NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives

The NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (NCGP) advises NATO leadership and Member Nations on gender related issues in order to enhance organizational effectiveness in support of Alliance objectives and priorities, including the implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs).

Military operations in today's world require a diversity of qualifications and resources to ensure that peace and security are achieved and maintained. The complementary skills of both male and female personnel are essential for the operational effectiveness of NATO operations, especially in light of the increasing complexity of civil-military interaction, public relations and information sharing. The integration of a gender perspective into all aspects of NATO operations has contributed to increased operational effectiveness.

NGCP role and responsibilities

The NGCP promotes gender mainstreaming as a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and military operations.

The Committee's responsibilities are:

- Facilitate the exchange of information among NATO Nations on gender related policies and gender mainstreaming.
- Ensure appropriate coordination on gender issues with the NATO Command Structure (NCS) and the NATO HQ.
- Collaborate with international organizations and agencies concerned with the integration of a gender perspective into military operations as well as with gender related issues.
- Collect and disseminate relevant gender information from NATO and Partner Nations, as the NATO focal point.
- Provide advice to the MC on gender issues, including the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions.
- Advise on and support specific gender related issues as requested by the MC or other NATO structures.
- Serve in a gender advisory capacity to the MC.

Working Mechanism

The NCGP is composed of senior national representatives from member countries. The NCGP is governed by an Executive Committee (EC) and supported by the IMS Office of the Gender Advisor. The EC is comprised of the Chair, the Chair-Elect, three Deputy Chairs and the IMS Gender Advisor. The EC must have at least one member of each gender.

Each NATO Nation is entitled to designate one delegate to the NCGP. Delegates should be active duty officers of senior rank or civilian equivalent. They should be familiar with the latest national developments in gender methods, approaches and tools for gender mainstreaming. They should also be familiar with NATO policies, UNSCR 1325 and Related Resolutions as well as national policies or actions taken to implement these Resolutions.

Non-NATO Nations may be invited to contribute to the activities of the NCGP.

The MC or EC can task the NCGP on specific gender related issues.

History of NCGP

Since 1961, female Senior Women Officers in NATO have organized conferences on an ad hoc basis to discuss the status, organization, conditions of employment and career possibilities for women in the armed forces of the Alliance. On 19 July 1976, the MC officially recognized the Committee on Women in the NATO Forces (CWINF).

In 1998 a permanent office, the Office on Women in the NATO Forces was established in the International Military Staff at NATO Headquarters to provide information on gender and diversity issues and support the work of CWINF.

In May 2009, the CWINF's mandate was extended to support the integration of a gender perspective into NATO's military operations, specifically to support the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 as well as related resolutions. The Committee was renamed NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives.