

General Assembly
Seventieth Session

9 May 2016

Fifth Committee
Second Resumed Session

Agenda item: 148
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the
United Nations peacekeeping operations:
Cross-cutting issues

Statement by Mr. Halvor Sætre
Minister Counsellor

Chair,

Our delegation welcomes the submission of the various reports relating to agenda item 148.

I would like to make the following observations:

Norway is appalled by the seemingly never-ending occurrence of new cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving UN personnel. We fear that we have only seen the tip of the iceberg. Sexual exploitation and abuse can ruin the victims' lives. It also undermines the credibility of the UN and detracts attention from the fact that the engagement of the UN, including its peacekeepers, is benefiting millions.

(Check against delivery)

The Report of an Independent Review on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by International Peacekeeping Forces in the Central African Republic lead by Marie Deschamps from December last year disclosed serious deficiencies in the way the UN handles these cases.

We expect that the UN seizes this opportunity to make major and effective changes. It is of utmost importance. We would also appreciate an indication about the timing for the report, which the General Assembly has requested from the Secretary-General on the Deschamps report.

We welcome Security Council Resolution 2272 and in particular the request that the Secretary-General replaces all units of troop-contributing countries when that country has not taken the necessary steps to investigate and hold perpetrators responsible. We are encouraged to see that the UN is taking steps in this direction to make its zero tolerance policy a zero tolerance reality.

Furthermore, we welcome Special Coordinator Jane Holl Lute's strong commitment to creating an environment that will measurably strengthen the UN's ability to prevent and respond when it comes to these cases and we look forward to the results of her work.

Norway strongly supports the Secretary-General's recent decision to establish a trust fund for victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and has decided to allocate one million NOK to the trust fund.

Thank you.