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ENGLISH only



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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna presents its compliments to the Delegations of participating States to the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honour to convey Ireland's completed response to the questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for 2016. The response also includes voluntary information on Women, Peace and Security.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Delegations of participating States to the Forum for Security Cooperation (FSC) and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurance of its highest consideration.

ALL OSCE MISSIONS AND DELEGATIONS, VIENNA

Permanent Mission of Ireland, Vienna

05 May, 2016



IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO
Information Exchange On The Code Of Conduct On
Politico - Military Aspects Of Security

Section I: Inter-State elements

1. Account of measures to prevent and combat terrorism

1.1 To which agreements and arrangements (universal, regional, subregional and bilateral) related to preventing and combating terrorism is your State a party?

Ireland is party to the following international conventions related to terrorism:

- Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts committed on board Aircraft, done at Tokyo on 14 September 1963
- Convention for the suppression of the Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, done at the Hague on 16 December 1970
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 23 September 1971
- International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, done at New York on 14 December 1973
- European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, done at Strasbourg on 27 January 1977
- International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, done at New York on 17 December 1979
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, done at Vienna on 3 March 1980
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on 24 February 1988
- Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on 10 March 1988
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located against the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on 10 March 1988
- Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, done at Montreal on 1 March 1991
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, done at New York on 15 December 1997
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, done at New York on 9 December 1999

Moreover, under the terms of the Act, terrorist groups which commit terrorist offences in or outside the State are unlawful organisations for the purposes of the Offences against the State Acts 1939 - 1998 and the relevant provisions of those Acts, including the offences of membership and directing an unlawful organisation, will have application to such groups.

The Act enables funds which are being used, or which may be intended to be used, for the purpose of committing terrorist offences, including financing terrorism, to be frozen and ultimately made subject to a disposal order in favour of the State by way of court orders.

By amending the Criminal Justice Act 1994, the Act provides for a dedicated procedure whereby funds used in, or deriving from, a terrorism financing offence may also be subject to confiscation, restraint and forfeiture by way of a court order arising from proceedings for such an offence.

The Act also amends the Offences against the State Acts to strengthen existing provisions of that legislation directed to the property of unlawful organisations and to provide for a new offence of providing assistance to such organisations which will have application to terrorist groups.

1.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces and the police in preventing and combating terrorism in your State?

The primary agency with responsibility for law enforcement in Ireland, including counter terrorism, is the Garda Síochána (The Irish Police Force). This force also conducts the intelligence gathering function associated with the prevention and investigation of crime including terrorism. The Garda Síochána is operationally independent but is subject to the general law enforcement policies set by Government. The Garda Síochána are predominantly unarmed although they have developed some armed support units and a specialist emergency response unit.

The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP) was established as a joint civil/military office in the Department of Defence in 2001. The function of the OEP is to take the lead role in supporting emergency planning through the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning, which is chaired by the Minister for Defence. This includes ongoing co-ordination of the Emergency Planning of Government Departments and various agencies and exercising an oversight role in relation to peacetime planning, in order to ensure the best possible use of resources and compatibility between planning requirements. Responsibility for specific emergency planning and response functions remains with the relevant lead government departments and agencies.

The Defence Forces are tasked by Government with providing Aid to the Civil Power (ATCP) which, in practice means to assist An Garda Síochána when requested to do so. On a day to day basis the Defence Forces typically provide a range of Aid to the Civil Power supports, including the armed cash in transit escorts, pilot's and logistical support to the Garda Air support Unit and armed prisoner escorts to and from the Criminal Courts. The Defence Forces also have a number of specialist explosive ordnance disposal teams on standby on a 24/7 basis to respond to Garda requests to make safe and dispose of suspected improvised explosive devices, and to deal with other finds such as conventional munitions. The Defence

has stressed the distinction between money laundering and terrorist financing to ensure that financial institutions are aware of the different approaches that are needed to be taken to identify terrorist financing when applying preventive measures. The Central Bank has enhanced its communications around terrorist financing by publishing FAQs and additional information on terrorist financing and targeted financial sanctions relating to terrorism on the Central Bank website. A terrorist financing explained page has been published by the Central Bank that gives information about terrorist financing: <http://www.centralbank.ie/regulation/processes/anti-money-laundering/Pages/TerroristFinancingExplained.aspx>

The Central Bank is also actively engaged in national and international policy discussions concerning terrorist financing. It participates as a member of the national AML and International Sanctions steering committees. It is a member of the European Supervisory Authorities' (ESAs) AML committee that examines money laundering and terrorist financing supervisory and preventive measures across the EU. It has a representative on the ESAs' working group on the Joint Opinion on Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk in the Internal Market mandated to be provided by the ESAs under the 4th EU Money Laundering Directive. It has also been providing technical assistance at the working group on the EU's supranational risk assessment. The Central Bank is an active participant as part of the Irish delegation at the FATF and has inputted into terrorist financing related policy developments. The Central Bank also continues to provide technical input into EU and FATF questionnaires on CFT preventive measures being carried out in Ireland and provides technical assistance in respect of regulatory policy formulation at the national and international policy levels.

The Department of Finance briefs an informal grouping of private sector representative bodies on developments in the AML/CFT area. Other state entities attend for briefing purposes from time to time.

Ireland is currently conducting a National Risk Assessment (NRA) of money laundering and terrorist financing. Contributors to the NRA include law enforcement agencies.

Border controls:

Travel document security:

Container and supply chain security:

Security of radioactive sources:

Use of the Internet and other information networks for terrorist purposes:

Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) (Amendment) Act 2015 specifically provides that a terrorist-linked activity (as defined in the 2005 Act, as amended) may be committed wholly or partially by electronic means, such as over the Internet. This provision, which was inserted following consultation with the Irish Director of Public Prosecutions, is essentially for the avoidance of any legal doubt in this regard and reflects the prevalent use of modern technology in the context of terrorist activity.

The Strategy is accompanied by a plan of action which sets out the detailed measures and steps required to give it effect. The plan of action represents a roadmap for future work and, where appropriate, includes deadlines for the achievement of specified objectives and/or progress on specified measures. The plan currently comprises some 120 separate actions and the European Council reviews progress on its implementation every six months.

2. Stationing of armed forces on foreign territory

2.1 Provide information on stationing of your States armed forces on the territory of other participating States in accordance with freely negotiated agreements as well as in accordance with international law.

Ireland regularly deploys contingents of the Defence Forces abroad in the context of participation in international peacekeeping and peace enforcement under the auspices of the United Nations. Defence legislation provides for such deployment. Any stationing of Defence Forces personnel on the territory of another participating State must have Government approval. Participation in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, the European Defence Agency (EDA), and NATO PfP is consistent with Ireland's core values and is considered essential to the continued development of Ireland's ability to participate in the full range of UN-mandated missions as well as to the Defence Forces and the wider defence capability development, modernisation, and transformation processes. If the number of Defence Forces personnel to be deployed exceeds twelve (12), the approval of Dáil Éireann (Parliament) is also required.

3. Implementation of other international commitments related to the Code of Conduct

3.1 Provide information on how your State ensures that commitments in the field of arms control, disarmament and confidence and security building as an element of indivisible security are implemented in good faith.

Ireland advocates the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the prevention of further proliferation of nuclear weapons capability, a complete ban on the use of cluster munitions, greater controls on the trade in small arms and light weapons and the implementation and strengthening of treaties banning the development, use, stockpiling, production and transfer of chemical and biological weapons.

Disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons have historically been key foreign policy objectives for Ireland, which was the first State to both sign and ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Ireland has signed and ratified all relevant disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control treaties and agreements and actively participates in diplomatic negotiations and meetings of States parties and submits annual reports to the relevant bodies.

Furthermore, Ireland strongly supports the process of developing strict controls on arms and works actively to promote the objective of strengthening arms controls globally. Ireland is actively engaged in export

Section II: Intra-State elements

1. National planning and decision-making process

1.1 What is the national planning and decision-making process in determining/approving military posture and defence expenditures in your State?

The Constitution of Ireland provides that the right to raise and maintain military or armed forces is vested exclusively in the Oireachtas (both upper and lower Houses of Parliament). It also specifically prohibits the raising of any military forces other than those raised by the Oireachtas.

The Department of Defence was established by the Ministers and Secretaries act, 1924 and the act assigns to the department “the administration and business of the raising, training, organisation, maintenance, equipment, management, discipline, regulation and control according to law of the military defence forces”. The Act provides that the Minister is “Head” of the Department. The Minister is assisted in discharging his functions by the civil and military elements of the Department. The Secretary General is the “principal officer” of the Department and is also appointed by the Minister for Finance as the Accounting Officer for all defence expenditure in accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866. The authority, responsibility and accountability of the Secretary General are further elaborated in the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Public Service Management Act, 1997. The 1997 Act also requires the Secretary General to prepare a Strategy Statement for the Minister’s approval and an Annual Report on performance.

Public funds for defence purposes are provided through funds voted by the Dáil (Parliament) in the Defence Vote. Estimates for public service expenditure, which includes the Vote for Defence, are published annually by the Government Publications Office. In addition, the Secretary General of the Department of Defence is financially accountable to the Committee of Public Accounts of the Parliament for the expenditure from the Defence Vote of public monies on the Defence Forces. (This paragraph was moved from the next page however remains unchanged)

The Defence Acts 1954-2015 provide for the regulation of the Defence Forces. It provides that “it shall be lawful for the Government to raise, train, equip, arm, pay and maintain ‘Defence Forces to be called and known as Óglaigh na h Éireann or (in English) the Defence Forces”. This Legislation further provides that “under the direction of the President, and subject to the provisions of this act, the military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation to, Defence Forces, including the power to delegate command and authority, shall be exercisable by the Government, and, subject to such exceptions and limitations as the Government may from time to time determine, through and by the Minister” (the Minister referred to is the Minister for Defence).

The Defence Acts 1954 to 2015 provide the legislative basis for the Defence Forces (Óglaigh na hÉireann). The legislation provides that Defence Forces Headquarters (DFHQ) is the military element of the Department of Defence. The Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces heads DFHQ. As provided for in the Act the Minister has assigned certain statutory duties, in connection with the business of the Defence Forces, to the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff is directly accountable to the Minister for the performance of these

implementation of these plans. The Strategy Statement also considers Ireland's global and regional security cooperation. Defence outputs in support of global and regional security, dovetail with our foreign policy. The primacy of the United Nations continues to be a cornerstone of that policy. A commitment to collective security through the development of international organisations and regional co-operation is also a central element of that policy.

2. Existing structures and processes

2.1 What are the constitutionally established procedures for ensuring democratic political control of military, paramilitary and internal security forces, intelligence services and the police?

The Constitution of Ireland vests the right to raise and maintain military or armed forces exclusively in the Oireachtas and expressly prohibits the raising and maintenance of any other military or armed force for any purpose whatsoever.

The Department of Defence was established by the Ministers and Secretaries act, 1924 and the act assigns to the department "the administration and business of the raising, training, organisation, maintenance, equipment, management, discipline, regulation and control according to law of the military defence forces". The Act provides that the Minister is "Head" of the Department. The Minister is assisted in discharging his functions by the civil and military elements of the Department. The Secretary General is the "principal officer" of the Department and is also appointed by the Minister for Finance as the Accounting Officer for all defence expenditure in accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866. The authority, responsibility and accountability of the Secretary General are further elaborated in the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Public Service Management Act, 1997. The 1997 Act also requires the Secretary General to prepare a Strategy Statement for the Minister's approval and an Annual Report on performance.

Military Intelligence provides regular assessments, reports and briefings to the Chief of Staff and the Minister for Defence on any threats to the security of the State and the national interest from internal or external sources. The National Security Committee meets on a regular basis and receives security briefings. Its role is to ensure that the Taoiseach and Government are kept informed of high-level security and crisis issues and the State's response to them. It receives threat assessments from the Garda Commissioner and the Chief of Staff. The committee comprises the Secretaries General to the Government, and of the Departments of Justice and Equality, Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence, the Garda Commissioner and the Chief of Staff of the Defence forces.

Ireland has a national police service (the Garda Síochána) and the Defence Forces. There is no other paramilitary, internal security, intelligence or police forces in existence within the State outside these two bodies.

The Garda Síochána is established by legislation and its internal management is subject to regulations made by the Minister for Justice and Equality. The Garda Commissioner is financially accountable to the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament for the expenditure of State monies on the Garda Síochána. The

The Constitution of Ireland vests supreme command of the Defence Forces in the President and provides that the exercise of command shall be regulated by Law. The Defence Acts, 1954-2011 2015, provides that military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation to the Defence Forces including the power to delegate command and authority, shall be exercisable by the Government through and by the Minister for Defence.

Ireland has no paramilitary force.

Ireland has no internal security force.

2.3 What are the roles and missions of military, paramilitary and security forces, and how does your State control that such forces act solely within the constitutional framework?

The ‘**White Paper on Defence**’, which was published on 26 August 2015, sets out Ireland’s defence policy framework for the next decade. Based on a forward looking assessment of the security environment, the White Paper sets out the defence policy response to security challenges, , including the defence contribution to international peace and security. To ensure a flexible and adaptive response from Defence, the White Paper provides for regular reviews of defence requirements.

The roles of the Defence Forces are defined as follows:

- To provide for the military defence of the State from armed aggression;
- To participate in multi-national peace support, crisis management and humanitarian relief operations in accordance with Government direction and legislative provision;
- To aid the civil power – meaning in practice to assist, when requested, An Garda Síochána, who have primary responsibility for law and order, including the protection of the internal security of the State;
- To contribute to maritime security encompassing the delivery of a fishery protection service and the operation of the State’s Fishery Monitoring Centre, and in co-operation with other agencies with responsibilities in the maritime domain, to contribute to a shared common maritime operational picture;
- To participate in the Joint Taskforce on Drugs interdiction;
- To contribute to national resilience through the provision of specified defence aid to the civil authority (ATCA) supports to lead agencies in response to major emergencies, including cyber security emergencies, and in the maintenance of essential services, as set out in MOUs and SLAs agreed by the Department of Defence;
- To provide a Ministerial air transport service (MATS);
- To provide ceremonial services on behalf of Government;
- To provide a range of other supports to government departments and agencies in line with MOUs and SLAs agreed by the Department of Defence e.g. search and rescue and air ambulance services;

Since 2004 the Dignity Charter for the Defence Forces commits all ranks to supporting a service environment that encourages and supports the right to dignity at work. This charter works in conjunction with the Defence Forces Equality Policy (2007) which outline the Defence Forces commitment to promoting equality in all aspects of its work, both at home and while deployed in an overseas environment. A revised and updated Equality policy is now being prepared.

The establishment of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces pursuant to the Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Act 2004 has been of major significance and now provides a further option for complainants. The function of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces is to act as the ultimate point of appeal for, and administrative investigation into, complaints made by members (and former members) of the Defence Forces against another member (or former member) of the Defence Forces, or against a civil servant of the Department of Defence. The Ombudsman may investigate a complaint in respect of an action or decision, which may have adversely affected the complainant personally.

The Defence (Amendment) Act 2007 introduced into the Defence Forces a revised system of military justice, which is fully compatible with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights. Procedures have been put in place, which ensure that a person charged with an offence is fully aware of his/her rights in relation to summary investigations and is guaranteed trial by a fair and impartial tribunal for more serious offences or if the person charged so elects. A right of appeal is afforded in all cases.

4. Implementation of other political norms, principles, decisions and international humanitarian law

4.1 How does your State ensure that International Humanitarian Law and Law of War are made widely available, e.g., through military training programmes and regulations?

International Humanitarian law (the Law of Armed Conflict) is included in the syllabi of all career courses for officers and enlisted persons. Legal officers and officers responsible for training in the Law of Armed Conflict attend courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy. All personnel proceeding on active service overseas are briefed on the Law of Armed Conflict and relevant international human rights law. Courses on Human Rights are conducted on a regular basis at the Defence Forces Training Centre.

4.2 What has been done to ensure that armed forces personnel are aware of being individually accountable under national and international law for their actions?

The Irish Defence Forces have a workplace policy on human rights and a dignity charter designed to create awareness of the Defence Forces' role and obligations in relation to gender-based violence and human rights. Furthermore the Defence Forces ensures that its personnel deploying on active service to missions throughout the world receive detailed instruction in the areas of human rights afforded to minorities and women, cultural awareness issues and codes of conduct and behaviour both for the conduct of their (respective) missions and also their individual behaviour. The instruction is tailored in order to fit a mission

Specific provision is made for the rights of Defence Forces personnel to vote in national and local elections. Part X of General Routine Order 43 of 1955 provides for the implementation of the relevant Electoral Acts. The Defence Acts provides for “Prohibition of membership of political and secret societies”, and for “Disqualification for membership of a local authority”.

4.5 How does your State ensure that its defence policy and doctrine are consistent with international law? –

Defence Policy, which is articulated via the White Paper on Defence, forms the basis for Defence Forces Doctrine. Defence Forces Doctrine describes the fundamental principles by which our state forces guide their actions in support of National Objectives. In formulating its doctrine the Defence Forces seek, at all times, to ensure that it is consistent with international law, international norms and international standards.

ATTACHMENT – LIST OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS

Please indicate if your State is party to the following universal and regional legal instruments relevant to preventing and combating terrorism and related co-operation in criminal matters. If your State is not a party to a treaty, but considers becoming a party, kindly indicate at which stage is such consideration (e.g., undergoing inter-ministerial co-ordination, approved by government and sent to parliament, approved by parliament and awaiting enactment by president, etc.)

Name of the treaty	Party by: ratification P(R) , accession P(a) , succession P(s) , acceptance P(A) , approval P(AA) , or Not party	Law and date of ratification, accession, succession, acceptance, or approval
Universal legal instruments		
Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963)		The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 11 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1973.
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970)		The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 11 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1973.
Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971)		The criminal acts referred to in the Convention are established as offences by section 3 of the Air Navigation and Transport Act 1975.
Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Persons (1973)		The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 11 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005.

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)		The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 10 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005.
International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)		The criminal acts referred to in this Convention are established as offences by section 13 of the Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005. The Criminal Justice (Terrorist Offences) Act 2005, enacted on 8 March, 2005, enabled Ireland to ratify this Convention, which entered into force in Ireland on 30 June 2005.
International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005)		The preparation of enabling national legislation to ratify the Convention has commenced.
Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005)		
Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005)		
Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005)		

Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (1975) CETS No: 086		
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Extradition (1978) CETS No: 098		
European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (1959) CETS No: 030		
Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (1978) CETS No: 099		
Second Additional Protocol to the European Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (2001) CETS No: 182 European Convention on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (1972) CETS No: 073		
Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime (1990) CETS No: 141		
Convention on Cybercrime (2001) CETS No: 185		

Please list below any **other regional, subregional or bi-lateral agreements or arrangements** relevant to preventing and combating terrorism and related co-operation in criminal matters, to which your country is a party.

ANNEX II

INDICATIVE LIST OF ISSUES PERTAINING TO

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY TO BE PROVIDED IN THE

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT

I. Prevention

- 1. Measures to increase armed forces personnel understanding of the special needs and contributions of women in conflict.**
- **Inclusion of specific matters related to the protection of women's and girl's rights in the basic education of armed forces.**

The Defence Forces (DF) look at the 'special needs and contributions of women in Armed conflict' in a specific Gender training module employed by United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI). It is structured into the various courses run by the school namely, Human Rights, CIMIC and Overseas Pre-deployment training. Gender awareness lectures have now also been included in all Defence Forces career courses, suitable to the rank and experience of the students undergoing the course. This ensures that from the induction phase right through their Defence Forces career, a service member will receive gender training every time they progress in rank and also every time they deploy overseas. These briefings are delivered by the Defence Forces Gender Advisor or another qualified Gender Advisor.

- **Availability of specialised in-service training for armed forces personnel on the Protection of women's and girl's rights.**

The DF has a Gender Advisor (GENAD) at DFHQ level and a GENAD in each Brigade and Formation and every unit and branch has gender focal points to advise. Each Brigade conducts gender focal point training for their personnel on an on-going basis. The United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI) is the Irish Defence Forces Centre of Excellence for Human Rights Training and offers this course in conjunction with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR). The role of the UNTSI Staff is to facilitate and coordinate the delivery of instruction in conjunction with the Defence Forces Gender Advisor and to provide and maintain an administrative environment which will lead to an unencumbered learning environment. Following a recent extensive review of their training modules, UNTSI have now promoted Gender to one of their pillars of training, recognising the importance of gender in military operations and reflecting the high priority that the Defence Forces place on Gender.

Gender awareness is also incorporated into the DF Senior Command & Staff Course and our Junior Command & Staff course. Newly commissioned officers complete a module on their PSO Pl Commanders Course entitled Human Rights in PSO in which there are modules focussing on gender

The current Irish unit deployed in UNIFIL have recently reviewed and amended all Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure they include gender perspective and they have also reviewed and amended many of the reports used by the unit in order to improve gender analysis within the Area of Responsibility (AOR).

FINIRISH BATT is cognisant of the sensitivity of all information activities pertaining to the female population in FINIRISH BATT Area of Operations. This population is predominantly Shia Muslim with limited external visibility. Participation in any information gathering activity will be in consultation with Military Gender Focal Point Team, Sector West (SW) and Mission Gender Advisor, FHQ.

- **Inclusion of systematic gender analysis of areas at risk of conflicts, including gender disaggregated socio-economic indicators and power over resources and decision making.**

Systematic Gender Analysis is not yet complete among the local populations within Lebanon. The 51st Infantry Group continue to liaise with the Mission Gender Advisor to facilitate the inclusion of local gender perspectives in its planning and execution of mandated tasks. FINIRISH BATT team continues to target specific gender based projects and has assisted a local women's co-operative at Bint Jubayl, South Lebanon. Ireland has also funded the provision of power to 200 homes in Bayt Yahoun which will benefit the entire population of the village.

2. **Measures to address the violation of the rights of women and girls, in line with international standards.**
- **Number and percentage of military manuals, guidelines, national security policy frameworks, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures/protocols of national security forces that include measures to protect women's and girls' human rights.**

The Irish Defence Forces are heavily involved in the implementation of Ireland's National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and as such became only the second military to produce a Defence Forces Action Plan (DFAP) which includes measures to protect women's and girls' human rights. One of the objectives of the Defence Forces Action Plan is to;

"Review the Defence Forces code of Conduct for personnel deploying overseas to ensure complicity with UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 and to include effective mechanisms to prevent Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse"

The Defence Forces Action Plan tasks J1– Personnel Branch, in conjunction with the United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI), to review Defence Forces Codes of Conduct annually to ensure they are compliant with international best practice and recent policy documents.

II. Participation

1. Measures to increase the number of women in general and in decision-making positions in the armed forces and the ministry of defence.

– Number and percentage of women applying to be part of the military forces.

Over the past 10 years the percentage of female applicants for General Service Recruitment Competitions has been in the region of 10%. During the 2015 General Service Recruitment Competition, of the 4,067 candidates who participated, 421 were female. This represents 10.35% of the total.

During the same period, the overall percentage of female applicants for Cadetship Competitions has been in the region of 12%. In the 2015 Cadetship Competition, of the 1,709 applicants 218 were female. This represents 12.76%. During the 2014 Cadetship Competition, of the 1,828 applicants 334 were female. This represents 18.27%.

– Establishment of policies to attract female candidates (Targeted campaigns, review of accession tests, etc).

As an equal opportunities employer, advertising campaigns for the Defence Forces are, in general, gender neutral. However during recent recruitment and cadetship competitions, the Defence Forces engaged in targeted campaigns at females through social media, e.g. facebook, to stimulate interest in the military as a career for women.

Commencing with the 2014 General Service recruitment campaign, the Defence Forces specifically targeted females in schools across the country. The Gender, Equality and Diversity Officer wrote to every school in the country with more than 200 females and requested permission to visit these schools in order to brief female students about a career in the military. Over 400 schools and 3rd level institutions were contacted with approx. 150 visits to schools and 3rd level institutions conducted throughout the campaign. In 2015, over 500 schools and 3rd level institutions were contacted in this way resulting in approx. 125 visits. As part of the 2016 competitions the Defence Forces have engaged an outside marketing company to develop an advertising strategy specifically tailored to attract more females to participate in Defence Forces recruitment competitions. In addition changes have been made to the recruitment competition model in order to allow more time for females to prepare for the fitness test, previously identified as the greatest obstacle to females joining the Defence Forces. Female applicants to all competitions will be invited to an Information and Fitness Day where applicants will be provided with training programmes and advice on preparing for the fitness test. The main aim of this initiative is to alleviate any concerns and inhibitions female applicants may have about the fitness test and military life more generally.

In line with Civil Service policy, and as an equal opportunities employer, the Department of Defence is committed to ensuring that, irrespective of gender:

– Number and percentage of discrimination and sexual harassment complaints that are referred, investigated and acted upon.

Currently, there is one (1) case of alleged gender-based discrimination which is being investigated.

There are no recorded complaints regarding sexual harassment.

– Development of regular analysis of retention and promotion practices for men and women in the forces.

The Defence Forces engage in regular analysis of retention and promotion practices for men and women in the forces. A Working Group is currently examining Family Friendly initiatives which should aid in the retention of our personnel, particularly female personnel as they tend to be the primary carer in the family. However, these policies will be to the benefit of both sexes. Following on from the successful roll out of Family Friendly overseas appointments in 2015 the policy of allowing job sharing for certain appointments within the UNIFIL mission continues in 2016. Six (6) appointments have been identified (1 x Commandant, 1 x Captain, 1 x Private, 1 x Corporal, 1 x Sergeant, 1 x Company Sergeant) and advertised along with the regular appointments for that unit.

2. Measures to increase the number of women in peacekeeping forces.

– Number and percentage of women in peacekeeping forces disaggregated by rank.

The number of personnel participating in overseas peacekeeping missions on 31 Jan 2016 was 426. Of these 18 or 5.23% were female.

Within the 133 Officers serving overseas, 7 or 5.26% are female. Of the 293 enlisted ranks overseas 11 were female which represents 3.75%.

– Number and percentage of international missions where gender advisors were appointed.

Since May 2012 the Defence Forces have deployed a gender advisor to UNIFIL and UNDOF with every major troop rotation. This appointment comes under the remit of the Chief of Staff of the Irish Infantry Group.

– Number and percentage of participating State's international missions that address specific issues affecting women and girls in their terms of reference and the mission reports.

Specifics detailing Numbers and percentages are unknown; however the Defence Forces are aware of its obligations to all international mission instructions pursuant to UNSCR 1325.