

FOREWORD

The launch of Canada's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in November 2017, marked the beginning of an ambitious new feminist approach by the Government of Canada to peace and stability. The full breadth of the Canadian government is united in the realization that gender equality serves as a foundation for more peaceful and secure nations and communities. Consequently, the government has increased available funding, launched multiple new initiatives, increasingly worked with civil society, and called upon Canadian officials at home and abroad to mobilize support for women as active agents of peace. Canada's ambitions for change are bold, but are coupled with the understanding that lasting change takes time. The government is committed to meeting its targets and investing where necessary to deliver on the objectives outlined in its second National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (Action Plan). While its most critical behaviour-changing results have yet to be realized, this report details some of the many early results and activities already under way.

Over the last year, Canada launched the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations to increase the number of women peacekeepers globally and make their work environment safer, more inclusive, and ultimately more effective. Canada also launched, with the United Kingdom and Bangladesh, the WPS Chief of Defence Staff Network to drive

transformative cultural and institutional change within national armed forces. During Canada's 2018 G7 presidency, the government sought to advance gender equality throughout its many lines of effort. It mobilized G7 states behind a G7 Summit announcement, which committed close to \$3.8 billion to increase educational opportunities for women and girls in fragile, crisis and conflict situations. The G7 WPS Partnerships Initiative, launched jointly by G7 members and eight partnership countries, further advances gender equality and women's rights in fragile and conflict-affected states; Canada is pleased to partner with Côte d'Ivoire on this important effort.

Canada has committed to a gender-responsive humanitarian approach to deliver programming that meets the needs of women and girls, which includes sexual and reproductive health services. In places like Bangladesh and Iraq, Canada increased support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including psychosocial services and safe spaces for women. Canada initiated the G7 Whistler declarations on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Action and on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in International Assistance, which were adopted by the G7 in June 2018. The government's leadership in addressing gender equality in humanitarian action will be further demonstrated by Canada taking the lead on the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies in 2019.

Just prior to tabling this report, Canada hosted with the EU a Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting to champion women's leadership on peace and security at the highest level. At this meeting, Canada announced the intention to appoint a WPS Ambassador to advise ministers on effective implementation of Canada's National Action Plan and advance WPS globally. To mark the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2020, Canada also announced that it will co-chair with Uruguay the global WPS Focal Points Network. This represents a unique opportunity