

**Agenda item 139 - Report of the Secretary-General on Special measures for  
protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/66/699) -  
Introduction by Ms. Ruth de Miranda, Chief, Human Resources Policy Services,  
OHRM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am pleased to be here today to introduce the Report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/66/699). The Report is submitted in compliance with resolution 57/306, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to maintain data on investigations into sexual exploitation and related offences.

The Report presents data collected by the Office of Human Resources Management on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse within the United Nations System from 1 January to 31 December 2011. The General Assembly is requested to take note of the Report.

Mr. Chairman,

The Report details information on the number and type of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse received in 2011 and the initiatives undertaken to strengthen preventative measures and enforce the United Nations' standards on conduct related to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Overall, the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse has decreased. For the year of 2011 it totalled 102, compared with 116 allegations reported in 2010. This represents a 12 percent reduction. As in previous years, the large majority of allegations involved personnel deployed in peacekeeping mission. Relating to this category of staff, 74 allegations were reported to OIOS in 2011, compared with 85 in 2010. This is the lowest number since 2006, when 357 allegations were reported.

The general decline in numbers may be attributed to measures undertaken to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, especially in respect of military personnel. It can be reasonably concluded that the combination of enhanced training/awareness raising measures and the implementation of various preventive measures such as, for instance, the institution of off-limit areas and curfews, have resulted in the reduction in numbers of reported allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The report also details information on initiatives undertaken to strengthen preventative measures and enforce United Nations' standards on conduct related to sexual exploitation and abuse. Informed by the results of the global review completed in June 2010, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse has taken a number of initiatives designed to provide support to field activities and underline the commitment of the IASC's principals to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Department of Field Support Conduct and Discipline Unit and Teams continue to develop and implement several measures to strengthen the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. These measures generally cover the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial action. Examples of such actions are the delivery of training on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of new personnel; the establishment of reporting mechanisms; enhancement of an advisory document providing step-by step guidance for conduct and discipline practitioners in the field; and the production of awareness-raising and public information materials.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the Secretary-General emphasizes his continued commitment to preventing the perpetration of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations staff and related personnel, in partnership with Member States.

I thank you for the opportunity to present this report to the Committee. Together with my colleagues in OHRM and DFS, I will be happy to take any questions that you or the Committee may have on this report. \_\_\_\_\_