



No.	Date of receipt	Question	Draft answer
1.	12-05-2016	<p>Can you explain the following criterion: at least 25% of the consortium's annual income derives from sources other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions.</p>	<p>The purpose of this criterion is to ensure that organisations receiving a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs retain a certain degree of financial independence.</p> <p>The lead party must demonstrate that, as of 1 January 2016, at least 25% of the consortium's annual income derives from sources other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions. Grants awarded under Women, Peace and Security 2016-2019 will not exceed 75% of the consortium's total annual income.</p> <p>This criterion applies to the consortium as a whole. This means that if one organisation derives less than 25% of its annual income from sources other than Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributions, this may be offset by the co-applicants in the consortium. Funds which are derived directly or indirectly from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (e.g. a grant or contribution from a Dutch embassy) do not count towards the applicant's own income, but do count towards its total annual income.</p>
2.	12-05-2016	<p>How will you assess proposals submitted by organisations that have only recently signed the National Action Plan (NAP) for Women, Peace and Security 2016-2019?</p> <p>Organisations responding to the call for proposals for Women, Peace and Security grants do not need to have a track record. Nor is a track record required for signing the NAP. The NAP was open for signing until 15 May, while the call for proposals was published on 12 May. This means that organisations with no track record in the area of women, peace and security can submit a proposal.</p>	<p>These proposals will be assessed on the basis of the same criteria as all the proposals. They are, however, unlikely to meet the threshold criteria. Should a proposal from an organisation with no track record nevertheless pass the threshold check, the programme may yet be rejected if it does not sufficiently meet the programme criteria. The quality of the proposed programme is of primary importance.</p> <p>In addition, proposals will be drawn up and submitted by consortia. Organisations will always consider the solidity of a potential partner's track record before forming a consortium.</p>

3.	12-05-2016	Why can an organisation focused on Egypt not submit a proposal?	<p>During negotiations on the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2016-2019, the signatories jointly decided that the NAP would concentrate on eight focus countries. Egypt was not selected as a focus country for the third NAP and is therefore not included in the call for proposals.</p> <p>That does not mean, however, that there are no opportunities in Egypt for civil society organisations to work with the embassy in the area of women, peace and security. Possibilities for funding include the Accountability Fund and the Human Rights Fund, which the embassy can use to strategically finance CSOs.</p>
4.	12-05-2016	When will the English translation of the call for proposals for Women, Peace and Security grants and the attached model application form be published online?	Wednesday 25 May 2016
5.	12-05-2016	Will the grant framework and model application form be translated into Spanish and French?	Since proposals can only be submitted in Dutch and English, the grant framework and model application form are only available in Dutch and English.
6	12-05-2016	<p>What is the role of the country groups and to what extent are the country groups separate from the call for proposals?</p> <p>In addition, are the gender analysis and the country strategy that are to be developed in the country group, separate from the call for proposals?</p>	The country groups do not have a formal role in the allocation of the grant. The country groups have been established with the aim of promoting cooperation and synergy between the various organisations. The country groups should therefore develop a gender analysis and country strategy. If desired, the consortium can include the country group in making the gender-specific contextual, actor and conflict analyses. The consortium must explain how it intends to work with the National Action Plan country group in the partnership agreement.
7.	12-05-2016	How can we submit one proposal per focus country? Are we supposed to work with the whole country group on one proposal?	A consortium must consist of one lead organisation and at least two co-applicants. It is up to the organisations themselves to decide how many will work on the proposal and what the composition of the consortium will be.
8.	12-05-2016	What will be the composition of the assessment and advisory committee, and how will the committee members be selected?	The assessment committee will be composed of two independent external advisers and two policy officers from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Financial and Economic Affairs Department will also perform part of the assessment. The committee will operate independently of the Taskforce for Women's Rights and Gender Equality. It will advise the director of the Social Development Department (DSO) on the outcome of its assessment. The director will decide on the selection

			of proposals for grant funding.
9.	12-05-2016	Why is less funding available for South Sudan and Yemen?	Under the second NAP, progress with the implementation of programmes in South Sudan and Yemen was slower than in other countries.
10.	12-05-2016	Will thematic groups also be established in addition to country groups?	Yes, scope will be provided for establishing thematic groups as well, but this process will take place separately from the call for proposals.
11.	12-05-2016	Could the deadline for submitting proposals be extended by one month?	This is not possible because programmes that are awarded a grant must start their activities on 1 November 2016. This means that the assessment of the proposals must be concluded before then.
12.	12-05-2016	Could you give more information about the content of the Theory of Change (TOC)?	A Theory of Change explicitly sets out the vision, ambition and aims with regard to the changes to be achieved. The Theory of Change should in any case include gender-sensitive contextual, actor and conflict analyses, clear and explicit assumptions and clear outcome indicators, and describe the relationship between the proposed programme and the National Action Plan. The Theory of Change will be assessed and the elements mentioned above will have to be of good quality. The policy framework explains the elements that the TOC, as a minimum, must include as well as the criteria on which it will be assessed. These criteria are also listed in the model application form.
13.	12-05-2016	Does the focus on complementarity also mean that an addition to or extension of existing programmes is seen as complementarity?	That is correct.
14.	12-05-2016	Is funding also available for smaller organisations?	<p>Various actors and types of organisations have their own role to play in the NAP partnership, each based on their perspective and added value.</p> <p>In accordance with the policy framework, each organisation can only apply once as lead applicant and once as co-applicant, or twice as co-applicant. This leaves room for different types of organisations to apply. Large and small organisations can equally fulfil the role of lead applicant or co-applicant, each based on their own expertise.</p> <p>Organisations from the South or surrounding region can also be co-applicants; this may promote sustainable impact and local ownership.</p> <p>In addition, funding was available from the Pilot Fund for innovative small programs that are not tied to the eight countries designated in the NAP. This fund will be evaluated this year and a decision will then be made.</p>

15.	12-05-2016	How should relationships of power within the alliance and competition between civil society organisations and signatories of the NAP be dealt with?	Every proposal must include a partnership agreement, signed by all the applicants within the consortium and clearly describing the roles of each organisation, their own specialism and complementarity within the consortium. It should also discuss internal power differences and explain how they will be addressed in an inclusive manner and how decisions will be taken jointly on the basis of equality.
16.	09-06-2016	With regard to section 2.5 (page 5) of the policy framework and threshold criterion D.2, do all Dutch co-applicants have to be signatories to the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security or does this criterion only apply to the lead applicant (in accordance with the threshold criteria)? If so, does the date of 15 May 2016 on which the organisation is a signatory also apply only to the Dutch co-applicant?	Co-applicants must be either signatories to the National Action Plan or NGOs from the target country or surrounding region; criterium D2 will be aligned with paragraph 2.5 by means of an amendment to the policy rules for Women, Peace and Security 2016-2020. The deadline for Dutch co-applicants to sign the NAP was 15 May 2016 for lead applicants and co-applicants. No exceptions are possible.
17.	09-06-2016	Is it correct that we have to provide a detailed answer to all the questions raised in P1-P11, and that we have to put each answer immediately below each question in the format provided? If so, may these questions be answered by referring to the pages and paragraphs in appendix 1.11 and 1.12 (TOC and programme proposal)?	Yes, all the questions in P1-P11 need to be answered in detail in the application format shown. The questions may also be answered by referring to the detailed information in appendices 1.11 and 1.12, provided clear references are given in the application form to the relevant page numbers and paragraphs.
18.	09-06-2016	Do you have a model format for the programme proposal that must be attached to the application (e.g. stating the maximum number of pages)?	There is no model format for the programme proposal to be attached as appendix 1.12. However, questions P.1-11 can serve as a guide. These questions must all be answered. There is no page limit for the programme proposal, but in our experience a solid grant application need not be longer than 25 to 30 pages.
19.	09-06-2016	Under threshold criterion D.7, applicants are required to have a COCA or updated COCA, or PARTOS ISO-9001 certification. Could you clarify parts d) and e) of D.7? If an organisation that has a grant relationship with the Ministry of Foreign	An organisation that has a grant relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will have received a positive organisational check or COCA. If the COCA is older than four years, the organisation must fill in and submit the abridged COCA form (see appendix 3) together with the application. It is not sufficient to provide information only on what has changed. The forms to be used with regard to criterion D.7 are included in appendices 2 and

		<p>Affairs does not have a positive, valid COCA (because its COCA is older than four years) and is not PARTOS ISO-9001 certified, should it submit an abridged COCA update (indicating the changes made since the last positive COCA) or a full COCA (as implied in e))?</p> <p>With regard to this same criterion: reliable sources have told us that the Ministry will be replacing the current COCA with a new version of this assessment tool. Can you confirm this, and can applicants who no longer have a valid, positive COCA submit the COCA using the updated version? In case of the latter, could you make the new COCA form (widely) available?</p>	3. Other forms will not be available within the scope of this call for proposals.
20.	09-06-2016	The maximum budget per country under this call is intended for projects with a maximum duration of 38 months (1 November 2016 – 31 December 2019). In principle, are proposals with a substantially shorter duration (e.g. 24 months) also eligible for this maximum grant amount, or is the maximum amount proportionately lower?	Only proposals with activities carried out between 1 November 2016 and 31 December 2019 can qualify for the fund. This means that proposals with a substantially shorter duration do not qualify at all.
21.	09-06-2016	What is the position of the Ministry vis-à-vis implementation of programme activities in extremist-held areas? Would this be acceptable to the Ministry?	The Ministry does not finance activities aimed at organisations that are on the EU terrorist list. Activities supporting pacifist organisations or women’s rights organisations in unstable countries controlled by extremist leaders may be considered for a grant.
22.	09-06-2016	Would it be possible to apply for a two-year programme under this funding window (with the programme ending at the end of 2018)? If so, would it still be possible to request the maximum budget per country?	No. Only proposals with activities carried out between 1 November 2016 and 31 December 2019 can qualify for the fund. This means that proposals with a substantially shorter duration do not qualify at all.

23.	09-06-2016	Is there a page limit for the grant application, and in particular is there a page limit for section III of the grant application form?	There is no page limit for the grant application in general or for section III in particular, but in our experience a solid grant application need not be longer than 25 to 30 pages. We would advise that you take this length as your guide.
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