

**REFERENCES TO GENDER ISSUES IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE
MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS
General Debate Day 1, 29 March 2004**

Compiled by PeaceWomen Project, WILPF UN Office

GENERAL NOTES

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno opened the General Debate, followed by the statements of 20 members of the Special Committee. Of all the statements made, including the Under-Secretary-General's, 9 contained references to gender, and of those references, 6 were substantive.

SUBSTANTIVE MENTION OF GENDER, SPECIFICALLY

Ireland, on behalf of the European Union:

- "Our objective for this year's session has been to concentrate on some major priority areas which are operationally-focussed on the current surge in global peacekeeping. The main areas we have focused on in our preparation are Safety & Security, Cooperation between Regional Arrangements, Strengthening the UN's operational capabilities, Enhancing African Peacekeeping Capacity, Peace-building and Gender. Position papers on these primary areas have been prepared and are available to all Member States."

- "We call on all Member States to implement 1325 to increase the representation of women in peacekeeping operations and to provide gender expertise in the planning for and implementation of all multidimensional peacekeeping operations."

Gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations, as well as in the functions of the DPKO, is a priority issue for the European Union. In this regard, we welcome the work the DPKO Gender Advisor is taking forward to mainstream best practice on gender issues within missions. We endorse the Secretary-General's request that the post of Personnel Conduct Officer be created in each mission, so that cases of misconduct, including sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of women, may be more effectively monitored and acted upon. We also encourage greater transparency between DPKO and Troop Contributing Countries on cases of misconduct."

For the EU's Position Paper on Gender, visit:

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/pkwatch/Events/C34/EUC34GenderPaper.pdf>

Brazil, on behalf of the Rio Group: [copy of statement not available]

- Welcomed the Senior Gender Advisor in DPKO;
- Reminded the Committee that the Rio Group had supported the establishment of the position from the beginning of the discussions.

Australia, on behalf of the CANZ Group of Countries:

- "Of equal importance is the progress that has been achieved on gender issues particularly the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report on women, peace and security (S/2002/1154) and we look forward to continued progress. We also endorse the call by the Secretary-General for member states to increase the number of women deployed on peacekeeping operations."

Croatia:

- "I should like to especially mention that Croatia, in line with the UN recommendations to increase the participation of female staff in UN peacekeeping missions, is encouraging female candidates in the framework of its armed and civilian police forces to participate in UN led peacekeeping operations."

Namibia: [copy of statement not available]

- Noted that gender mainstreaming is vital for the success of peacekeeping operations;

- Emphasized the importance of a zero tolerance policy;
- Commended the Secretary-General's recommendations from his Study on Women, Peace and Security;
- Referred to...necessity of protecting "women, children and the elderly"

Kazakhstan:

"It is gratifying to note that the understanding of women's role in the establishment and maintenance of peace has increased significantly in recent years. We believe that their equal and full participation in peace processes at all levels of decision-making is an integral part of peacekeeping operations and post-conflict reconstruction.

...We fully endorse the recommendations for action in the report of the SG on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building since women in conflict areas are potential victims of serious violations of human rights.

We believe that in conflict-prone regions, the international community should be promoting much more vigorously policies to strengthen security, primarily human security, because minimum security standards represent a prerequisite of development."

PASSING MENTION OF GENDER

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Marie Guehenno:

"As the multidisciplinary approach to peacekeeping continues to grow, including in areas of DDR, mine action, child protection, human rights, **gender** and HIV/AIDS, it becomes even more compelling to make concerted efforts to make this cooperation [with peacekeeping partners] more effective."

An additional comment of interest:

"Our constant refrain must be partnership with agencies and NGOs that are close to affected populations...Our operations can be more effective and even safer by exchanging information effectively with our partners on the ground..."

Morocco, on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM):

"We welcome the Secretariat efforts to include a gender perspective in the different peacekeeping issues and to ensure the protection of children in conflicts and prevent their exploitation."

Switzerland:

"Switzerland supports the DPKO's efforts to take greater account of the gender issue in peacekeeping operations."

NO MENTION OF GENDER

None of the following countries made any reference to gender issues: Nigeria; Egypt; Japan; Russia; Malaysia; Republic of Korea; China; US; Algeria; Fiji; Belarus; and Uruguay.

SOME COMMON PRIORITY AREAS HIGHLIGHTED BY MEMBER STATES:

- Safety and security of peacekeeping personnel (the #1 priority issue for almost all the Members who spoke);
- Better and more systematic cooperation between peacekeeping actors;
 - Ensure earlier consultation between the Security Council, Secretariat and Troop-Contributing Countries, as mandated and outlined by SC Resolution 1353 (2001) on "strengthening cooperation with TCCs" (Egypt: The SC is still dictating to TCCs - this is "illogical");
 - Additional actors identified for improved and increased cooperation: between the SC Working Group on Peacekeeping and TCCs; between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations, or 'regional arrangements;"
- Use and success of integrated mission taskforces (IMTFs);
- Need for greater transparency between DPKO and TCCs on cases of misconduct, specifically, when the Secretariat takes disciplinary action of TCC personnel;
- The establishment of an ombudsperson post in each mission;
- Need for expanded and improved effort on public information campaigns on peacekeeping, in particular in communities hosting peacekeeping operations;
- Support to African peacekeeping actors in particular, regional and sub-regional peacekeeping actors in general;
- Training (Australia: pre-deployment training, including for mission leadership, is no less important than integrated mission planning):
 - Pre-deployment training emphasized as particularly important; and
 - Success of/welcome the standardized training module.

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MEETING OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS**
General Debate, Day 2, 30 March 2004
Compiled by UNIFEM

GENERAL NOTES

In the course of the second day of General Debate, 22 members of the Special Committee made statements. Ten of those statements contained references to gender, and of those references six were substantive.

Of particular note was the statement of the Permanent Mission of H.K. of Jordan to the United Nations, which specifically expressed appreciation to UNIFEM for its programmes in post-conflict situations, and which welcomed the memorandum of understanding that will soon be signed between UNIFEM and DPKO.

SUBSTANTIVE MENTION OF GENDER, SPECIFICALLY

Jordan: "Before I conclude, I would like to express my delegation's appreciation to UNIFEM for its programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of women in situations of armed conflict and its support to equal participation of women in peace-building activities. We have worked over the past few years to highlight gender and peacekeeping in our C34 meetings and we believe that the current enhanced coordination between DPKO and UNIFEM will help ensure that the priorities and needs of women in peacekeeping operations be addressed in a more systematic way. To that effect, we welcome the signing of an MOU between the two organs, one that would institutionalize this cooperation and coordination."

Turkey: "I would like to take this opportunity to stress upon the importance of women representation in the peacekeeping operations and confirm our readiness to continue to nominate, as we did in the past, female civilian police candidates. To date, our female civilian police officers served in the UN Missions of Kosovo, Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo."

Bangladesh: [copy of statement not available]

- Noted that gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment can contribute greatly to peacekeeping;
- Drew attention to its support for women's empowerment as part of its peacekeeping contributions in Liberia;
- And urged the Special Committee to include language, in its final report, from (1) the Agreed Conclusions of the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women on "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building" and (2) the resolution, adopted by the same session of the CSW, on "Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the UN system", which Bangladesh co-sponsored with the UK.
- Bangladesh will press for recommendations made in each of the above documents to be included in the final report of the Special Committee.

Norway: "Norway is pleased to note the positive steps being taken both by the DPKO and by the Security Council to give increased priority to gender equality. In this regard, we welcome the specific reference to women and children in the recently adopted Security Council resolution 1528 on Côte d'Ivoire. We greatly appreciate the work being done by the gender adviser in the DPKO. We look forward to the recruitment process being completed promptly. The gender adviser is key to ensuring that the gender dimension is included at the very beginning of the process when planning new operations. A single adviser is, however, only a first step. It will also be necessary to further strengthen — and upgrade — the position."

Chile: "Another important theme is the role of women in peacekeeping. Progress has been made since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325. Nevertheless, various reports

show that much still needs to be done to integrate women in to peace operations and to combat criminal violence against women in areas of conflict. In this context, my delegation affirms the increased importance for the members of peacekeeping missions to maintain exemplary conduct. Consequently, we encouraged the establishment of a standard code of conduct applicable to all peacekeeping missions and all personnel employed in peacekeeping operations.”

El Salvador: [copy of statement not available]

- Noted the importance of granting equal opportunities to men and women;
- Noted as well that it has begun training female officers in its armed forces (with the first graduating class in 2003);
- And expressed the hope that one day these female officers will be able to contribute to the UN’s work in maintaining peace throughout the world

PASSING MENTION OF GENDER

Uganda: “In conclusion, my delegation wishes once again to emphasize the multidimensional phenomenon of peacekeeping and a call for equally comprehensive approaches to address other substantive issues that I have not been able to talk about in this brief statement, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; **gender**; HIV/AIDS; etc.”

Nepal: [copy of statement not available]

- Views **gender mainstreaming** and policies on HIV/AIDS in a positive light, and is doing its best to follow UN guidelines on addressing these issues.

Indonesia: [statement distributed, but insufficient copies even for delegations present]

- Noted that peacekeepers must work with expert personnel in the field, including **gender experts**.

Senegal: [copy of statement not available]

- Noted the importance of increasing **women’s participation** and effective contribution to peacekeeping operations.

NO MENTION OF GENDER

None of the following countries made any specific reference to gender: Bulgaria, Côte d’Ivoire, India, Iran, South Africa, Pakistan, Singapore, Syria, Ukraine, Guatemala, Thailand, and Moldova.

Burundi, Malta, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the three observers who made statements to the Special Committee, made no specific references to gender.