

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations: 2011

Summary of Gender and Women, peace and security References

Content:

1. **2010: Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations A/64/19 (I.E. Outcome of 2010 C-34 (Gender))**
2. **2011: Implementation of the recommendations of the C-34 (Gender) A/65/680/Add.1**
3. **2011: Report of the Secretary-General (Gender) A/65/680**

2010: Outcome of C-34 (Gender) - Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations A/64/19
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123. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of ensuring full and effective implementation of all relevant Security Council resolutions, including 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009), on women and peace and security, and all relevant General Assembly resolutions, particularly 61/143, 63/155 and 64/137, on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The Special Committee appreciates the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop gender guidelines for military personnel in peacekeeping operations to facilitate the implementation of the aforementioned resolutions, and encourages the rapid dissemination of and effective compliance with these guidelines. The Special Committee notes the importance of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2010 on women and peace and recommendations with regard to the issue of sexual violence and the protection of security and looks forward to the global indicators to assist in the implementation of that resolution.

124. The Special Committee continues to underline the gravity of all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and stresses the importance of addressing, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of all victims of such acts. In this regard, the Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to continue the systematic inclusion in the written reports of the Secretary-General on situations of which the Security Council is seized, observations and women and girls.

125. The Special Committee acknowledges the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, including at the decision-making level. The Special Committee reiterates its concern at the low proportion of women among United Nations peacekeeping staff at Headquarters and in the field. In this regard, the Special Committee continues to urge the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States to take all measures to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of peacekeeping operations to promote gender equality and empowerment of women in peacekeeping operations. In particular, the Special Committee calls upon Member States to continue to nominate more women.

126. The Special Committee welcomes General Assembly resolution 63/311, in particular the provision on the comprehensive proposal for the creation of a composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women and its function to lead and coordinate United Nations system strategies, policies and actions on gender equality. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the contribution of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other United Nations entities in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

to work in a cooperative manner with them and the new composite entity, when it becomes functional, in order to guarantee the necessary coordination in the context of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through, inter alia, the promotion of the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions.

127. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a gender training strategy and requests its immediate finalization and expeditious implementation. The Special Committee calls for the continued implementation and promotion of gender perspectives in multidimensional peacekeeping activities, including through the work of a gender trainer in the headquarters and the deployment of gender advisers in the field. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to update training programmes for military, police and civilian peacekeeping personnel to ensure they include operational guidance to protect women and girls from sexual violence. In this regard, the Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with other United Nations actors in identifying best practices for peacekeeping personnel to protect women and girls from sexual violence.

128. The Special Committee appreciates the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict and acknowledges the importance of the mandate of the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General to provide leadership and coordination on addressing sexual violence in conflict. In this regard, the Special Committee stresses the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions to coordinate closely with the Special Representative in support of the mandate.

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48. The Special Committee notes the importance of the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2010 on women and peace and security and looks forward to the global indicators to assist in the implementation of that resolution. The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support contributed to the development of the global indicators for monitoring implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. The specific indicators related to peacekeeping are already in use.

49. The Special Committee requests that observations and recommendations with regard to the issue of sexual violence and the protection of women and girls continue to be included in written reports of the Secretary-General on situations of which the Security Council is seized. Prevention and protection from sexual violence is integral to the protection of civilians mandates. Work is ongoing at the field level on the provision of support to respond to sexual violence on a systematic basis. Peacekeeping operations contributed to the second report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) (A/65/592-S/2010/604). The Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support also contributed to the development of frameworks, policy and guidance.

50. The Special Committee continues to urge the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States to take all measures to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of peacekeeping operations to promote gender equality and empowerment of women in peacekeeping operations. The Department is committed to promoting gender balance and empowering women to participate in peace operations. Currently women comprise 2 per cent of military, 9 per cent of police and 30 per cent of civilian personnel in missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. There has been an increase in the number of women in senior positions, but the overall rate remains relatively low. At present, only three missions are led by women and three women serve as deputy special representatives.

The Departments continue outreach to women for senior-level appointments. Fifty per cent of the participants in the senior mission leadership course, held in Jordan in 2010, were women. A study carried out on promoting a positive work environment at Headquarters and in the field included initiatives on career and leadership development, mentoring for mid-level female staff and tailored managerial training. A note for programme case officers was also developed to help ensure that the civilian staff selection process advances gender balance. The current representation of women in United Nations police has increased from 7.8 per cent in August 2009; efforts continue in order to achieve a target of 20 per cent by 2014.

51. The Special Committee recognizes the contribution of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other United Nations entities in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work in a cooperative manner with them and the new composite entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women (see General Assembly resolution 63/311), when it becomes functional, in order to guarantee the necessary coordination in the context of promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through, inter alia, the promotion of the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions. The Department will continue its own gender mainstreaming efforts while working with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other United Nations partners on the promotion and implementation of Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security.

52. The Special Committee requests the immediate finalization of the gender training strategy and its expeditious implementation. The Special Committee encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to work with other United Nations actors in identifying best practices for peacekeeping personnel to protect women and girls from sexual violence. The gender training strategy of the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support has been finalized and disseminated to the field and Member States. Some aspects of the strategy are being implemented, while others would require financial support from Member States.

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56. The tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in October 2010 presented an opportunity to take stock on progress to date and identify priorities for future implementation in peacekeeping. A series of round-table discussions with key stakeholders, including troop- and police-contributing countries, and the launch of a global study to assess the impact of the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) on peacekeeping highlighted important lessons and recommendations for the future. Progress in the implementation of that resolution included the development of tools to guide the integration of a gender perspective into peacekeeping, facilitate women's participation in political processes and security sector institutions and support the adoption of laws to protect women's rights.

57. The recent establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) provided an important opportunity to advance the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and facilitate the goal of "delivering as one". The contributions of UN-Women will rely, among others, on the role of gender advisers in peacekeeping missions, who offer technical expertise to facilitate the integration of a gender perspective in the implementation of mission mandates.

Other References:

Recent reports described progress on the 2009 agenda for action to improve peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/64/866-S/2010/386) and on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466).

Women now comprise almost 10 per cent of the deployed police, up from 7 per cent in August 2009.

In addition, adequate conditions of service and living conditions will be needed for the successful recruitment to and retention of greater numbers of civilian staff, including women, in peacekeeping operations.

Efforts are under way to coordinate with donor countries to assist in equipping and training the units. In addition, targeted selection of specialists, enhanced coordination with Member States and the creation of specific job descriptions have helped United Nations police components to enhance their capacity to address sex- and gender-based violence