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## Annex: Global Affairs Canada's Implementation Plan of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and the Ottawa Treaty

Specific implementation plans for each partner department of the Government of Canada were released as part of the launch of Canada's National Action Plan 2017-2022 on Women, Peace and Security (CNAP).<sup>1</sup> Global Affairs Canada is the lead department on the implementation of the CNAP especially in regards to disarmament issues such as the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines. Global Affairs Canada has also published a detailed document outlining specific priorities, targets, activities and indicators for a number of programs and branches within the department.<sup>2</sup>

Some of these targets are relevant to the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and other disarmament efforts. This annex focuses on a small number specific targets listed in the implementation plan which have significant links to the Ottawa Treaty and disarmament work, however the entire implementation plan should be viewed through a disarmament lens.

### **Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat Reduction Program**

*5.1 Target: 10% of projects have GE01 (Limited Gender Equality Integration) or greater gender coding by the end of the fiscal year 2021/2022 to ensure the Program meets women's needs and interests*

It is concerning that the baseline for this target indicates that current projects under the Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat Reduction Program do not have any gender coding. Both conventional weapons like landmines and weapons of mass destruction have differing impacts on men, women, boys and girls. Assuming that weapons of mass destruction threat reduction is a gender neutral activity furthers the marginalization of women and girls. Mines Action Canada would suggest setting a more ambitious target. Any efforts to reduce the threat from weapons of mass destruction should take into account women's needs and interests.

*5.2 Target: Resolutions of the UN General Assembly's First Committee (responsible for disarmament, global challenges and threats), proposed or considered by Canada, integrate gender perspectives*

The UN General Assembly's First Committee is a key forum for disarmament work on a variety of weapons. As the Canadian led statement on Gender and Disarmament Machinery stated acceptance of gender inclusiveness has been weak with disarmament forums across the United Nations. For example, the annual Ottawa Treaty resolution at First Committee did not mention gender or age- and gender-

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<sup>1</sup> "Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2017-2022 - The implementation plans" [http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues\\_development-enjeux\\_developpement/gender\\_equality-egalite\\_sexes/cnap\\_ip-pi\\_pnac-17-22.aspx?lang=eng#1](http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/gender_equality-egalite_sexes/cnap_ip-pi_pnac-17-22.aspx?lang=eng#1)

<sup>2</sup> "Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2017-2022 - Global Affairs Canada addendum for the implementation plan", <http://international.gc.ca/world-monde/assets/pdfs/cnap-ip-ad-eng.pdf>

specific assistance to landmine survivors in 2017.<sup>3</sup> This target will greatly assist in efforts to include gender perspectives and women in the United Nations First Committee.

### **Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations**

*7.1 Target: Canada demonstrates strong commitment at the UN to ensuring increased and meaningful participation of women in peace resolution processes, including in conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict reconciliation, and more specifically delegations to peace resolution processes.*

If the focus is solely on peace processes this target will likely miss key aspects of the United Nations' work on peace, security and disarmament in New York. The United Nations General Assembly's First Committee (responsible for disarmament, global challenges and threats) has a role to play in creating a more inclusive and peaceful world. First Committee has very low levels of women's participation and for the most part, the women participating are not from conflict-affected areas. Canada could support efforts by civil society to increase the meaningful participation of women from conflict-affected areas who have experienced weapons-related harm in First Committee.

### **Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva**

*9.1 Target: By the end of the fiscal year 2017/18, the Mission develops key messages on WPS and uses them systematically in multilateral institutions and processes, governing boards and councils, and advocacy groups that can effect change in the lives of women and girls in fragile and conflict-affected states.*

The Permanent Mission of Canada in Geneva hosts one of Canada's largest diplomatic efforts towards disarmament. The Mission leads diplomatically on the implementation and universalization of the Ottawa Treaty banning landmines and other disarmament treaties. Consistent messaging on women, peace and security from the Geneva Mission will be very helpful in ensuring that the voices of women and girls have a role in the implementation of these lifesaving treaties.

*9.3 Target: By the end of the fiscal year 2019/20, each of the eight relevant Mission's programs support at least one engagement [with women or women's groups from fragile or conflict affected countries] per year. By the end of the fiscal year 2021/22, the Mission supports at least 20 women or women's groups per year.*

There is considerable scope in this target for concrete actions to increase meaningful participation of female landmine survivors in the Ottawa Treaty as well as young women from landmine affected communities. The voices of female landmine survivors and of young women living with landmine contamination are crucially important to ensuring that the Ottawa Treaty is implemented in an inclusive manner. In order to reach out to these voices from the field, the Geneva Mission can work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and similar networks across the disarmament sector.

### **Bilateral Engagement**

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<sup>3</sup> Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction A/C.1/72/L.40, <http://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/1com/1com17/resolutions/L40.pdf>

Of the bilateral engagement programs listed in the addendum for the implementation plan, the Middle East, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Colombia, Afghanistan and Myanmar all have significant landmine problems. Each of these programs highlighted the importance of increasing women's participation in peace and security decision making. Additionally, it is important to ensure that mine action and disarmament projects as well as disarmament discussions also have increased women's meaningful participation. Disarmament should be incorporated into the women, peace and security work of Canada's bilateral programs.