

\* CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY\*

**Agenda Item 139 – Human Resources Management**

**Report of the Secretary-General on  
Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse  
(A/70/729)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

**Statement by  
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Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management**

**9 May 2016**

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

1. I have the honor to introduce the Secretary-General's report on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (A/70/729).
2. The Secretary-General remains deeply distressed and anguished over allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly against children, by United Nations personnel as well as by foreign military forces not under the command of the United Nations in the Central African Republic.
3. The report before you provides detailed information on the allegations received in 2015 and the status of the investigations into those allegations. 2015 saw an increase in the numbers of new allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, with a total of 99 new allegations reported for the United Nations system (69 against United Nations personnel in peace operations and 30 against personnel from other

UN system organizations). With respect to peacekeeping operations, the increase in allegations is primarily attributable to MINUSCA, although increases were also seen in MONUSCO and to a lesser extent, ONUCI and MINUSMA.

4. The report provides an update on the Secretariat's efforts to implement the more than forty measures set out in the last Special Measures report, and puts forward robust, new initiatives which build on existing efforts to further strengthen measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in the areas of prevention, transparency, accountability, risk management, and remedial action.

5. As indicated in last year's report on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, transparency has been strengthened by including in this year's report country-specific information regarding allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse for uniformed peacekeepers. As further measures of transparency, the Secretariat will regularly be making such country-specific information publicly available on the website of the Conduct and Discipline Unit of the Department of Field Support, and the Secretary-General will include in future reports country-specific information on all outstanding allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, including the status of referrals for criminal accountability and information on cases reported prior to 2015.

6. As regards remedial action in response to sexual exploitation and abuse, including the support and assistance to victims, the Secretary-General has established a trust fund to support specialized services required by victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Note Verbales were sent to all 193 Member States with a request to consider voluntary contributions for the Trust Fund. In addition, the Secretary-General is seeking the agreement of Member States to transfer payments withheld for substantiated sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations personnel to the trust fund. The Secretary-General is further asking Member States to consider establishing claims mechanisms for victims.

7. In the area of prevention, improvements have been made on vetting large numbers of uniformed personnel, to avoid re-engaging the services of individuals who have a history of prior misconduct while in service with the United Nations. Troop-contributing countries are also being requested to certify that pre-deployment training has been conducted and that nominated personnel have not engaged in previous misconduct while in UN service. In addition, a communications and public information strategy has been developed which will target key audiences including host communities, Member States and troop- and police-contributing countries. The e-learning programme on sexual exploitation and abuse is being finalized and is expected to be rolled out by the second quarter of 2016.

8. In the area of accountability, the report describes efforts to strengthen investigations, including developing uniform standards of investigation, building capacity within immediate response teams, and adopting a six-month timeline for concluding investigations into allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, which may be shortened further in urgent cases. Troop-contributing countries are being asked to expand the scope of investigative operations open to the United Nations pending the availability of a national investigation officer, and are being encouraged to enter into bilateral agreements with the Office of Internal Oversight Services to carry out investigations on their behalf or in conjunction with them. In addition, Member States are being requested to suspend payments in relation to the unit with which an implicated individual was deployed, or a corresponding replacement unit, where an investigation is not completed within one year of the date of notification and agree that, following consultation with the concerned Member State, all further deployments will be suspended pending notification of completion of the investigation.

9. To promote criminal accountability, Member States are being requested to assess existing national legislation to determine applicability to sex crimes

committed by nationals while in service with the United Nations and, if necessary, to assess whether new legislative action is required, including allowing nationality-based extraterritorial jurisdiction. Member States are being requested to establish on-site court martial proceedings for allegations which amount to sex crimes under national legislation in the case of military contingents. Member States are also being urged to agree to obtain DNA samples of members of their uniformed personnel who are alleged to have committed sexual exploitation and abuse.

10. In the area of risk management, mandatory risk mitigation measures will be implemented for missions considered to be at an increased risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. This may include non-fraternization policies and an absolute prohibition on sexual relationships between United Nations personnel and nationals of the Host State. For uniformed personnel, measures such as regular inspection of bases, strict enforcement of curfews and accessibility to the local population will be monitored and risks mitigated once identified.

11. The report also addresses the High Level External Independent Review Panel on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by International Peacekeeping Forces in the Central African Republic appointed by the Secretary-General in June 2015. The Panel found that the manner in which the United Nations responded to the allegations was seriously flawed. The CAR Panel made a number of recommendations to address the weaknesses it had identified. The report highlights 12 recommendations made by the CAR Panel. A comprehensive analysis of the recommendations is being conducted and, where possible, recommendations are being implemented. The Secretary-General has appointed, for a time-bound period, Ms. Jane Holl Lute as Special Coordinator to improve the United Nations response to sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Coordinator will support the Secretary-General in ensuring the effective and timely review and implementation of the CAR Panel's recommendations and other measures necessary to strengthen the United Nations' response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished delegates,

12. The Secretary-General has been clear that acts of sexual exploitation and abuse undermine the values of the United Nations and the principle that we must do no harm to those we are entrusted with protecting. We can never accept protectors preying on the vulnerable populations. The Secretary-General continues to demonstrate his commitment to taking strong measures to prevent these acts by United Nations personnel, ensure accountability and offer support to victims.

13. Thank you Mr. Chairman. My colleagues and I will be available to respond to any questions the Committee may have on the report.