

## 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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.