective operational management. Another significant obstacle was the limited coordination between technical and political levels, which affected process continuity and the adaptation of national action plans across different phases of implementation. In response to this challenge, interministerial groups established to monitor national action plans —such as Colombia's Monitoring and Follow-up Committee for the 1325 National Action Plan, Mexico's Gender Subgroup of the Working Group for Peace Operations, and Chile's Interministerial Roundtable on resolution 1325— were cited for their contribution to strengthening interinstitutional coherence and coordination.

On institutional ownership, it was emphasized that the implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security required dedicated staff with sufficient seniority and the necessary technical capacities across the institutions involved, as well as maintaining team continuity beyond political cycles. It was also stressed that national action plans needed to be understood as a national public policy, grounded in concrete national and territorial realities, rather than as an external agenda or one driven solely by international commitments. In

⁵ Annex 13 of Mexico's Federal Expenditure Budget, on expenditures for equality between women and men, is a cross-cutting budgetary instrument that earmarks public resources to close gender gaps, promote substantive equality and prevent violence against women.

that regard, participants recognized the importance of the active involvement of local governments, national planning offices and machineries for the advancement of women, and of communication and outreach strategies tailored to different audiences, including civil society and the armed forces, to foster substantive ownership of the plans. Territorial initiatives such as Mexico's *Tejedoras de la Patria* were cited for their role in strengthening links between the State and women at the local level.

Lastly, the importance of strengthening monitoring mechanisms and the institutional sustainability of national action plans on women, peace and security was highlighted. Proposed actions included the institutionalization of monitoring and follow-up arrangements, such as intersectoral committees; the integration of national action plans into national development or government plans; and their alignment with existing legislative tools and normative frameworks. It was also considered essential to advance towards regular accountability systems, including annual reporting and results-oriented indicator frameworks, as well as to strengthen institutional memory through systematic documentation processes. Such measures would embed national action plans progressively in institutional practice, reinforcing their legitimacy, sustainability and long-term impact.

D. Civil society participation and coordination

Regarding coordination with civil society, it was underscored that ensuring the meaningful participation of women's organizations, young people, ethnic groups and diverse groups in national action plans on women, peace and security required structured, inclusive and sustained participation strategies. One of the main challenges identified was the difficulty of broadening outreach and identifying key civil society actors, particularly at the territorial level. In that regard, it was important for national action plans to contain explicit provisions on participation, recognizing civil society —especially women's organizations— as having a strategic role in monitoring and accountability and not just a consultative one. Likewise, the role of the State was highlighted in strengthening networks and in supporting the formation of local and sectoral organizations, as a means of expanding representation and reducing participation gaps.

With respect to consultation, dialogue, monitoring and follow-up mechanisms, it was noted that mechanisms were most effective when they were institutionalized, regular and governed by clear rules of operation. Examples were civil society councils, territorial assemblies and observatories, which facilitated ongoing dialogue, information-sharing and follow-up on commitments undertaken. Regular reporting to civil society was identified as a key practice for strengthening transparency and accountability.

Regarding the meaningful participation of women's organizations, it was emphasized that civil society participation needed to be embedded in the institutional and normative design of national action plans, rather than relying on short-term political will. In that regard, participants highlighted the importance of carrying out the work at the territorial level, establishing effective feedback mechanisms between government and civil society, and involving social organizations throughout the full cycle of national action plans, from formulation to monitoring and accountability. The establishment of civil society-led advisory groups and observatories, as well as the adaptation of indicators reflecting contributions and results at national and territorial levels, were identified as key to ensuring substantive participation.

Lastly, the need to strengthen the capacities and agency of women's organizations with more limited institutional capacity was emphasized, to avoid the concentration of participation among organizations with greater established capacity. In that regard, it was essential to have financial mechanisms to support women's organizations, including instruments such as the Regional Fund to Support Women's and Feminist Organizations and Movements,⁶ and to consider the establishment of dedicated national funds on women, peace and security. The systematization of experiences, with the support of academic institutions and international organizations, together with the institutionalization of participation mechanisms within the legal framework, were identified as prerequisites for ensuring the continuity, effective influence and sustainability of engagement between the State and civil society in the implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security.

E. Territorial and intersectional approaches

In the discussions on territorialization and intersectionality, it was noted that the main challenges in translating national action plans on women, peace and security to the territorial level were linked to structural factors related to governance, security and territorial inequality. Decision-making by governments was highly centralized, which

⁶ The Fund was established under the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to support the strengthening of women's and feminist organizations and networks in promoting gender equality and women's human rights in the region.

hindered effective coordination between the national level and local communities, as well as the adaptation of policies to diverse local realities. These challenges were compounded by institutional mistrust, insufficient protection in contexts of intense conflict or other forms of violence, limited understanding of territorial dynamics in centrally driven planning processes, and political differences between central governments and territorial authorities. It was noted that civil society organizations—and women's organizations in particular—often assumed roles that should fall to the State, against a backdrop of insufficient funding, machineries for the advancement of women with limited capacity and a lack of institutional support. In addition, the absence of national action plans in subnational planning instruments was identified as a factor limiting effective implementation at the territorial level.

With respect to adapting national action plans to diverse populations and local contexts, there was agreement that effective territorialization required methodological flexibility and a shift in approach, allowing State actions to be adapted to territorial realities, rather than requiring territories to conform to centralized designs. That was the case of ethnic communities, where national action plans needed to be adapted to and align with the worldviews of those communities. To that end, emphasis was placed on the importance of strengthening direct ties with local communities through participatory mechanisms, local consultation processes and improved communication between the central government, local governments and civil society organizations. In this regard, the experiences of Colombia, with its participatory processes and territorial roundtables resulting in a safeguards chapter for women from ethnic peoples and communities in its national action plan, and of Mexico, with its territorial women's assemblies, were highlighted, demonstrating the insufficiency of homogeneous approaches.

Effective territorialization through tailored actions that recognized the multiple dimensions of inequality—territory, ethnicity, age, exposure to violence and community belonging—grounded in local contextual knowledge was identified as a key tool and was in line with the framework of national action plans. However, it was noted that, in some cases, local governments shifted the responsibility for implementation to the central level, reinforcing territorial disconnects and weakening local ownership of national action plans.

Lastly, it was concluded that advancing territorialization and intersectionality in national action plans on women, peace and security required strengthening specific capacities at the territorial level. Priority areas identified included institutional capacity-building; greater ownership of the women, peace and security agenda among territorial authorities and civil society actors; increased and meaningful participation of women's organizations; and enhanced capacities for the collection, monitoring and use of territorially disaggregated data, in order to better understand local contexts and make differentiated impacts visible. The need to foster and support women's networks, promote greater agency for women at the local level and move toward the creation or strengthening of locally-based gender observatories was also emphasized. More broadly, it was underscored that ensuring basic living conditions and protection was essential for building the minimum levels of trust required for the implementation of national action plans, particularly in complex local contexts.

F. Strategic partnerships and cooperation

In the discussions and exchange, the importance of strategic partnerships was highlighted across the board as a key factor in strengthening the effective implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security, as well as in making sustained progress on the women, peace and security agenda in the region. The importance of coordinating cooperation at national and territorial levels was underscored, recognizing that peacebuilding and violence prevention required coordinated efforts among central government institutions, subnational governments and local actors, in ongoing dialogue with women's and civil society organizations.

Colombia's experience in coordinating and collaborating with the [roundtable on gender in international cooperation](#) was highlighted as a mechanism for aligning priorities, coordinating technical and financial support and strengthening the implementation of the national action plan on women, peace and security, based on an approach of shared responsibility between the State and international cooperation. The role of Colombia as a cooperation partner was also underscored, particularly through initiatives aimed at sharing lessons learned from its peace process, such as the From Colombia to the World peacebuilding programme and the training course ["Tejiendo Igualdad y Paz"](#) on the incorporation of gender and diversity approaches into the peace process and the peace agreement. This highlighted the country's potential to contribute actively to sharing experiences and capacity in the region and at global level. Meanwhile, Chile included as a specific outcome of its third national

action plan on women, peace and security the strengthening of the agenda at the regional level, explicitly recognizing the role of international cooperation as a vehicle for exchanging experiences with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the importance of collaboration with the United Nations system was highlighted, with particular attention to the role of UN-Women in providing technical support to governments and civil society in the design, implementation, monitoring and financing of national action plans on women, peace and security, as well as in strengthening the women, peace and security agenda as a whole. This support had been fundamental for linking political commitments with operational approaches, strengthening institutional capacities and promoting the substantive participation of women's organizations and women human rights defenders.

▪ **Diagram 2**
Regional cooperation and strategic partnerships



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The exchange was an opportunity to reaffirm the value of bilateral cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as complementary modalities for sharing technical capacities, mobilizing financial resources and the sustainability of efforts under the women, peace and security agenda. A concrete example of this approach was the study and exchange visit itself, conducted within the framework of the community of practice of the CoPEF project, which demonstrated the potential of triangular cooperation to bring together shared learning, methodological support and spaces that foster political trust among partner countries and strategic partners such as ECLAC and GIZ.

Also highlighted was the importance of establishing and strengthening specialized networks such as [the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network](#); those platforms enabled the continued sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned among countries beyond one-off activities. These networks help to build communities of practice, facilitate peer learning and strengthen coherence across the various levels of implementation of the agenda.

In that regard, the role of international development cooperation, in all its modalities, was viewed positively as a key enabler for the creation of strategic partnerships for strengthening the design, implementation and monitoring of national action plans on women, peace and security, and more broadly, the women, peace and security agenda. That role was not limited to support for governments; support to civil society organizations was equally strategic, as it strengthened their capacities and enhanced their sustainability and role as key partners in territorial implementation, monitoring and accountability under the agenda.

G. Emerging thematic areas

Other emerging issues related to the design and implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security were identified in the discussions. These included:

1. Masculinities

During the discussion, it was noted that transforming traditional notions of masculinity into more responsible and non-violent forms of masculinity was a necessary component for making progress in the effective implementation of national action plans, insofar as it addressed cultural and institutional factors that perpetuated violence and inequality. It was not merely a matter of incorporating another issue, but of influencing social norms, stereotypes and everyday practices that shaped coexistence, the exercise of power and the distribution of responsibilities in the public and private spheres.

By way of example, experiences in training and internal change within public institutions were shared. In Colombia, work on masculinities had translated into concrete actions incorporated into plans and institutional training processes, including the piloting of contents and methodologies within specific ministries, which it was hoped would be replicated in highly masculinized sectors and gradually incorporated into regular mandatory training programmes. Chile's public sector had introduced a course on masculinities, organized by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity, as part of broader public policy efforts. In Mexico, sustained efforts have been made within institutions with a high proportion of male staff; for example, awareness-raising and institutional reform initiatives were conducted within the Secretariat of the Navy, as well as efforts to change organizational culture led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which initially focused on male-dominated workplaces (with the later involvement of embassy and consulate staff) and subsequently expanded to include mixed-gender initiatives and more explicit commitments to shared responsibility.

The main challenges included the resistance to such efforts and need for continuity. They could not be approached as isolated activities, but rather as medium- and long-term processes requiring institutional mandates, resources, follow-up and pedagogical methodologies for addressing the issue in a clear and accessible manner, linking it to everyday experiences and to real incentives within organizations. Care must be taken to ensure that the issue was not diluted or treated as peripheral. For work on masculinities to have an impact within the women, peace and security agenda, the issue must be linked to the objectives of national action plans—including prevention, protection, participation and peacebuilding—supported by clear indicators and responsibilities, and framed within a clear narrative that addressing masculinities did not displace women's rights agendas, but rather helped to remove the structural conditions that reproduced violence and exclusion. The importance of incorporating an intergenerational and contextual perspective was also highlighted, taking into account how certain violent masculinities could be reinforced by phenomena such as organized crime, underscoring the urgency of preventive and cultural transformation strategies.

2. Role of the private sector in the sustainability of national action plans

The discussions also focused on the role of the private sector as a key pillar for the financial and territorial sustainability of initiatives associated with national action plans, particularly in the areas of violence prevention, economic autonomy, rebuilding the social fabric and capacity-building in areas affected by conflict. It was suggested that, in contexts where the State faced budgetary constraints or operational limitations, private sector engagement could play a role in ensuring continuity and scaling up certain lines of action, provided that such engagement was embedded within a robust governance framework, with safeguards for transparency and rights protection.

Reference was made to the link between private investment and territorial policies within the care agenda, including experiences related to territorial care systems. Such models tended to be more sustainable when they were able to bring together resources, capacities and territorial presence beyond the State, connecting companies, community programmes and local governments. It was emphasized that sustainability could be strengthened when national action plans incorporated an explicit financing component and when the agenda was tailored to the private sector through pedagogical approaches that demonstrated how investment or business development based on due diligence standards could contribute to peace, security and rights objectives, particularly in territories where responsible investment could influence employment, income generation and opportunities for women. Reference was also made to mechanisms such as accelerators, cofinancing schemes and linkages with philanthropy, including international philanthropy, as pathways to diversify financing sources, provided that clear rules and defined objectives were in place.

The challenges identified were specific and recurring. First, there was a clear need for legal viability and clear administrative arrangements to enable public-private partnerships without discretionary powers, with traceable funding and accountability. Second, it was argued that, even where funds or the will to act existed, mechanisms could become inefficient due to excessive bureaucracy (including re-processing and verification burdens), which reduced agility and timeliness, particularly in programmes linked to employability or social investment. Third, the critical point was made that private sector participation required regulation and ethical frameworks. It was cautioned that such participation should not entail the privatization of basic services; therefore, human rights safeguards, eligibility criteria for expenditure, due diligence standards, and oversight mechanisms were required to ensure consistency with national action plans on women, peace and security. Lastly, the importance of conducting stakeholder mapping and strengthening dialogue among the State, civil society and the private sector was highlighted, in order to clarify roles, identify opportunities and align incentives with verifiable, impact-oriented results.

The discussions concluded with the recognition that private sector participation could help to ensure the sustainability of national action plans on women, peace and security when conceived as part of a public strategy, rather than as a substitute for the State, and grounded in clear rules, oversight mechanisms and a territorial approach. Under these conditions, business and philanthropic engagement could expand capacities, sustain initiatives over time and reinforce the implementation of national action plans as State policies, beyond government cycles and budgetary constraints.

III. Continuing and strengthening regional cooperation and learning

The discussions held during the study visit provided an opportunity to address the women, peace and security agenda in a broader context, identifying specific opportunities for strengthening regional collaboration and ensuring the continuity of the exchanges and lessons learned. The participating countries agreed that advancing the agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean required consolidating stable spaces for dialogue, mutual learning and coordination, capable of translating international and regional commitments into concrete, sustainable actions with national and territorial impact.

In that regard, the importance of strengthening and coordinating existing platforms for training, exchange and collaborative work was emphasized, such as the [UN-Women Regional Academy of National Action Plans for Women, Peace and Security](#), the [CoPEF Community of Practice platform](#), and partnerships with universities and academic institutions. These spaces helped to strengthen technical capacities, generate context-specific knowledge and avoid the replication of decontextualized models, thereby promoting approaches tailored to the realities of the region.

It was also recognized that observatories and regional monitoring and accountability mechanisms played a strategic role, including the [Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean](#), the observatory on women peace and security for Latin America and the Caribbean promoted by Colombia, national observatories and their networks, including those driven by civil society and academia, the [Working Group on Gender Statistic of the Statistical Conference of the Americas](#), and the Follow-up [Mechanism to the Convention of Belém do Pará](#). These platforms were identified as key spaces for monitoring commitments related to the women, peace and security agenda. At the same time, the strengthening of specialized networks, such as the [Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators](#), was identified as an opportunity to bring together technical expertise, promote peer learning and link regional dialogue to the concrete implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security. Participants also underscored the importance of coordinating these efforts with other global actors and mechanisms and their respective resources, such as the [Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations](#) and its [Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers](#), as well as with the [Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network](#), in which the three participating countries were members.

Looking ahead to regional and international forums, emphasis was placed on the importance of coordinating common messages and positions in strategic multilateral forums, such as the [seventieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) and the [Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), in particular in relation to the implementation of the [Tlatelolco Commitment](#).

Similarly, linking the women, peace and security agenda with other intergovernmental processes, such as the [Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) and the [Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), would broaden its reach and reinforce coherence with regional priorities in the areas of sustainable development, institutional strengthening, social cohesion and peacebuilding. Such coordination would ensure that the women, peace and security agenda was not an isolated sectoral issue, but a crosscutting component of the region's development and cooperation strategies.

Progress in the women, peace and security agenda and the implementation of national action plans on women, peace and security could be accelerated by explicitly aligning them with feminist or gender-responsive foreign policies, insofar as such policies provided an institutional and diplomatic framework for sustaining priorities, aligning messages and strengthening coherence between multilateral commitments and foreign policy practice. Integrating the women, peace and security agenda into foreign policy would not only position the agenda in regional and global forums, but also align the prevention of violence, substantive participation and peacebuilding with structural priorities such as substantive equality, a territorial and intersectional approach and the care society. Looking ahead, a key challenge and opportunity was to advance greater interinstitutional coherence among national action plans on women, peace and security, foreign policy guidelines and sectoral agendas, reducing coordination gaps and strengthening capacities beyond political cycles.

Lastly, advancing towards the institutionalization of exchange mechanisms, such as communities of practice, regional repositories and continuous training spaces, was identified as a priority, as was strengthening coordination with strategic actors for the sustainability of national action plans on women, peace and security. These included subnational governments, parliaments, cooperation agencies, academic institutions and civil society organizations. These guidelines aimed to strengthen interinstitutional coherence, the peace-development nexus and the continuity of the agenda beyond political cycles.

IV. Conclusions

The study visit and exchange reaffirmed the strategic value of national action plans on women, peace and security as key instruments for translating international and national commitments into concrete public policies, particularly from a perspective grounded in the Global South. The experiences shared showed that, when national action plans incorporated territorial, intersectional and participatory approaches, they responded more effectively to contexts marked by structural violence, persistent inequalities and institutional challenges, while bringing together the gender equality, human rights, human security and peacebuilding agendas.

The exchange also highlighted that implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean required substantive adaptations beyond approaches traditionally centred on United Nations peace operations, in order to address historical and emerging challenges such as organized crime, climate change, socio-environmental conflicts and human mobility, which had a differential effect on women and girls and were shaped by gender-based social norms and roles. In that regard, the importance of integrating the care agenda and the care of life structuring components of national action plans was emphasized, as well as the need to recognize the role of women human rights defenders, peacebuilders and environmental defenders, whose contributions were essential for maintaining the social fabric and preventing violence. The need to incorporate specific measures for protection, security, and self-care was also emphasized, as was the need to strengthen the substantive participation of women's and civil society organizations, especially in the areas most affected by violence and exclusion.

In the discussions, it was reaffirmed that the effectiveness of national action plans on women, peace and security depended on their being grounded in real State capacities, on strategic and realistic designs with clear priorities, defined governance, interinstitutional coordination, including at the subnational level, and financing arrangements that reinforced shared responsibility among the entities involved. Likewise, the importance of aligning the plans with current national, regional and international regulations was highlighted as a means of strengthening their coherence, legitimacy and sustainability.

Participants also highlighted the central role of international development cooperation—in particular South-South and triangular cooperation—as a key mechanism for mutual learning, the transfer of customized practices, and the strengthening of processes for implementing, evaluating and updating national action plans. Initiatives such

as the [CoPEF project](#) demonstrated the potential of these modalities to bring together technical capacities, methodological support and spaces for political trust among partner countries. In that regard, the study and exchange visit, organized by ECLAC with the strategic support of UN-Women, facilitated dialogue among delegations, deepened substantive discussions and supported reflection on identifying concrete next steps. The role of strategic partnerships with the United Nations system, bilateral cooperation, the academic sector and civil society organizations was also highlighted, not only in supporting governments, but also in strengthening capacities and the sustainability of social actors as key partners of the agenda.

Lastly, the importance of anchoring national action plans on women, peace and security in the [Regional Gender Agenda](#) was underscored, recognizing the [Tlatelolco Commitment](#) as a strategic road map for integrated regional action during the 2025–2035 decade. By placing substantive equality, the care society and the care for life at the centre of development, this framework offered a tangible opportunity to consolidate the women, peace and security agenda as a State policy, aligned with human rights frameworks and closely linked to development, well-being and building inclusive and lasting peace in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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