UNiTE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 25 February 2008, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, launched his campaign UNITE to End Violence against Women, covering the period 2009–2010, with the overall objective to raise public awareness and increase the political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. The Secretary-General called on governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, artists, the media, the entire United Nations system, and individual women and men, to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

The campaign provides a collective platform in an unprecedented level of global mobilization to link a wide range of stakeholders’ initiatives to the Secretary-General’s efforts.

The attached Framework for Action provides an overall “umbrella” for activities to be undertaken by a multiplicity of stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels in the course of the multi-year campaign. It intends to provide guidance and ensure coherency of objectives and messaging.

The Framework for Action identifies five key outcomes as benchmarks for the campaign, to be achieved in all countries by 2015. These outcomes include:

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards.
- Adoption and implementation of multi-sectoral national plans of action that emphasize prevention and that are adequately resourced.
- Establishment of data collection and analysis systems, on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls.
- Establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused.
- Systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war, and the full implementation of related laws and policies.

The Framework also outlines the contribution of the United Nations system to the campaign and to the achievement of the five key outcomes through clearly defined outputs envisaged as part of a multi-year United Nations programme of activities until 2015. These activities would be expanded over time, in support of national implementation efforts. A communications plan will support the global advocacy effort of the Secretary-General and the United Nations system.

The contribution of all stakeholders is indispensable for the achievement of the campaign’s five key outcomes, and specific activities would need to be elaborated to supplement and expand this Framework for Action. A web page will be established to track campaign activities, initiatives and achievements, complementing the coordinated database on violence against women that is currently being established. In addition to reporting activities at the local level, the web page will highlight actions by governments, civil society, women’s organizations, young people, the private sector, artists, the media, individual women and men.

For more Information, see http://endviolence.un.org
The United Nations Secretary-General’s Campaign
"UNITE to End Violence Against Women"

INTRODUCTION

1. On 25 February 2006, at the opening of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon launched his campaign “UNITE to End Violence Against Women.” This campaign represents an historic opportunity to galvanize action on one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world.

2. Violence against women is an extreme manifestation of pervasive discrimination against women and girls. It occurs in all countries at all stages of development, and threatens the rights, health and well-being of women—rich and poor. Many women—in some countries as many as one in three—are beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in their lifetime. Women and girls are disproportionately affected in situations of conflict and other emergency situations, where they face high risk of sexual violence.

The impact of this and other forms of violence that women and girls suffer in war can persist and impede recovery many years after conflicts end. The majority of the hundreds of thousands of people trafficked each year are women and children, and most of them are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Violence against women can contribute to the spread of HIV and AIDS. Most victims suffer in silence, with little or no recourse to justice, care or support. The responsibility for action is incumbent on all governments.

3. Through his campaign, the Secretary-General calls on governments, civil society, the private sector, the media, and the entire United Nations system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

4. The campaign’s duration through 2015, tied to the deadline for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), affirms the importance of addressing violence against women and girls if programs to tackle poverty reduction and development, especially with respect to MDG-3 on women’s empowerment and gender equality. Recent developments that have contributed to the global momentum leading up to the launch of the Secretary-General’s campaign include: General Assembly resolutions adopted in 2000 and 2005 which focus on international efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, rape and other forms of sexual violence in all their manifestations, including in conflict and related situations, violence against children, women, workers, and trafficking in women and girls; Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict; the Secretary-General’s in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1, 2006), and the WHO Multi-country Study on Women’s Health and Development Violence against Women (2000).

5. In response, an increasing number of governments have adopted, or are in the process of adopting or enhancing national laws, policies and action plans that address violence against women and girls in a comprehensive way. Enforcement and implementation challenges, however, result in impunity for acts of violence perpetuated against women and girls, and inadequate support and access to services for victims of violence against women and girls. Interventions to prevent violence against women and girls also remain limited. Few national efforts are adequately resourced. Additional challenges such as the lack of coordination, limited expertise and capacities, and a dearth of evaluative knowledge on “what works” can be overcome through political leadership and will and dedicated resources.

6. United Nations entities are already collaborating to improve their effectiveness in ending violence against women. At the global level, the Inter-Agency Strategy on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the joint programming initiative of the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on violence against women, the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action), are examples of multi- entity initiatives to ensure a coherent and coordinated response to violence against women.

7. At the country level, the MDG Achievement Fund provides a strong incentive for the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to work more coherently in targeting gender equality and women’s empowerment and to translate commitments into action. This Fund, which operates through the Resident Coordinator system, has so far approved 13 proposals submitted by UNCTs under the thematic window “gender equality and women’s empowerment.” Seven UNCTs in Bangladesh, Colombia, Guatemala, Morocco, Nicaragua, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, are working on eliminating gender-based violence. An Asia-Pacific regional joint programme by UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNV and UNICEF entitled Partner for Prevention: Working with Boys and Men to Prevent Gender-Based Violence, was launched in July 2008 with UNDP as the managing agency. The programme is aligned to the Secretary-General’s campaign “UNITE to End Violence Against Women” and it provides a coordinated approach to reduce the incidence and prevalence of gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region through behavioral and attitudinal change among boys and men, and facilitating evidence-based policy recommendations.

KEY OBJECTIVES AND AREAS OF FOCUS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S CAMPAIGN

8. The campaign overall objective is to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and responding to all forms of violence against women and girls. With its goal of reducing the prevalence and eventually eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, the campaign aims to create a favourable and supportive environment for governments in partnership with civil society, experts, entities of the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to fulfill existing policy commitments. Efforts will be placed on supporting action where it matters most—country, and especially local and community levels. The campaign will also emphasize the importance of preventing and stopping violence against women through mass public-awareness-raising and social mobilization. It will promote outreach to strategic groups, in particular men, young people and faith-based organizations, as well as the human rights community, the media, the private sector, celebrities and other influential spokes persons and opinion makers, who all have a critical role to play in stopping violence against women and girls. Other prevention strategies, particularly those focusing on early childhood, also need to be actively studied and promoted. The campaign will focus on three key areas:

9. The campaign aspires to provide a collective platform to engage a wide range of partners in an unprecedented level of global mobilization which links the initiatives of partners to the Secretary-General’s efforts. As the campaign unfolds, all stakeholders and partners, including Member States and civil society networks, are invited to develop initiatives and activities, in consultation and collaboration with the United Nations system. The campaign will also be a catalyst for the development of regional inter-agency initiatives.

A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

10. The present Framework for Action provides an overview for the activities that would be developed and undertaken by all stakeholders in the course of the multi-year campaign. It is intended to provide guidance and ensure coherence of objectives and messaging as the campaign unfolds with the involvement of a multiplicity of stakeholders at global, regional or national levels. Within the Framework for Action:
tion, coordination and synergies will be sought with existing initiatives and campaigns of civil society and women’s networks related to ending violence against women and girls.

11. Five key outcomes: From existing global intergovernmental agreements, conventions and policy priorities on violence against women and girls, five key outcomes have been distilled as the benchmarks which the campaign aims to achieve by 2015. These are:

- Adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards.
- Adoption and implementation of multisectoral national plans of action that emphasize prevention and that are adequately resourced.
- Establishment of data collection and analysis systems, on the previous forms of violence against women and girls.
- Establishment of national and local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence against women and in supporting women and girls who have been abused.
- Systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war, and the full implementation of related laws and policies.

12. It is expected that by 2015, the campaign would have made a significant impact in increasing the number of countries that have established dedicated laws, action plans, and budgets and implemented programmes for the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, and established integrated services for abused women and girls at both the national and local levels. The campaign will also have made a significant contribution to awareness-raising and social mobilization to end all forms of violence against women and girls and would have engaged men and boys in prevention and response efforts.

13. Violence against women and girls is a multifaceted issue, requiring comprehensive and multisectoral responses across a wide range of areas of specialization. A number of United Nations entities and levels, including those that contribute to this campaign, each from a particular vantage point based on their mandates and comparative advantages.

14. The campaign constitutes a significant shift in the contribution and approach of the United Nations system to ending violence against women and girls, with a focus on sustained prioritization of the issue, including through advocacy and national capacity development. It will expand its role in the work to prevent and ultimately eliminate violence against women and girls at national, regional and global levels. The United Nations system will take on a direct role and make clear identifiable contributions towards the achievement of the five key outcomes of the campaign outlined in paragraph 11.

15. The Secretary-General is spearheading the accelerated efforts to address violence against women through this campaign. In particular, he is personally approaching world leaders to spur action through national campaigns; he is urging all States to review applicable laws, and to review them or enact new ones to ensure that violence against women is comprehensively addressed, including through criminalization, prevention measures, the provision of resources for implementation, support and assistance to victims, and mechanizes to monitor and evaluate implementation; he is calling on all States to enforce their laws to end impunity and to dedicate resources for implementation. The Secretary-General is forming a global Network of Men Leaders to assist in mobilizing men and boys to become involved in the struggle to end violence against women and girls. He is calling on young people, the private sector, and the media around the world to play their role, as indispensable partners in advancing this cause. Recognizing the critical efforts of the women’s movement, the Secretary-General will work hand in hand with women to end violence against women and girls.

16. The Secretary-General is galvanizing the United Nations system to provide stronger and more effective support to all stakeholders, at the local, national, regional and global levels, United Nations system activities will be guided by:

- A multi-year United Nations programme of activities until 2015 in support of national implementation efforts, with clearly defined outputs to be achieved. The table on page 7 summarizes three activities.
- A framework communications plan in support of the objectives of the campaign at both the global and regional/national levels, including initial communications opportunities and activities.

17. The United Nations system will strengthen its support for action on ending violence against women and girls both through the work of individual entities through their regular programmes, and through joint programming. Measures of success in this interlinked effort include the achievement by 2015 of:

- Sustained advocacy to promote universal ratification, without reservations, and implementation of leading human rights conventions and instruments (such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and follow-up to concluding resolutions of the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).
- Expanded support for national capacity development through inputs at the country level, as well as at regional and global levels, including technical and resource mobilization assistance for the development and implementation of laws, policies, national action plans and protocols and service delivery.
- Sustained condemnation of sexual violence in conflict situations, and advocacy around Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), supporting the "Stop Rape Now" initiative of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict; and intensifying efforts to increase funding to address sexual violence in conflict through humanitarian and post conflict funding mechanisms (e.g., Consolidated Appeal Processes, CERF’s etc).

18. The campaign’s decision-making is governed by a High-Level Steering Committee led by the Deputy Secretary-General and comprises of the principals of:
the following six entities: United Nations Secretariat/Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGW), United Nations Secretariat/Department of Public Information (DPI), United Nations Secretariat/Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the World Health Organization (WHO). A Working Group of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equity chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women is charged with developing the strategic and substantive elements of the campaign, in consultation with all members of the Network. DPI, in coordination with the United Nations Communications Group, provides lead communications support to the campaign. Key linkages will be made to other parts of the United Nations system, for example for specific advocacy events, and with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

**Resources and Budget for the United Nations System Components of the Campaign**

21. Immediate financial needs to roll out the campaign at the global level include: staff resources to support the planning and coordination of the campaign; funding for campaign materials, dissemination, and translation of multimedia and promotional products. Additional resources will be needed as regional and national components unfold.

22. United Nations entities have contributed staff time and a few entities are already contributing financially to campaign-related events. Some United Nations entities will contribute to the campaign through their own resources and activities at global, regional and country levels, but a fund-raising effort for the campaign, as a whole, will be required to ensure continuity and global leadership. In the interest of a cost-effective approach, all opportunities will be taken to support the Secretary-General’s campaign by building on events and activities that are already planned and resourced by individual United Nations entities.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability**

19. Given that one of the three key aims of the campaign is United Nations leadership by example, and in order to propel the United Nations system to truly own up to violence against women, a tracking system will be established to monitor and report on achievements and progress with regard to the expected outputs. A midterm and a final report on the United Nations system’s achievements, challenges and lessons learned will be produced and disseminated in 2011 and 2015, respectively.

20. A web-based feature will be established to collect and highlight information about initiatives, achievements and ongoing activities undertaken in connection with the campaign. This will complement the coordinated database on violence against women that has been established by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, and the compilation entitled “Inventory of United Nations system activities on violence against women”.

**Programme of United Nations Activities and Expected Outcomes and Outputs**

**Secretary-General’s Campaign Unite to End Violence against Women 2008-2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Nations–supported Activities and Benchmarks</th>
<th>OUTPUT</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of UNCTs providing advocacy, technical expertise, capacity-building, sharing of experience and financial support to activities, including for:</td>
<td>1.1 Governments and key stakeholders, including at local levels, have increased capacity and access to technical assistance for legislative review and reform.</td>
<td>Campaign Outcome 1: National legislation in place and enforcement enhanced to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls and end impunity, in line with international human rights standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative reviews and approvals.</td>
<td>1.2 All countries have reviewed existing legislation and identified gaps and areas to be strengthened.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development and dissemination of toolkits/manuals/guidelines/good practices on legislative frameworks.</td>
<td>1.3 Protocols and regulations for implementation of legislation in place for all relevant sectors at all levels, including health, police and justice.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of protocols and regulations for implementation.</td>
<td>1.4 Increased awareness of laws against violence against women. In cooperation with relevant women’s organizations and civil society groups, increased awareness among women and girls of their rights and the availability of services.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>United Nations–supported Activities and Benchmarks</strong></td>
<td><strong>OUTPUT</strong></td>
<td><strong>OUTCOME</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of NGOs providing support to National Plans of Action through advocacy, technical assistance, sharing of expertise and resource mobilization, including for:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Campaign Outcome 2:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1 All countries have placed a national assessment as the basis for planning and implementation of plans of action.</td>
<td></td>
<td>All countries have a multi-sectoral, comprehensive National Plan of Action on Violence Against Women and Girls which is being implemented, is adequately resourced and establishes clear accountabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Governments have increased capacity to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate adequately resourced plans of action with emphasis on prevention.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3 Protocols and regulations to ensure implementation are in place for all relevant sectors at all levels.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4 Wide range of stakeholders, including at local levels, have the capacity and opportunities to engage in development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of National Plans of Action.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of NGOs, working with the Regional Commissions, will:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1 All countries have undertaken a dedicated population-based survey or module on violence against women and girls.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Campaign Outcome 3:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2 All countries have integrated data collection on violence against women and girls into their administrative and routine reporting systems, including for health, police and justice.</td>
<td></td>
<td>All countries have in place data collection and analysis systems that support policies and programmes to end violence against women and girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.3 All countries, the international community and other actors commit to ensuring the gender disaggregation of existing data, where possible.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>United Nations–supported Activities and Benchmarks</strong></th>
<th><strong>OUTPUT</strong></th>
<th><strong>OUTCOME</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased number of NGOs providing support to prevention efforts, including through social mobilization and public awareness through:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Countries have undertaken national and local awareness-raising campaigns.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Campaign Outcome 4:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2 Countries have implemented effective national and local prevention strategies, including those directed at particular strategic groups (e.g., children, adolescent girls and boys, men, and traditional and faith-based groups).</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increased public awareness and social mobilization to prevent and end violence against women and girls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3 Increased awareness and action by key strategic actors:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Increased capacity and opportunities for women’s groups and networks to participate in social mobilization and awareness-raising and advocacy for other prevention strategies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.5 Enhanced media involvement and positive coverage.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCTs and Peace Support Operations in conflict-affected countries amplify and better coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence, including:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Recruitment of senior level Sexual Violence Coordinators (reporting to ROCs/HCs) to coordinate and manage the United Nations sexual violence response, including in relation to advocacy, prevention, protection and reintegration for survivors.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Support for the provision of appropriate health, psychosocial, rule of law and judicial services for survivors of sexual violence, including their capacity to collect/analyse data on sexual violence and to help survivors access compensation/assistance.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Training and deployment of peacekeepers and humanitarian workers to protect women and girls and to bolster the capacity of the host government/domestic security sector to respond to SGBV in the long term.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Active promotion of women’s representation in peace negotiating delegations and expert/observer roles.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Sexual violence during conflict is appropriately and consistently prosecuted as a war crime, a crime against humanity, a form of torture or a constituent act of genocide, including at the command level, and impunity for perpetrators is systematically addressed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUTPUTS**

5.1 The Security Council systematically addresses sexual violence in conflict, by applying the provisions of Resolution 1820 (2008), in its deliberations, resolutions, mandates, renewals and follow-up.

5.2 Senior Sexual Violence Coordinators are posted in all conflict and post-conflict situations, where Peace Support operations have a mandate to protect civilians and are provided with the necessary support and resources.

5.3 UN Peacekeepers and other international and national security personnel are explicitly mandated, trained and resourced to protect women and girls from sexual violence during and immediately after conflict, and UN mission staff systematically reference such activities in mission reports.

5.4 Comprehensive services for survivors of sexual violence are more widely available and accessible.

5.5 Sexual violence offenders are consistently brought before the law, thus eliminating impunity.

5.6 Increased number of women representatives participate in peace talks and peace negotiations.

**OUTCOME**

**Campaign Outcome 6:**

The widespread and systematic use of sexual violence as a tactic of war is condemned and systematically addressed.

---

This Framework for Action has been produced through the collaboration of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE).

For more information, please contact:

Secretariat of the Secretary-General’s Campaign

UNITE to End Violence Against Women

Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, OSAGI

United Nations
Two UN Plaza, 44th St, 12th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Email: osagi@un.org

Web: www.un.org/oscagi

Campaign website: http://endviolence.un.org