

# MARITIME SECURITY STRATEGIES FROM A GENDERED PERSPECTIVE: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED NATIONS SDG 5

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# Why is a gendered perspective of Maritime Security Strategies (MSS) important?

- MSS are instruments that can be used to comply with UN Sustainable Development Goal 5
  - **SDG 5.1 and 5.2**
    - Women and girls are the main victims of one of the threats to maritime security frequently identified by the MSS:
      - Illegal acts committed in the context of the irregular movement of people by sea, including the trafficking and smuggling of persons
  - **SDG5 C**
    - MSS define:
      - Means and actions to act against such threats
      - Composition and functioning of the bodies responsible for the design and coordination of the maritime security policy

# Research objective and methodology

- Making **proposals for incorporating or improving a gendered perspective** in MSS
- Using a **case study** based on a three-tiered approach
  - The 2013 Spanish Maritime Security Strategy and the 2014 European Union Maritime Security Strategy
  - The 2017 Spanish Security Strategy and the 2016 European Union Global Strategy
  - Other MSS within the European Union and other regional areas

# Key questions from a gendered perspective

- What is the general strategic approach and degree of alignment with the international framework?
- Does the strategy refer to situations or actions that are directly connected to the SDG 5.1, 5.2 and 5.C?
  - In what ways does the strategy address maritime security risks and challenges that particularly affect women and girls?
  - Does the strategy undertake gender-based violence?
- Is the strategy implemented, monitored and evaluated in a gender responsive manner?

Question Block 1	Spanish Maritime Security Strategy 2013	European Union Maritime Security Strategy 2014
<p><b>What is the general strategic approach?</b></p>	<p>Approach closer to national security than to human security            *No mention to the constitutional value of equality</p>	<p>Also a predominantly security-oriented approach            *The principle of gender equality <b>tacitly included</b> through reference to “EU's founding values”</p>
<p><b>What is the degree of alignment with the international framework?</b></p>	<p>References to the international framework, although pertinent, excessively generic and limited            *Only UNCLOS</p>	<p>Alignment with the international framework is stonger            *Wider, more intense and repeated several times in the text of the document</p>

**Findings: Both share a general human security approach, although alignment with the International Framework varies**

Question Block 2	Spanish Maritime Security Strategy 2013	European Union Maritime Security Strategy 2014
<p><b>Does the strategy refer to situations or actions that are directly connected to the SDG 5.1, 5.2 and 5.C?</b></p>	<p>Special risk of “minors and other vulnerable groups” in the frame of “seaborne irregular immigration and smuggling of migrants”</p>	<p>“Cross-border and organized crime, including trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants, and organised criminal networks facilitating illegal migration”</p>
	<p>Composition and functioning of the “National Maritime Security Council”</p>	<p>“Maritime security capacity-building activities with third countries and regional organizations” “Education and training”</p>

**Findings: Lack of a gendered perspective on issues connected with SDG 5.1, 5.2 and 5.C**

Question Block 3	Spanish National Maritime Security Strategy 2013	European Union Maritime Security Strategy 2014
<p><b>Is the strategy implemented, monitored and evaluated in a gender responsive manner?</b></p>	<p>At the moment, defective monitoring system for its implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No publication of the SNMSS strategic action plan</li> <li>- Scarce information available through the Annual National Security Report</li> </ul>	<p>Two action plans (2014 and 2018)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technical in nature</li> </ul> <p>Implementation Reports (2016 and 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gathered the information given by State Members</li> <li>- Rather complacent evaluation of actions carried out</li> </ul>

**Findings: Weak monitoring system and no explicit reference to gender in actions related to irregular immigration at sea**

# Underutilization of 2013 SNMSS and 2014 EUMSS as instruments for the development of the SDG5

Lack of gendered perspective in both texts hinders their transformative capacity

SNMSS: Lack of publicity of action plan

EUMSS: Implementation as a purely technical process

Limits the capacity to carry out adequate evaluation and monitoring

Restricts a diverse discussion and participation in the process

Excludes consequences on the individual, especially in terms of gender equality



# The 2017 Spanish Security Strategy - the 2016 Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy

- Both share a human security approach and strong alignment with the international framework
- The gender perspective:
  - Implicit in the SNSS
    - Principles and values from the Spanish Constitution
    - Reference to its plural and open society
  - Explicit in the GSEU:
    - Includes the intention of systematically mainstreaming human rights and gender issues across policy sectors and institutions
    - Development in text is vague, not habitual, and omits important themes

## Gender-sensitive Issues Connected with SDG 5.1, 5.2 and 5.C

### The 2017 Spanish National Security Strategy

“Irregular migration networks that make use of maritime routes”

- Efforts to protect the human rights of those “who are in the most vulnerable situations”
- No explicit employment of a gendered perspective but mentions actions in which it is included

### The 2016 EU Global Strategy

No reference to gender in relation to :

- “SDGs implementation”
- “Migration phenomenon”

Gender expressly mentioned:

- as one of the multiple dimensions of conflicts
- as a means to “more creative approaches to diplomacy”

# The 2017 SNSS and the 2016 EUGS are generally much more sensitive to gender issues than related MSS

Highlights the contradiction that a gendered perspective has not been extended to the scope of the maritime security policy

No short-term modification of the SNMSS and the EUMSS envisaged

The Spanish National Security Maritime Council has approved a new Action Plan in February 2019

The European Union put forth a revised action plan in June 2018

# Additional Maritime Security Strategies within the European Union and Other Regional Areas

2014 UK National Strategy for Maritime Security	State-centred and economic security approach No gendered perspective Slight human rights concern
2015 French National strategy for the security of maritime areas	State-centred security approach No gendered perspective Fundamental rights of persons placed in relation to migrants rescue and assistance operations
2005 US National Maritime Strategy	Strong military and economic approach No gendered perspective Mention to “humanitarian” efforts linked to the management of maritime mass migrations
2015 Indian Maritime Security Strategy	Strong military and economic approach No gendered perspective
2050 Africa’s Integrated Maritime Strategy	Human Security Approach A gendered perspective projected in different parts of the text

# The comparative global panorama

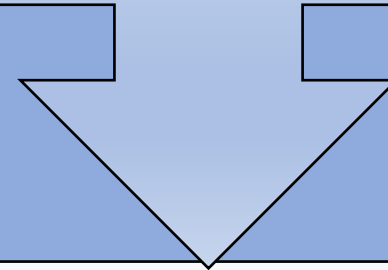
Maritime security strategies tend to sidestep gender considerations

- Exception: The 2050 AIM Strategy
  - Effectiveness reduced due to weak implementation

The Spanish and EU maritime strategies could inspire and generate a more gendered sensitive MSS international practice

# Conclusions

Maritime security strategies are instruments that can be used to comply with the SDG5



## Requirements:

<b>Respond to a human security approach</b>	<b>Incorporate appropriated alignment with the international framework</b>	<b>Include expressly a gender mainstreaming mandate</b>	<b>Implemented in a coherently way</b>
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