Notes

1 These events have included an international IDS consultation workshop, and a MenEngage donor consultation workshop at Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), in June 2016; a Satellite panel at the 50th Anniversary Conference of IDS (on States, Markets and Society) in July 2016; and the International Conference of the Association for Women in Development (AWID) in September 2016.

2 Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Burma, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, the occupied Palestinian Territories, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, the United Kingdom, Vietnam and Zambia.

3 Girls Not Brides
www.facebook.com/GirlsNotBrides

4 Sexual orientation refers to ‘each person’s capacity for profound emotional, affection for and sexual attraction to, and intimate sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or more than one gender’ (Yogyakarta Principles, Preamble).

5 Gender identity and expression refers to ‘each person’s deeply felt, internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms’ (Yogyakarta Principles, Preamble).

6 These include; poverty, health, education, gender equality and women’s empowerment, economic growth and opportunity, safe and sustainable cities, as well as justice and accountability.
We regard universality not as necessarily meaning ‘universal’ solutions and blueprint policies; nor a focus just on so-called ‘developing countries or the global South’. Rather, we see development as universal, progressive change for all – without losing sight of people’s diverse local priorities and realities – which recognises that challenges of poverty and vulnerability; reducing inequalities; and building more sustainable, inclusive and secure futures for people and societies are matters for everyone, everywhere.

While social change has variously been conceptualised either in terms of multiple changes at the individual level resulting in aggregate societal changes or – conversely – in terms of structural social and economic ‘drivers’ impacting and changing individuals, more recent understanding of ‘complex adaptive systems’ sees more interactive dynamics, which allow for multiple systemic structures simultaneously and mutually shaping people, as well as vice versa (e.g. Walby, Armstrong and Strid 2012). Put more simply perhaps, we see social transformations neither (instrumentally) as the sum total of individuals changing, nor (deterministically) as the inevitable outcomes of broader structural forces on people, but as complex interactions between people and social forces/changes, between groups, systems and projects.

The Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN Women 2015) emphasises how little progress has been made on this agenda, but also notes with concern that this agenda is increasingly focused on ‘security’ at the expense of ‘peace’, with an emphasis on women as victims of violence rather than as agents of peace. It insists that attempts to ‘securitise’ issues and to use women as instruments in military strategy must be consistently discouraged. Tracking the ways in which this securitisation is operating and being contested is clearly a priority.

In Asia, we would look to India and potentially Pakistan (or other countries), engaging with long-term partners such as CHSJ and hopefully new partnerships with groups such as Rozan, in Pakistan, or others. In Africa, we are keen to build on past collaborations with RLP in Uganda, Sonke Gender Justice in South Africa, APHRC and MEGEN in Kenya, as well as new partnerships in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) or Zimbabwe. We are looking to establish new collaborations with potential new partners in the Middle East (e.g. in Egypt, Lebanon or Palestine) and/or in Latin America.

Likely networks and peers to engage at this level include particularly the Global MenEngage Alliance (MenEngage) and Just Associates (JASS), including linking with their regional hubs across men and women’s movements. We will also aim to develop new linkages and engagements with organisations and networks in the Women’s Peace Movement.