

# United Nations Nations Unies

**Remarks by Ms. Aruna Thanabalasingam,  
Officer in Charge to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources,  
Office of Human Resources  
Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance  
Agenda item 150 - Report of the Secretary-General  
Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/73/744)**

**06 May 2019**

Madame Chairman,  
Members of the Committee,

I have the honor to introduce the Secretary-General's report on measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/73/744).

As requested in General Assembly resolutions 72/312, 71/278 and 71/297, the report provides a comprehensive update of the previous reports of the Secretary-General, presented during the 71<sup>st</sup> and 72nd sessions of the General Assembly on the status of implementation of his strategy to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse in the United Nations. This report highlights the progress made across the UN common to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse by prioritizing the rights and dignity of victims, ending impunity, strengthening engagement with Member States and external partners and improving strategic communications to further strengthen the system-wide approach to sexual exploitation and abuse toward the implementation of the zero-tolerance policy.

Madame Chairman,

In the implementation of the strategy, the Secretary-General has prioritized measures and initiatives which can be executed under his own authority while placing the rights and dignity of victims at the center. For example, he has instituted the following accountability mechanisms to raise awareness among UN senior leadership of their individual responsibility to address this agenda through the submission of annual Action Plans, and Management letters submitted by Members of the CEB. Additionally, the launch of "Clear Check" in 2018 allows the United Nations system to manage the risk of rehiring perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse. The

recently established Civil Society Advisory Board serves as a tool to deepen the engagement of the Organization with perspectives from external experts.

This report also highlights the strengthened efforts of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to engage the humanitarian sector in alignment with the Secretary-General's strategy. The report also highlights the continued partnership with Member States through such initiatives as the Circle of Leadership on the prevention of and response to sexual exploitation and abuse in UN operations, the Voluntary Compact between Member States and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the commitment to eliminate sexual exploitation and abuse and "A4P" agenda.

Madame Chairman,

The prevention and appropriate response to sexual exploitation and abuse remains a priority for the United Nations system and although there is measurable improvement in harmonizing the approaches across the UN system, as outlined in the Strategy, dedicated effort and attention continue to be essential and we are grateful to Member States for their continued engagement on this agenda.

With this strategy, that entrenched a zero-tolerance policy, we aim at driving a cultural transformation across our complex system – made of more than 90,000 staff in 30 entities, and over 100,000 uniformed personnel and recognize that the agenda requires constant vigilance and coordination.

Thank you.