Annual Meeting of the NWM network
Reykjavík 7-8 May 2017

During May 7th and 8th 2017, the Nordic Women Mediators (NWM) network held its third annual meeting in Reykjavik hosted by the Icelandic NWM network’s operational partner, the United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme (UNU-GEST) together with the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The aim was to provide the NWM network members with an opportunity and platform to discuss and endorse operational mechanisms, clarify roles and responsibilities, and strive towards specific outcomes in order to make the NWM network fully operationalised in 2017 and 2018. The programme of the two-day meeting can be found in Annex I. Participants in the annual meeting included NWM network and advisory group members, operational partners and contact group representatives from the Nordic ministries for foreign affairs. A full list of participants is in Annex II.

The objectives of the annual meeting:
- Provide a platform for network members to connect and get to know each other.
- Discuss and approve the network’s mission statement and objectives, and review coordinating structures.
- Discuss information-sharing mechanisms.
- Encourage Nordic cooperation and knowledge-sharing through collective efforts.
- Discuss NWM activities for 2017–18.

Preferable outcomes were set forth by the organisers and included the following:
- Discuss, finalize, and approve the NWM mission statement and objectives.
- Review the coordinating structures, roles, and responsibilities within the NWM.
- Establish an information-sharing mechanism between national chapters.
- Draft a communications plan with elements of external outreach and promotion.
- Draft the NWM action plan for 2017–2018 with bilateral and multilateral elements.

Outcomes and recommendations
At the annual meeting, network members revised and subsequently endorsed the mission statement and objectives of the NWM network. Internal communications mechanisms, as specified below, were agreed upon and will be taken forward by the operational partners. Members agreed that a Communications Working Group should be set up to take the work on external communication forward. Participants at the meeting discussed concrete suggestions for activities, which can serve as recommendations for action plans to be taken forward in the work of the NWM network in 2017 and 2018, and which will be further discussed and approved at the next meeting of the network.
Structure of the NWM

Advisory Group (AG)
- The AG should remain for now and be re-evaluated at a later stage.
- The AG members see themselves first and foremost as members of the network, and more as advocates than advisers.
- AG members can advocate as 1) individual members, 2) or upon request on behalf of the network.

Operational Partners (OP)
- Establish a joint communication platform.

Ad hoc Working Group for NWM annual meetings
- At each annual meeting an ad hoc Working Group comprising of at least one network member from each national network should be established to prepare for the next annual meeting.
- The chair of the Working Group should be a network member from the upcoming host country.

Linking the NWM network and national networks
- The national networks will identify their own priorities in accordance with the mission statement and objectives agreed by the NWM.
- The national networks are encouraged to formulate their mission statements before the next annual meeting.

Communication mechanisms

Internal communication
- OP will create a closed Facebook group for information-sharing among NWM network members.
- OP will compile a list of all NWM members’ e-mail addresses and share it with members.

External communication
- NWM network should have joint external messages.
- Joint talking points about the NWM and network activities should be produced.
- Create a Communications Working Group to work towards a draft communication plan - to be approved by the NWM network. It should include:
  - General talking points about NWM
  - Mapping relevant stakeholders
  - Ideas for external outreach and promotional activities for shared NWM activities; what (op-eds, symposiums, panels etc.), who to target where and when (UN events, regional meetings etc).

NWM mission statement

The NWM mission is to enable Nordic women mediators and peacemakers to advance the inclusion and meaningful participation of women in all phases of peace processes, to contribute to achieving and sustaining peace.

Objectives

To achieve the mission of the network, the NWM will work according to the following objectives.

Objective 1
Strengthen women's participation in peace processes at all levels, including by:
- Amplifying the voices of women mediators and peacemakers in conflict affected areas;
- Advocating for all peace processes to be inclusive;
- Developing and fostering partnerships with other mediation and peacebuilding networks and organisations; and
- Creating and supporting joint activities among members and with partners, as appropriate.

Objective 2
To strengthen Nordic women actively involved in international peace-making efforts, including by:
- Enabling the sharing of experiences, knowledge and know-how among members, including through networking opportunities;
- Promoting and supporting members in their functions, as well as drawing on that expertise across networks;
- Facilitating access and providing networking opportunities with mediating and peacebuilding actors globally.
• Side events to relevant meetings (e.g. at UNGA/CSW/regional level) should be organized.
• Outcome of annual NWM network meetings should include a common message on core decisions prepared by host country for media/website and for NWM members, MFA’s and other stakeholders.
• Public events/outreach should ideally be organized back-to-back with the annual meetings.

Strengthening participation of women

• Define a list of select countries and/or themes where the network has experience and has identified need, in order to determine action on a case-by-case basis. These activities are either determined by a working group or initiated by individual members. Focus on neglected conflicts.
• Possible activities in conflict contexts: members to provide mentorship, access, or visibility to women peacemakers; identify gaps in training efforts; conduct joint evaluations; partner with others to strengthen platforms for emerging woman peacemakers from other contexts.
• Compile joint messages to argue for nominating women to key positions; to be taken forward by national networks.

Relevant networks, organisations and platforms to reach out to

• Prioritise networks to collaborate with such as:
  • FEMWISE (African Union Women Mediators Network).
  • South African network of women mediators: draw on their resources/opportunities. Strengthen multitrack cooperation.
  • Mediterranean Women Mediators Network.
  • Provide mentoring and support to women peacemakers/peacebuilders networks at the local level.
  • Religious leaders’ networks.
  • Organization of Islamic Cooperation.
  • The African Union (AU).
  • Nordic African ministerial meetings.
  • Use ambassadors’ meetings at MFAs and inform them of the NWM network.
  • Engage in platforms such as: Friends of Mediation, Friends of 1325, etc.; technical committees/forums on gender equality in peace and security; prevention processes e.g. Eastern Europe work on memory/remembrance and reconciliation.
  • Other ideas for outreach include: Mobilise as a Nordic bloc, e.g. on Afghanistan; engage with neglected conflicts e.g. CAR and Israeli/Palestinian etc.; encourage Nordic foreign ministers to have a side event during the UNGA with support of NWM.
  • Identify other relevant partners.

Ways to strengthen the NWM network

• Share information on upcoming relevant meetings and trainings on information-sharing platform (Facebook).
• Organize training and mentoring sessions in connection with annual meetings.
• Set up informal thematic or case specific working groups on a voluntary basis.
• Make bios accessible online (upon agreement with each member).
• Members to reference their membership in external meetings.
• Strengths in the informality; network acts as a clearing house.
Annex I  Programme of the NWM annual meeting 2017

Sunday 7 May

10:30-11:40  Meeting of NWM operational partners, Blue Café, the Blue Lagoon
12:00-15:00  OPTIONAL: Social networking visit to the Blue Lagoon. For further information, see practical information sheet.

Day 1  –  NWM mission statement and networking of members
Location: Hljóðberg Assembly Hall in Hannesarholt, Grundarstígur 10, 101 Reykjavík

17:00  Welcome and opening of the annual meeting
       Irma Erlingsdóttir
17:05  Opening remarks
       Mrs. María Erla Marelsdóttir, Director General, Directorate for International Development Cooperation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
17:15  Introduction to the programme and tour de table
       Network members introduce themselves
       Moderator: Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir
17:45  Session 1. NWM mission statement
       Moderators: Mette Knudsen and Laura Mitchell
       •  Presentation of and discussions on the mission statement
       •  Adoption of the mission statement
19:30  Networking dinner
       Moderators: Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir and Isabel Bramsen

1) Personal expectations of the network (what members hope to get out of it)
2) Expectations for the network’s contributions and policy roles (what members hope the network can contribute to mediation etc.)
21:00  Reporting of the networking session
21:25  Wrap-up of day 1
21:30  Closing of day 1
21:30  Meeting of NWM operational partners, restaurant, 1st floor

Monday 8 May

Day 2  –  NWM operational role and activities for 2017-18
Location: Hljóðberg Assembly Hall, Hannesarholt

08:30  Introduction to the agenda and re-cap from day 1
       Moderator: Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir
08:35  Roundtable with NWM advisory group members
Professional insights and reflections about the value addition of the NWM  
Moderator: Ingibjörg Sólrun Giðladóttir

09:20 Session 1. Updates from national chapters  
Moderator: Isabel Bramsen  
Please share highlights [5 min. per national chapter]:  
- Overview of current activities  
- Specific issues/topics national chapters are involved in

10:00 Coffee/tea

10:10 Session 2. NWM coordinating structures  
Moderators: Marika Fahlén and Laura Mitchell  
- Reflections on current roles and decision-making structure of NWM membership
  4 groups: same as in session 1 on Sunday 7 May:  
  Group 1: Hljóðberg assembly hall  
  Group 2: Attic/3rd floor  
  Group 3: Arinstofa/2nd floor  
  Group 4: Side room to assembly hall

10:30 Plenary session: exchanging ideas/recommendations  
Hljóðberg assembly hall

11:00 Session 3. NWM communication mechanisms  
Group discussions [2 groups, ca. 15 per group] on measures and steps forward for:  
1. Nordic-level information sharing (internal), Attic/3rd floor  
   Moderators: Kristin Lund and Julie Marie Hansen  
2. Outreach and promotion of NWM network (external), Hljóðberg assembly hall  
   Moderators: Karin Landgren and Camilla Riesenfeld

11:45 Groups convene in plenary to share decisions and outcomes per group

12:30 Lunch, restaurant, 1st floor  
  Moderator: Gréta Gunnarsdóttir, Rauða herbergið meeting room, 3rd floor  
- Working lunch of Contact Group.  
  Moderator: Auðbjörg Halldórsdóttir, Hvíta herbergið meeting room, 3rd floor

13:30 Session 4. Nordic NWM cooperation and activities in 2017-18  
Moderator: Anine Hagemann  
Presentations and discussion in plenary [45 min.]:  
- Kirsi Joenpolvi: Updates and next steps of the UN mediation work  
- Marita Sørheim-Rensvik: Policy processes/recommendations of the UNSCSR 1325 agenda on women, peace and security  
- Laura Mitchell: Ongoing regional initiatives around peace-building and mediation

14:15 Session 4. Group discussions 1  
on the revised NWM objectives and how they relate to concrete outcomes:  
Group discussion (World Café Style)  
Table 1. Objective 1, part 1: Strengthening participation of women
Moderator: Katarina Ammitzbøll and Johanna Poutanen, Hljóðberg Assembly Hall

Table 2. Objective 1, part 2: Linkages to relevant networks and organisations
Moderators: Lena Sundh and Camilla Riesenfeld, Arinstofa, 2nd floor

Table 3. Objective 2: Strengthening NWM Members
Moderators: Kirsi Joenpolvi and Anine Hageman, restaurant, 1st floor

14:45 Session 4 cont. Group discussions 2
15:15 Plenary: Feedback from group sessions
   Moderator: Anine Hageman

16:15 Re-cap of day 2 and recommendations for the next meeting
   Moderator: Kristjana Sigurbjörnsdóttir and Johanna Poutanen

17:00 Closing of the annual meeting

17:00 Meeting of NWM operational partners and contact group, Hljóðberg Assembly Hall

18:45 Departure by bus from Grand Hótel Reykjavík to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
19:00 Buffet dinner at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs
   Host: Mr. Stefán Haukur Jóhannesson, Permanent Secretary of State
### NWM network members

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lisbeth Pilegaard</td>
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<td>Mette Knudsen</td>
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<td>Katarina Ammitzbøll</td>
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<td>Pia Stjernvall</td>
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<td>Kirsi Joenpolvi</td>
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<td>Ingibjörg Sólún Gísladóttir</td>
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<td>Bjarney Friðriksdóttir</td>
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<td>Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir</td>
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<td>Gry Larsen</td>
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<td>Rita Sandberg</td>
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<td>Mariann Ruud Hagen</td>
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<td>Ingrid Dagestad</td>
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<td>Birgitta Holst Alani</td>
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<td>Margareta Wahlström</td>
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<td>Ann Dismorr</td>
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<td>Lena Sundh</td>
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## Advisory Group

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<td>Lykke Friis</td>
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## Contact group

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<tr>
<td>Stefan Kovacs</td>
<td>MFA, Denmark</td>
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<td>Janne Oksanen</td>
<td>MFA, Finland</td>
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<td>Auðbjörg Halldórsdóttir</td>
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<td>Rita Sandberg</td>
<td>MFA, Norway</td>
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<td>Snorri Matthiasson</td>
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<td>María Mjöll Jónsdóttir</td>
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<td>Ólöf Hrefna Kristjánsdóttir</td>
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## Operational partners

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<td>Isabel Bramsen</td>
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<td>Anine Hageman</td>
<td>CRIC, Denmark</td>
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<td>Johanna Poutanen</td>
<td>CMI, Finland</td>
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<td>Laura E. Mitchell</td>
<td>NOREF, Norway</td>
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<td>Julie Marie Hansen</td>
<td>PRIO, Norway</td>
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<td>Camilla Riesenfeld</td>
<td>FBA, Sweden</td>
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<td>Irma Erlingsdóttir</td>
<td>UNU-GEST, Iceland</td>
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<td>Kristjana Þ. Sigurbjórnslóttir</td>
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<td>Milica Minic</td>
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<td>Arnhildur Lilý Karlsdóttir</td>
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<td>Flora Tietgen</td>
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<td>Renata Naso</td>
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