Components of Canada's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda
a view from civil society

A few central concepts:
- Human rights are central
- WPS principles and objectives applied across all of Canada's international initiatives (defence, diplomacy, development, climate, migration, trade) & there is attention to both domestic and global issues (known as "policy coherence")
- It's an agenda that aims for transformation. The goal is more than just increasing the number of women in structures that aren't working. It includes reconceptualising how conflict is addressed
- Intersectional feminist approaches are essential. This includes going beyond a male/female binary understanding of gender, incorporating anti-racist and decolonial analysis, and attention to power and process

Examples of the domestic agenda:
There is interest in outlining what Canada's domestic WPS agenda will include. Issues identified to date:
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls
- Sexual assault, diversity and culture change in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and RCMP
- Gender perspectives on supports for CAF veterans
- Gender perspectives in domestic extremism leading to violence initiatives
- Support for women human rights defenders now in Canada

How will current nation plans and strategies be incorporated into the CNAP (for example the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls)?

Some key issues for the next CNAP:
- Is WPS a set of guiding principles/objectives or only an area of niche programming?
- Will the resources allocated match the ambition of the Plan?
- Will the Plan provide conceptional guidance to ensure all implementing government departments share this understanding?
- Will the Plan incorporate a deeper analytical approach, putting into practice intersectional perspectives that include dimensions such as ability/disability, LGBTQI+, anti-racism, youth, class, religion, and ethnicity?
- Will the Plan include clear accountability mechanisms (reporting, review by civil society, monitoring/evaluation plan, etc.)?

EXAMPLES OF WPS ISSUES

Participation
- Women, young women & girls in all their diversity
- Women-led organizations
- Peace negotiations
- Political participation
- Women in the military and security sector

Protection
- Conflict-related sexual violence
- Links to sexual exploitation and abuse (by aid workers, peacekeepers, etc.)

Prevention (of armed conflict)
- Disarmament
- Climate-security-gender nexus

Relief & recovery
- Humanitarian assistance
- Economic reconstruction
- Constitution building
- Demobilization, disarmament and reintegration

Gender Perspectives (across all issues, themes, and sectors)
- Cybersecurity
- Countering Violent Extremism
- Migration & Refugees
- Peace Operations

Women, Peace & Security
DIALOGUE
dialogue
Femmes, paix et sécurité