

**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.