

## **Civil society organizations demand a real commitment from the Spanish Government for the effective fulfilment of Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

The II National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2017-2023) was approved by the Council of Ministers on July 28th, thus fulfilling the commitment announced by the President of the government in October 2015, in the framework of the high-level debate of the Council of United Nations security.

In this process of elaboration and as mentioned in the approved plan, the participation of civil society and women's organizations was agreed, responding to a historical vindication of women's organizations, which since the elaboration of the first plan they claimed to be participants in all the implementation processes of Resolution 1325. In addition, it is one of the main recommendations of the world study on the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which after fifteen years of the resolution raised many questions regarding the boarding and actual commitments of States to enforce compliance.

As feminist and civil society organizations, starting from the approval of the II Plan of Spain, we positively appreciate that there has been a certain openness to our participation in the process of elaboration of the New Action Plan. However, we want to make it clear that this participation has been hampered by multiple constraints that have made it a timely consultation rather than an effective and substantive participation with little planning and that has resulted in the New Action Plan. There is little incorporation of the concrete proposals transferred by civil society.

Despite the difficulties posed by the absence of clear planning, the lack of formal spaces of participation, as well as established times of work to raise contributions and proposals, civil society organizations have developed specific proposals to the Plan in line with international recommendations and seeking policy coherence. The lack of integration of civil society proposals and recommendations is reflected in the Plan:

- It does not have its own budget or specific budgetary commitments.
- It does not have a schedule or schedule of execution, which makes planning and monitoring difficult.
- There is a certain imbalance between the contents of declarative character of the purely operative contents of the Plan, which is demonstrated in the lack of concretion of how they will apply and implement the frameworks, objectives and principles declared in the text. This causes a **lack of vertical coherence**, that is, little correspondence between the aforementioned principles, objectives, measures and areas of action and thematic areas.
- There is a **lack of horizontal coherence** between the various existing frameworks, plans and instruments of external action that are framed in other plans developed by the various ministries involved. Thus, although some relevant existing plans or frameworks are mentioned in terms of the implementation of this plan, it does not address or mention how the necessary coordination between the connections and harmonization of synergies between them will be carried out.

- It lacks indicators of impact and process, as well as indicators of gender, establishing mainly descriptive and quantitative indicators of activity, which do not measure the achievement, nor the transformative impact of the actions.
- It does not establish a clear objective of support for women's organizations, it eliminates the feminist term of the plan and terms related to the language of rights, limiting the transformative nature of the actions.
- It does not promote a questioning of the patriarchal power structures that lead to the serious armed conflicts on women and girls, or of international militaristic policies, which the Worldwide Study identifies the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, poses a serious obstacle to international peace and security.
- Lack of references and measures to the necessary policy coherence, among the different dimensions of Spanish foreign policy, to ensure that there is no contribution to the generation of the causes of conflict (arms trade, security policies, etc).

Therefore, and as organizations involved in the follow-up to this agenda, we ask the Spanish government to establish the necessary procedures, as well as the sufficient resources to make the commitments of Spain with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda generate effective impacts, and influence more sustained and egalitarian peace-building processes. For this we consider accountability, the effective participation of civil society and women's and feminist organizations, as well as the effective incorporation of the gender approach from a dual strategy of empowerment and mainstreaming in all actions driven.

On the basis that the implementation of the II National Action Plan is an international commitment and an agenda for both foreign and national policies, we ask the opposing political parties to undertake a demanding follow-up work, in coordination with civil society organizations and feminist organizations involved in the agenda.

Considering that the II NAP reiterates that the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is a human rights agenda, we demand that the Spanish government, despite the limitations on the specific goals and measures set out in the text of the Plan, set up specific actions with transforming capacity. This implies strengthening the pillars of the Plan related to justice, education and should prioritize measures to support the participation of women. Also to strengthen women's and feminist organizations and to establish effective exchange spaces with civil society and local organizations on the ground. The concrete implementation of the II National Action Plan which is defined as a living document, must correct the weaknesses and shortcomings of the approved text, so as to promote an effective implementation of the Resolution 1325.