

Áine Hearns joined the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade in 1979 and is currently the Director of the Conflict Resolution Unit with responsibility for Irelands National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 (Women Peace & Security), Áine lead on the on the development of Ireland's first and third National Action Plans. The Unit is also involved in promoting peacebuilding and lesson sharing from the Northern Ireland Peace Process and peacebuilding. From 2014-2017 she was Ambassador of Ireland to Malawi and from 2009-14 Deputy Director of the Evaluation & Audit Unit. Prior to that Áine was Head of Mission at the Irish Embassy in Kampala, Uganda (2005-2007). While there she chaired the Partners for Good Governance group, made up of key bilateral donors to Uganda including the United

Nations. As Chair of this group she played a lead role in setting up the funding mechanism for the Juba Peace Initiative in 2006. Áine holds a Master's Degree in Development from Dublin City University.