



10
years

OSRSG-SVC
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



Event to commemorate the

10-Year Anniversary of the
Establishment of the Mandate
on Sexual Violence in Conflict

30 October 2019,
ECOSOC Chamber,
UNHQ, New York

Concept Note



The graphic features a woman in a purple patterned dress carrying a baby on her back, shaking hands with a UN peacekeeper in a blue helmet. Text on the graphic includes: '10 years OSRSG-SVC OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT', 'You are invited to an Event to Commemorate the 10-Year Anniversary of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict', 'co-hosted by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Republic of South Africa', 'Wednesday, 30 October 2019 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.', 'ECOSOC Chamber UN Headquarters New York', 'RSVP by 24 Oct. CLICK HERE', and social media handles '@endrapeinwar'. A 'CLICK HERE' button with a downward arrow is also present.

Date & Time:

Wednesday 30 October 2019, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. EST

Location:

ECOSOC Chamber, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY

Co-hosted by:

The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations, President of the United Nations Security Council in October 2019¹. High-profile Master of Ceremony: Ms. Pamela Falk.

¹ Other Member State co-sponsors were identified: the Dominican Republic, France, Germany, and Japan.



Background:

In 2019, the United Nations marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict through the unanimous adoption of **Security Council resolution 1888 (2009)**. This resolution called for a **Special Representative** to provide coherent and strategic leadership to UN efforts to address sexual violence in conflict, while promoting cooperation and coordination of efforts among all relevant stakeholders, primarily through the interagency initiative **UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action)**. It further requested the entities comprising UN Action to support the work of the Special Representative through enhanced information sharing and efforts to avoid gaps and overlaps in the UN system-wide response at both headquarters and country levels.² Security Council resolution 1888 also established a **Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE)** to strengthen institutional safeguards against impunity for these crimes and to help build the capacity of national justice and security sectors that have been weakened by war. It further mandated the deployment of dedicated **Women’s Protection Advisers (WPAs)** to the field to enhance monitoring, reporting and response efforts, including dialogue with the parties to armed conflict to obtain concrete and time-bound protection commitments.

The intervening decade has seen a dramatic **paradigm and perspective shift** in the treatment of conflict-related sexual violence, which is now understood as a threat to both individual and collective security, and an impediment to the restoration of peace. This has lent a new sense of urgency and seriousness to efforts to confront a scourge that had been called “history’s greatest silence” and the “world’s least-condemned crime of war”. Today, the concept of conflict-related sexual violence, as a **war crime, crime against humanity and/or constituent act of genocide that cannot be amnestied** in the context of peace negotiations and transitional justice processes, has gained widespread acceptance. The **circle of stakeholders has expanded** considerably to embrace new and non-traditional actors, such as peace negotiators and mediators, military and police peacekeeping personnel, ceasefire monitors, sanctions experts, war crimes investigators, and religious and traditional leaders, working alongside experts in gender equality and women’s human rights. The effect has been to give security actors new responsibilities and victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence new avenues for accountability and action.

² The UN Action network currently consists of the following members: DPO, DPPA, IOM, OCHA, ODA, OHCHR, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC and WHO.



However, **continued vigilance is needed** to achieve full and effective implementation of legal obligations and political commitments to protect women, girls, men and boys at risk, to promote rights of victims and ensure comprehensive services reach survivors, and to hold perpetrators accountable. Despite the progress made, sexual violence persists in warzones around the world. Impunity remains the rule with justice the rare exception. While sexual violence may be the oldest crime of war, it is not yet a problem we can relegate to the past. The 2019 annual *Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*, covering the year 2018, spans 19 countries of ongoing concern. Moreover, the Annex to the report lists 49 State and non-State armed groups for committing or being responsible for patterns of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Security Council’s agenda (S/2019/280). Many of these groups have been repeatedly listed for several years as the violations continue unabated.

Conflict-related sexual violence is an issue that lays bare the horrors and human costs of war. Its persistence points to a wider set of continuing challenges including disrespect for international humanitarian and human rights law, the challenge of engaging non-State actors, the rise of violent extremism, increasing inequality, mass displacement, and the proliferation of arms. The continuously evolving nature of conflict requires the international community to identify innovative strategies not only to respond to sexual violence, but ultimately to prevent it. Having once been downplayed as “an inevitable byproduct of war” and mere “collateral damage”, it is now understood that sexual violence is a **preventable part of the repertoire of conflict, coercion, political repression, violent extremism, and trafficking**, and is **often deliberately employed as a tactic of war, torture and terrorism**. This event has therefore invited stakeholders to reflect on what more can be done, early and collectively, to **prevent and deter** these crimes.

Overall Aim:

The 10-year anniversary of the mandate provided a critical opportunity to **take stock of progress, challenges and change**, and to **set the stage for the next decade of concerted efforts** to – once and for all – consign conflict-related sexual violence to the annals of history. The commemoration aimed to **review the significant normative, institutional and operational impact** made over the past decade, to **deepen the understanding of the factors that have enabled or constrained progress**, and to **build consensus for an ambitious way forward**. It provided a chance to showcase where the mandate and its allies have made a difference and to reflect on ways to magnify this positive impact, as well as to draw attention to persistent gaps in implementation, enforcement and compliance in order to define priorities for the next decade.



The event also provided scope for considering linkages with broader women’s rights, peace, disarmament and development frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs/Agenda 2030) and the Arms Trade Treaty (2014), in order to address long-standing, structural **root causes** of conflict-related sexual violence.

A critical function of the mandate since its inception in 2009 has been to **amplify the voices of survivors** and **bridge their perspectives and recommendations to policy-making bodies** and the donor and diplomatic community. This event provided a platform for survivors and activists working on the frontlines to speak out, and for the international community to respond to their plight.

Objectives & Outcomes:

- Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence from several past and present conflicts³ had the **opportunity to testify at United Nations Headquarters** before an audience comprised of Member States, including members of the UN Security Council and donors, as well as civil society partners, UN officials, and the media, in the form of a “**Survivors’ Hearing**”. Attention was paid to ensuring age, gender and geographical balance, and to providing a platform to survivors who have not previously had the chance to make their voices heard.
- Leading **policy-makers, practitioners, activists and academics shared cutting-edge research and insights** on key aspects of this evolving agenda, such as overcoming stigma; psychosocial support and mental health care in the context of a survivor-centered approach; justice, accountability and reparations; the plight and rights of children born of wartime rape; sexual violence as a tactic of terrorism and political repression; and sexual violence in the context of human trafficking including to fund and fuel the operations of transnational criminal, armed and terrorist groups.
- Member States, including members of the UN Security Council and States with first-hand experience of addressing these issues in their territory, representatives of UN Regional Groups and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, youth delegates, UN entities and civil society representatives had the opportunity to make interventions

³ Survivors, service providers, and other professionals invited to speak at the hearing came from the following conflict and post-conflict countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic (CAR), Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guatemala, Guinea, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar (camps based in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh), Somalia, and South Sudan.



highlighting their contributions to this agenda, **sharing good practices and lessons learnt**, and **pledging renewed political and financial support to the next phase of the mandate**.

- **Model legislation**, commissioned by the Office of the SRSG-SVC, will be shared to encourage more States to enact progressive, comprehensive laws on sexual violence at the national level.
- In response to the testimonies of survivors, as well as the repeated demands for justice and redress heard by successive SRSGs over the past ten years, a **Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence/Victim Assistance Fund**, spearheaded by Nobel Laureates Dr. Denis Mukwege through the Mukwege Foundation and Ms. Nadia Murad through Nadia's Initiative, with support from the Office of the SRSG-SVC, was officially launched. This fund represents an important step towards implementing a survivor-centered, rights-based response to conflict-related sexual violence, in the context of an overall need to increase the volume and sustainability of resources.
- A **video message from religious leaders** representing a range of faiths was framed as well as a **short film depicting the plight of survivors** of conflict-related sexual violence.
- The event helped to shape, and give momentum to, a **forward-looking Agenda for Action**, which has set the stage for the coming decade.

Participants & Target Audience:

Full realization of the aims of Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) will require the strategic coordination of efforts by a range of informed policy-makers and implementing partners. The event brought together representatives from **Governments, the UN system, NGOs and academics** for a day of commemoration, reflection and renewed commitment. Participation at the level of Permanent Representative or Deputy Permanent Representative was encouraged.

The event coincided with the **week of the annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** chaired by the Republic of South Africa as President of the Security Council. Ministers, experts, civil society representatives and UN officials who were in New York for this Open Debate were encouraged to attend the anniversary commemoration. In particular, a **side-event meeting with Senior WPAs** enabled them to address questions from Security Council members and foster cross-mission learning.

To capture the attention of a wider audience and to highlight the perspectives of youth, on the eve of the official commemoration the Office of the SRSG-SVC launched an **art exhibition** in the



visitors' lobby of the UN Secretariat Building entitled “**Sexual Violence in Conflict: Youth Speak Out through the Arts**”. This exhibition featured paintings and sketches produced by secondary school students on the theme of conflict-related sexual violence and was on display **from 29 October until 31 December 2019**.

Media:

The event was **webcasted live** and archived on UNWeb TV and the website of the Office of the SRSG-SVC (www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict). It was **open to UN-accredited media**.

The event was also promoted through a **social media campaign** and participants were encouraged to cross-promote key messages, as well as to post about the event on their social media accounts using the hashtag **#EndRapeInWar** and tagging the SRSG's Office (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube: @endrapeinwar).

Videos:

- Event: 10-Year Anniversary of the Establishment of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict (1/2) <http://bit.ly/2ZV35qA>
- Event: 10-Year Anniversary of the Establishment of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2/2) <http://bit.ly/3b2gQKB>
- Survivor testimony - Central African Republic <http://bit.ly/3uzzxwP>
- Survivor testimony - South Sudan <http://bit.ly/2ZULFuk>
- Service provider testimony - Somalia <http://bit.ly/3dQqRME>
- Survivor testimony - Mali <https://bit.ly/3vZGfgn>
- Survivor testimony - Iraq <https://bit.ly/3lQ7DZC>
- Survivor testimony - DRC <https://bit.ly/31joJpb>
- Survivor testimony - Colombia <https://bit.ly/3slsK8s>



- Survivor testimony - Guatemala <https://bit.ly/3fdYFE2>
- Survivor testimony - Bosnia and Herzegovina <https://bit.ly/3w0qUfh>
- Religious Leaders Stand in Solidarity with Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence <http://bit.ly/3pY4rva>
- Sexual Violence in Conflict: Youth Speak Out Through the Arts <http://bit.ly/2PjLrLf>



PROGRAMME

30 October 2019 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

MORNING SESSION

Time	Session and Speakers
SESSION 1: OPENING REMARKS AND STATEMENTS	
10:00 a.m.	<i>Introduction to the event by the Moderator, Ms. Pamela Falk, U.N. Resident Correspondent, CBS News</i>
10:05 a.m.	<i>Opening Remarks by Ms. Pramila Patten, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i>
10:15 a.m.	<i>Statement by Ms. Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General</i>
10:25 a.m.	<i>Statement by H.E. Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa</i>
10:35 a.m.	<i>Statement by H.E. Ms. Cherith Norman Chalet, United States Representative for the United Nations Management and Reform</i>
10:40 a.m.	<i>Statement by H.E. Mr. James Roscoe, Head of Societies and Partnerships, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations</i>
10:45 a.m.	<i>Statement by H.E. Mr. Taeho Lee, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea</i>
SESSION 2: SURVIVORS HEARING PART 1	
11:05 a.m.	<i>Video testimony by a survivor from South Sudan</i>
11:10 a.m.	<i>Testimony by a survivor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
11:20 a.m.	<i>Testimony by a survivor from Iraq</i>
11:30 a.m.	<i>Testimony given on behalf of a survivor from Mali</i>
11:40 a.m.	<i>Video testimony by a survivor from the Central African Republic</i>

SESSION 3: LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL FUND FOR SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

11:55 a.m.	<i>Introductory Remarks by Ms. Pramila Patten, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i>
12:00 p.m.	<i>Statement by Ms. Nadia Murad, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate</i>
12:10 p.m.	<i>Statement by Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate</i>

SESSION 4: STATEMENTS BY UN MEMBER STATES

12:25 p.m.	<p><i>Statement by H.E. Ms. Michelle Müntefering, Minister of State of Germany</i></p> <p><i>Statement by H.E. Mr. Nicolas de Rivière, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations</i></p> <p><i>Statement by H.E. Mr. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations</i></p> <p><i>Statement by H.E. Mr. José Manuel Trullols, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations</i></p>
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PRESS STAKEOUT

1:00 p.m.	<p><i>Ms. Pramila Patten, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p> <p><i>H.E. Dr. Naledi Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Nadia Murad, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate</i></p>
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AFTERNOON SESSION

SESSION 5: REFLECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENDA

3:00 p.m.	<p><i>Statement by Ms. Margot Wallström, Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p> <p><i>Statement by Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, Former Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p> <p><i>Statement by Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Tonderai Chikuhwa, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p>
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SESSION 6: STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS FOR PRACTICAL CHANGE

3:30 p.m.	<p><i>Statement by H.E. Ms. Tone Skogen, Norwegian State Secretary of Defence</i></p> <p><i>Statement by Ms. Maxine Marcus, Director, Transitional Justice Clinic, Consultant for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Ms. Letitia Anderson, Team Leader Programmes and Communications, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p>
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SESSION 7: SURVIVORS HEARING PART 2

3:50 p.m.	<i>Statement by Dr. Chris Dolan, Director of Refugee Law Project</i>
3:55 p.m.	<i>Testimony by a survivor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
4:05 p.m.	<i>Testimony by a survivor/activist from Bosnia and Herzegovina</i>

SESSION 8: JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AS KEY ASPECTS OF PREVENTION

4:20 p.m.	<i>Testimony by a survivor from Colombia</i>
4:30 p.m.	<i>Testimony by a survivor from Guatemala</i>

<p>4:40 p.m.</p>	<p>Statement by Ms. Michelle Jarvis, Deputy Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on International Crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic</p> <p>Statement by Mr. Bal Ahmedou, Senior Judicial Expert in Guinea with the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict</p> <p>Video statement by Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court</p> <p>Facilitator: Ms. Kaoru Okuizumi, Team Leader, U.N. Team of Experts on the Rule Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</p>
<p>SESSION 9: PERSPECTIVES OF UN ACTION PARTNERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY</p>	
<p>4:50 p.m.</p>	<p>Statement by Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</p> <p>Statement by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women</p> <p>Statement by Mr. Rob Pulver, Chief of Justice and Corrections Service, Department of Peace Operations</p> <p>Statement by Ms. Simone Monasebian, Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)</p> <p>Statement by Ms. Mavic Cabrera Balleza, CEO of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders</p>

SESSION 10: PERSPECTIVES OF FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS

5:10 p.m.	<p><i>Video statement by a service provider from South Sudan</i></p> <p><i>Video statement by a service provider from Myanmar</i></p> <p><i>Facilitator: Ms. Emily Krasnor, Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies Specialist, Humanitarian Office, UNFPA</i></p>
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SESSION 11: PERSPECTIVES OF MEMBER STATES AND REGIONAL GROUPS

5:30 p.m.	<p><i>Statement by H.E. Ms. Mara Marinaki, Ambassador and Principal Advisor on Gender and on Women, Peace and Security, European Union</i></p>
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SESSION 12: CLOSING OF THE HEARING

5:55 p.m.	<p><i>Closing Remarks by Ms. Pramila Patten, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict</i></p>
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SESSION 2: OPENING REMARKS AND STATEMENTS



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Opening Remarks by Ms. Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) - *The Ten-Year Trajectory of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict: Progress, Challenges and Change*

Thank you, Pamela, for your words of introduction and for moderating today's event.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years is a short time in the history of warzone rape – *a crime as old as war itself*. Yet, the past ten years have seen more concerted action to combat this scourge than the rest of human history combined. Indeed, the past decade has ushered in a dramatic shift of *paradigm and perspective*. It has heralded a *new consciousness*, and a *new consensus*, that conflict-related sexual violence is a threat to international peace and security. What had long been dismissed as *inevitable* is now understood as *preventable*. What had once been deemed *collateral* or *cultural* is today condemned as *criminal*.

The understanding that sexual violence is often commanded, committed or condoned as a means of pursuing the military and ideological aims of armed groups has generated new strategic approaches to *fighting back*. It has prompted *political*, as well as *humanitarian*, solutions.

Milestones such as today's anniversary event provide critical opportunities to *step back from our daily work* and *take stock of progress, challenges and change*. Our reflections here today, on the factors that have enabled or constrained progress, will help us to chart ambitious ways forward. I am confident that this gathering will strengthen our strategic partnerships and amplify an array of vital voices on a subject that has been called "*history's greatest silence*". This conspiracy of silence has



served to shield the perpetrators and isolate the victims, from support systems, and *even from each other*.

A critical aspect of my mandate is therefore bridging the perspectives of survivors to policy-making bodies, and providing them with a platform to be heard, including by the donor and diplomatic community. At the heart of today's event is a **Survivors Hearing**: a chance to foster solidarity with the survivors and those working to support them on the frontlines. *Our greatest models of political courage are often those who have the least access to power and resources, and face the highest risks*. I would therefore like to profoundly thank the survivors who have joined us today and acknowledge the courage it takes to revisit moments of pain and trauma, so that the world can learn from their experience, expand their empathy, and heed their calls for change.

These survivors hail from different cultures and continents. They represent diverse profiles in terms of age, gender and ethnicity, reminding us that *sexual violence survivors are not a homogenous group*. They include male victims who may be overlooked due to stereotypical assumptions about masculine invulnerability; detainees sexually abused during interrogation in order to coerce confessions and destroy morale; rural women; indigenous women; human rights defenders and journalists; children born of wartime rape who are often shunned as “bad blood” or “children of the enemy”, placing them at heightened risk of abandonment, indigence and exploitation; forced wives and captives of terrorist and violent extremist groups, who are often viewed as *affiliates* rather than *victims*; refugees; and LGBTI individuals who face the risk of further *persecution*, and in some cases *prosecution*, for simply daring to report their case. A *survivor-centered, rights-based* response requires *tailored, contextual* solutions. It means giving *voice* and *choice* to survivors, restoring their agency, building their resilience, and enshrining their experience on the historical record.

Solidarity and *empathy* must lead to *action*. This is why today's event will also mark the **official launch of the new Global Fund for Survivors**. While I have visited many diverse, war-torn corners of the world, the survivors I have met with



consistently demand two things above all else: that the perpetrators be brought to justice; and that they be provided with material assistance to rebuild their *lives and livelihoods*. Reparations are what survivors want *most* yet receive *least*. The dawn of a new decade for this mandate is the time to deliver on these demands, and to put survivors first.

The progress we have made to date has been transformative in three key respects: namely, in terms of the *normative framework*, our *institutional capacity*, and *operational impact*.

Firstly, in terms of the **normative evolution**, 2008 saw the issue of sexual violence as a tactic of war elevated onto the agenda of the world's paramount peace and security body, the United Nations Security Council, through the unanimous adoption of resolution 1820. For the survivors, this signaled that their ordeal would be taken seriously not only as a violation of individual human rights, but also as a threat to collective security, an impediment to peacebuilding, and a crime of concern to the international community as a whole. This breakthrough policy framework dismantled the classical, gendered divide between “hard security” and so-called “soft issues”, and between political and private matters, by viewing war through the eyes of civilians *whose bodies had been part of the battlefield*. It served to directly engage peace and security stakeholders, including those responsible for imposing targeted sanctions on perpetrators; framing the mandates of peacekeeping missions; sponsoring peace talks; overseeing the implementation of ceasefire agreements; establishing Commissions of Inquiry and hybrid tribunals; and referring situations to the International Criminal Court. In short, it *gave security actors new responsibilities*, and *gave survivors and their advocates new avenues for accountability and action*.

This came against a backdrop of sexual violence having been omitted from peace agreements even in conflicts where it was a notorious feature of the fighting, as in **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sierra Leone and Liberia**. It was also absent from the mandates of peacekeeping missions in the 1990s, such as **UNAMIR in Rwanda**, where rape was used as a tool of the genocide,



and **UNPROFOR in the Balkans**, where sexual violence was widespread and systematic.

Resolution 1820 made it clear that as a war crime, crime against humanity and constituent act of genocide, sexual violence had to be addressed in transitional justice processes and excluded from the scope of amnesty provisions. The international community had accepted that a ceasefire could not be comprehensive if the gunfire stops, but the patterns of rape persist.

Secondly, in terms of **institutional arrangements**, the adoption of resolution 1888 in 2009 was a landmark development in this agenda, equipping the United Nations with new infrastructure to respond. This included the creation of my mandate, to provide coherent and strategic leadership to global efforts, including as Chair of the interagency coordination network, the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. I would like to pay tribute to the work of my predecessors in this role, Margot Wallström and Zainab Hawa Bangura, who I am delighted to have with us today. Their efforts were instrumental in laying the groundwork for translating *resolutions* into *solutions*. Security Council resolution 1888 also established a Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, to strengthen institutional safeguards against impunity at the national-level, and called for Women Protection Advisers to be deployed to the field to enhance our monitoring, reporting and response.

Subsequent resolutions have authorized specific monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements at country-level, as part of a system to deepen the evidence-base for action, and to increase the pressure on parties to comply with international norms by listing, or “*naming and shaming*”, those credibly suspected of abuse. They have emphasized the need for early warning and prevention, and to combat sexual violence employed as a tactic of terrorism, including in the context of human trafficking. Most recently, resolution 2467, adopted in April of this year calls for a holistic, survivor-centered approach to inform all prevention and response measures.



Turning to the question of **operational impact**: the United Nations system is today reaching and supporting thousands of survivors who had once been *invisible* and *inaccessible*. Peacekeepers are now systematically trained to detect, deter and respond to sexual violence as part of their operational readiness standards. Sexual violence offences have become an integral part of international criminal investigations, thanks to a growing cadre of legal specialists in this field. A dedicated court on sexual and gender-based violence was established in Liberia, and a similar court is due to be launched in South Sudan. Mobile courts and military tribunals have convicted senior officials of sexual violence in the DRC. Specific designation criteria on sexual violence have been included in the sanctions' regimes for the Central African Republic, the DRC, Libya, Somalia and South Sudan. In several affected settings, the operational arms of my mandate, the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and the UN Action network, are delivering concrete projects to support survivors.

As part of our **operational methodology**, which focuses on anchoring commitments at the national-level, my Office has signed **Joint Communiqués** to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence with almost all of the countries that fall within my remit. At the same time, we have begun to engage with **non-State armed groups** implicated in patterns of sexual violence, in contexts such as the **Central African Republic, Mali** and **South Sudan**. Enhanced scrutiny and pressure are needed to ensure that all parties cease these violations and prevent their recurrence. Despite this momentous progress, my field missions over the past two years have revealed persistent gaps in services and resources, which make it virtually impossible for *victims* to move forward as *survivors*.

In **Iraq**, I met Yezidi women and girls who had received neither medical nor psychosocial support several months after their release from ISIL captivity and sexual enslavement. In the **DRC**, I met women and girls afflicted by the *double tragedy of rape and rejection*, with no access to credit or economic opportunity, after being abandoned by their husbands and cast out of their homes. In the **Central African Republic**, survivors from remote villages described being forced to walk for several days to reach basic healthcare facilities in the aftermath of sexual assault.

I also vividly recall the words of a young **Nigerian** girl I met in Maiduguri who had been raped by a militant while collecting firewood outside of her camp. She expressed deep shame and frustration at being repeatedly questioned by a doctor before receiving treatment. “*Why did you leave the camp to collect firewood?*” he asked her. “*Why did you go out alone?*” “*Why did you not fight back harder and scream louder?*”. In the camps I visited in **Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh**, Rohingya women and girls recounted how they had been repeatedly questioned and pressured to share their stories of rape in graphic detail. Some had been interviewed so frequently they could no longer distinguish between humanitarian service providers, journalists, NGO workers and academic researchers – and despite all these interviews, justice and redress remain elusive.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Beyond the walls of our conference rooms, in towns and villages where *war has broken out* and *law has broken down*, sexual violence remains a cruel tactic of torture, terror and political repression used to signal that *nothing is sacred* and *no one is safe*. The response continues to be *painfully slow*. Impunity remains the *rule* and justice the *rare exception*. Services are scarce. And stigma is so intense that some survivors choose to remain with their captors and abusers, rather than having to return to their loved ones, look them in the eye, and feel the shame of their reproach. Security policy is still a male-dominated domain, despite clear and compelling evidence linking gender equality with peace. The international community has not yet adequately invested in tackling the *structural root causes that perpetuate this violence*, including militarization, arms proliferation, inequality, forced displacement, and expanding cycles of violence and revenge. Social cohesion, recovery and development depend on survivors being able to reintegrate into *the rhythms of daily life in the context of their community*. It means being able to resume *the quiet miracle of a normal life*, which so many of us take for granted.



So, let us seize this moment to *set the stage for a new decade of decisive action* to remove sexual violence from our daily headlines and relegate it – *once and for all* – to the annals of history. Let us live up to the founding promise of the UN Charter to “*save succeeding generations from the scourge of war*”, including from its most intimate, ancient and enduring atrocity, the scourge of wartime rape.

Thank you.

Remarks by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

It is an honor to join you in commemorating the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Sexual violence in conflict has been called history’s greatest silence: the least reported, the least condemned.

The creation of this mandate a decade ago reflected the UN’s commitment to highlight, prevent and seek justice for this crime. It also sent a clear message that the sexual violence that happens during times of upheaval and conflict is not the inevitable collateral of war, but a horrific violation of human rights and international law.

In the past decade, the United Nations has responded to the demands of victims and survivors by creating a global, normative framework and a set of institutional arrangements – including Security Council resolutions, investigative mechanisms, reporting frameworks and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-



General. Since Special Representative Patten took office in 2017, she has made a survivor-centered approach a main priority of her mandate.

The presence of many victims and survivors in this room today demonstrates her commitment to this approach. Pramila, I would like to salute your leadership and commitment to the women survivors of sexual violence in conflict.

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,

Over the past two years, together with Special Representative Patten and other Heads of UN entities, I have undertaken a series of solidarity missions with the African Union on Women, Peace and Security and Development. We have visited countries and regions where the challenges are especially acute, including Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, the Sahel, Afghanistan and, just this past week, the Horn of Africa, including Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Sudan.

Through my meetings with survivors in many of these countries, I heard directly the profound consequences of sexual violence. The cost to individuals, families, communities and the social fabric is horrifying. And sadly, it carries through to next generations. In my own country, Nigeria, I have witnessed the ways in which women and girls are targeted for abduction, forced marriage and sexual abuse by Boko Haram. This is not unique to Nigeria. Sexual violence has been a recurrent feature of recruitment by terrorist groups, who may promise marriage and sexual slaves to young men, treat women as the spoils of war, and in some contexts, use trafficking in sexual slavery as a form of revenue. These young women and girls are often failed by the justice system, but equally by the lack of services, support and reintegration options.

In South Sudan, we met with women who – when they left the relative safety of their refugee or IDP camps to bring wood and water for their families – knew they were



at high risk of being raped but had to weigh the alternative: if their male family members were to leave the camps, they would be killed. This is not a choice that any woman should have to make, ever. In the Horn of Africa, we met women escaping conflicts who were then abused or trafficked while fleeing. In the face of these stories, I am left with the same questions I'm sure each of you has: what drives an individual to such brutality; how is it that sexual violence continues to be perpetrated with almost complete impunity; and how better can we prevent the crime while supporting the short and long-term needs of survivors? It is clear that our actions have fallen behind our words, and that resolutions and laws are only as useful as the political and financial commitment to implement them.

Distinguished Representatives of Member States,

I call for your concrete action at all levels. If those who are most vulnerable - the victims of violence and abuse - are not heard, we will fail to uphold the core promise of the 2030 Agenda: to leave no one behind.

As a first step, we must continue to place survivors at the centre of our efforts. Decision-making, programmes and policies should be informed by those who know what is needed. The United Nations stands ready to support your efforts.

Let us mark the next decade of this mandate by implementing international norms on the ground, through tangible action that improve lives of all women. Let us work harder to put an end to sexual violence in conflict. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "it always seems impossible until it is done.

Thank you.



Remarks by Dr. Grace Naledi Mandisa Pandor, Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Pramila Patten,

Ministers,

Distinguished Representatives,

I would like to extend my thanks to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG), Pramila Patten, for inviting South Africa to co-host this event today.

South Africa welcomes to this occasion the diverse participants, in particular victims and survivors of sexual violence in conflict-affected countries. Our interactions today with the relevant role-players will allow us to not only assess the achievements and challenges of the mandate given to the SRSG, but to also receive first-hand information from practitioners working with those who have suffered the trauma of sexual violence in conflict, as well as the victims and survivors of these heinous acts.

Colleagues,

Sexual violence is not only peculiar to conflict-affected countries but in varying degrees to all countries - developed and developing countries alike, those in conflict and those at peace. Even though South Africa is not a country in conflict, we unfortunately can relate to the challenges of dealing with gender-based violence, in particular, sexual violence. In our case the most affected by sexual violence are the most vulnerable; women, children, the elderly, the LGBTI community and persons with disabilities.



Sexual violence is not a problem that can be addressed one-dimensionally. A multidimensional and multidisciplinary approach is needed to address this scourge by strengthening law enforcement mechanisms, promoting social cohesion, protecting and reaffirming the rights of victims and survivors and providing support to those affected by it. This means involvement of a variety of sectors in government, as well as non-governmental and civil society organizations.

Through this multi-stakeholder approach, South Africa is currently implementing its own Emergency Response Action Plan to deal with gender-based violence. Part of this includes, inter alia, behavior-change interventions to influence men and boys; the roll-out of training on victim-centric, survivor-focused services, with a specific drive to train police, prosecutors, magistrates and policy-makers; and the establishment of a gender-based violence fund for rapid response to assist survivors at the community level.

Colleagues,

On this 10th anniversary of the establishment of the mandate and Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, South Africa would like to commend and reiterate its support for the efforts of the UN and the SRSO particularly on ending sexual violence in armed conflict situations and for the full implementation of the measures for the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

We note the significant progress that has been made in the past ten years on this matter, but at the same time we remain concerned about the prevalence of incidents of conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated by both State and non-State actors, which ravage communities and destroy lives. It goes without saying that parties to conflict must always adhere to international human rights law and international humanitarian law. However, if these were scrupulously adhered to, we would not be having this discussion today.



Our common objective is to end the scourge of this reprehensible crime. But for this to be attained, we need to address the root causes of sexual violence. It is generally accepted that the key intervention is to address the behavior of the offenders. Although there is a need for accountability, there is an equal need for measures focusing on prevention and deterrence.

We wish to stress that it is of utmost importance that perpetrators of sexual violence are held accountable for their crimes even though in many situations perpetrators remain unidentified. The reality is that most countries in conflict or post-conflict situations have capacity constraints, weak institutions, and justice systems unable to cope with increasing demands. It is thus important that we partner globally, regionally and nationally, to assist these countries in building capacity and strengthening their institutions such as security and social services to deal with the perpetrators and provide the necessary support to victims and survivors. These countries must, however, demonstrate political will and a commitment to hold perpetrators to account in order to send a clear message of deterrence for would-be offenders.

One of the effective measures taken as a deterrence, and worthy of commending, is the prohibition of all state actors repeatedly listed in the Secretary-General's reports on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Children and Armed Conflict from participating in UN peacekeeping operations. It is imperative that the implementation and application of these measures is consistent across all country situations.

Remarks by Ambassador Cherith Norman Chalet, U.S. Representative for the UN Management and Reform, U.S. Mission to the United Nations

Thank you, Pamela, for the introduction, and thank you to Special Representative Pramila Patten for convening this important commemorative event and it is very



good to see Margot Wallström and Zainab Bangura here as well. The United States is steadfast in recognizing that conflict-related sexual violence is a matter of international peace and security.

As the historic penholder on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United States is strongly committed to preventing conflict-related sexual violence, holding perpetrators accountable, and supporting survivors. As was highlighted earlier, we first raised the issue of sexual violence in conflict to the attention of the Security Council in 2008 when the Council adopted resolution 1820, which marked the first time the Security Council explicitly linked sexual violence as a tactic of war. This resolution provided a strategic framework on which the international response is now based. As Secretary-General Guterres has said, ‘this was a paradigm shift’. Later, we introduced resolution 1888 which established the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and mandated that peacekeeping missions protect women and children from rampant sexual violence during armed conflict.

We remain fully committed to UN Security Council resolutions 1820 and 1888, and to providing justice for the most vulnerable.

The United States has been an ardent supporter of the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict since its inception, both politically and financially. Our last voluntary contribution in September of \$1.7 million is a testament of our continued support. This money will be used to provide treatment and restorative programs to survivors of sexual violence, assistance to children of mothers victimized by sexual violence in conflict, and funding for further research, an issue that was just raised by the Foreign Minister of South Africa, to ensure we are supporting survivors. Special Representative Patten, we value the leadership, action, and momentum you and you predecessors have created in addressing this issue particularly in challenging operating environments. We further value you and your team’s expertise and will continue to work with UN entities to define new and innovative approaches to this complex issue.



However, there are many challenges ahead. Sexual violence in armed conflict continues to exacerbate conflict in many countries. It is used as a tactic of violence inflicting trauma and injustice that extends far beyond survivors. Sexual violence fuels instability, forces women and children to flee their homes, and fractures societies. It is used alongside other forms of violence and abuse, such as torture, early and forced marriage, and sexual slavery. We must collectively do more to prevent sexual violence and bring justice to survivors.

We have developed national policies and programs, with support from the highest levels of our government, to address sexual violence in conflict. In yesterday's Security Council debate on this issue, we detailed the United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security, which the President released in June pursuant to the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017. We are proud of the fact that the United States continues to be a leader by establishing a standalone, comprehensive law on Women, Peace, and Security. With this historic milestone comes an unwavering U.S. commitment to enhance women's meaningful participation to prevent and mitigate conflict, while also protecting women during conflict and crisis.

The strategy underscores the United States' commitment to protecting the rights of women and girls, and acknowledges that women and girls bear unique, and disproportionate impacts of armed conflict. It calls on us to support solutions to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. More specifically, the strategy seeks to address sexual violence, human trafficking, and slavery. It will also consider the root causes of violence against women and incorporate them into our conflict and atrocity prevention strategies.

Beyond our strategy we can all prevent sexual violence in conflict through increasing the number of women in peacekeeping. Female peacekeepers are often able to engage with women at the local level, gathering valuable information on conflict-related sexual violence. It is important that the United Nations along with its Member States increase the number of women peacekeepers. It is vital that women participate at all levels of decision-making in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes.



Beyond having more women in blue helmets, it's important that all peacekeeping personnel receive pre-deployment and in-mission training on gender-based violence, including in early-warning preparedness. This competence should be integrated into the performance and operational readiness standards used for assessments of troops and police.

Sexual violence erodes security and unravels families perpetuating cycles of conflict, indignity, and human rights abuses. This is a security issue, a human rights issue, and a public health issue that deserves a collective response. We are deeply appreciative of the Special Representative's role in mobilizing such responses and we look forward to continued partnership with all Member States to end sexual violence in conflict. That's why we are participating in the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative international conference in late November.

We know that sexual violence is preventable. We believe that together, Member States, the UN, and civil society can take concrete steps to eradicate sexual violence in conflict, protect the rights of women and girls, and elevate their role in promoting international peace and security.

Thank you.

Remarks by Ambassador James Roscoe, U.K. Acting Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN

Many thanks. May I start by just thanking the SRSG for convening us on this important subject today; to the DSG for her energy and the focus and priority she places on this issue; and finally, to Minister Pandor for such a thoughtful, honest, and compelling speech. Dr. Pandor, you may not be an Ambassador, you tell us, but you are certainly South Africa's principal diplomat. I think you showed that to us today.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to join you to celebrate the first decade of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. This week the world's eyes are on New York. In moments like this, global leaders must step up and demonstrate commitment to ending sexual violence in conflict with determined action as part of broader efforts on the entire Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

I want to start by paying tribute to Margot Wallström, who set the high bar as the first incumbent to the SRSR role, and to Zainab Bangura, who more than rose to that challenge with her customary energy and rigor. And now, to Pramila Patten, who has followed this example by providing vital strategic leadership on this issue. You have all been inspiring advocates for women's rights over many years. You each brought extensive experience to the role. And all of you have made a significant impact. I thank you for your dedicated and inspiring service.

The UK has been proud to work closely with all of you since 2012 when we launched our own Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI). Our then Foreign Secretary, William Hague, and the UN Special Envoy, Angelina Jolie, our collaboration was significant. But in fact, our collaboration began even before that, in 2011 when we began funding the UN Team of Experts.

This year we have given over 1 million dollars to the Special Representative's wider Team of Experts, our largest contribution to date. This is a reflection not only of the value we place on the work of the Team to enhance accountability, but also of the priority that we attach to this issue of sexual violence in conflict more broadly as part of the WPS agenda. As penholder on WPS at the UN Security Council, the UK takes its role extremely seriously, and we continue to challenge other states to raise ambition, and to recognize the many linkages between conflict-related sexual violence and other areas of the WPS agenda. Most crucially, women's participation in political and peace processes.

And I wanted to turn today to two very special people in the room because with us we have Huma and Simona who spoke to us yesterday at the brilliant event



organized by the Norwegian Mission. Their inspiring testimonies from the frontline in South Sudan and the DRC showed us why we need these people and why we have these people. They are, as I said, on the frontline of protecting women, of supporting women who have suffered sexual violence, and also of seeking accountability for those who have committed these crimes. I think, Huma and Simona, you demonstrate to us that our work at the UN can make a difference, because in mandating the work that you do, we have helped place the UN at the forefront of countering these crimes. You, to my mind, are the real heroes here in the room today, and I thank you.

Sadly, the work of our team, and of SRSG Patten and of many others in this room is needed now more than ever. As can be seen only too well from instances such as the horrific mass rape of women and girls in South Sudan earlier this year, we are determined that such barbaric acts shall not go unpunished. Survivors should not be left to deal with the appalling consequences alone.

This is why for most of the last decade, the work of the UK's PSVI team has complemented the efforts of SRSG Patten and her predecessors. We have focused on strengthening justice and accountability, on tackling stigma, and preventing further instances of sexual violence in order to support women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all aspects of public life and in peace building processes. Crucially, in deciding our approach to both policy and programming, we have always done our utmost to take into account the needs of survivors. That is because only they can know what kinds of support they need. Only they can know what would have made a difference to them in the short, the medium, and the long-term. Only they can know how to bring about real tangible change to prevent others suffering as they have suffered. That is why on the UN Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the UK announced that we would appoint two PSVI survivor champions to ensure that survivors' voices are clearly heard in policy discussions. These champions will also play an important advisory role on safeguarding to ensure that we will always engage sensitively with survivors. The UK is delighted to welcome Nadine Tunasi and Kolbassia Haoussou to these roles. And I am pleased to see Kolbassia here today. Welcome Kolbassia. Kolbassia and Nadine are an integral part in planning for the UK's next global PSVI conference. Its title, "Time for Justice: Putting Survivors First," reflects both the need to



galvanize further action, and the fundamental importance of putting survivor's first, because survivors will play a central and critical role in the conference alongside governments, faith and religious belief leaders, civil society, multilateral organizations including the UN and of course, SRSG Patten.

A decade on from the creation of the SRSG role, and five years on from the UK's global summit, it is right that we recognize what we have achieved. However, we must acknowledge the scale of the challenge that remains. Most importantly, the UK's aspiration for this conference is that we take real decisions that will strengthen accountability, support survivors, and tackle the root causes of conflict-related sexual violence. Strengthening justice for survivors will be a central theme, and their needs will be the starting point. However, we also know from our consultations that criminal justice is not the only form of justice that survivors seek. Restorative justice also really matters but is often out of their reach. This is why the new Mukwege Foundation, international fund for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, launched by Dr. Mukwege today, is so important.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me end saying once again how much the UK personally, and all of us value the Office of the SRSG, and what a privilege it is to work with you on our shared mission to end conflict-related violence, and to take this and all other aspects of the Women, Peace and Security agenda forward.

Thank you very much.

Remarks by Ambassador Lee Taeho, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

Special Representative of the Secretary-General Madam Patten,

Your Excellency Minister Pandor,



Deputy Secretary-General Mohammed,
Excellencies, Distinguished Participants,

I feel privileged to be part of this special event marking the 10th anniversary of the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict. It is indeed a great honor for the Republic of Korea to co-sponsor such an auspicious event. I would like to highly commend Madam Patten and the former SRSGs, Madam Wallström and Madam. Bangura, for their remarkable work aimed at ending conflict-related sexual violence and empowering victims and survivors to seek redress. Over the last decade, the SRSGs have worked so hard and achieved so much.

First of all, the seven follow-up resolutions to resolution 1325 adopted over the past decade became the key milestones for the SRSGs. These resolutions have guided us in our journey towards the promotion of gender equality and the strengthening of women's participation across the conflict cycle. Now, we find ourselves obliged to be more focused on the full implementation of these resolutions and real changes in the field.

The annual Report of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, another meaningful achievement of the SRSGs, continues to serve as a compass with which we can navigate the high sea of combating sexual violence and discrimination. I look forward to the recommendations in the reports being implemented more vigorously in countries affected by conflict.

In particular, preventing sexual violence requires the advancement of substantive gender equality before, during, and after conflicts. In this context, I would like to commend the SRSGs for continuing to cooperate closely with mechanisms for gender equality, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict has become an opportunity to renew each year our commitments to put an end to



conflict-related sexual violence. After all, remembering victims and honoring survivors of sexual violence in conflict should be an initial step toward addressing this critical issue. The observance of this day will enable us to further expand the partnership with civil societies that play a vital role in fighting against conflict-related sexual violence and ending the impunity thereof.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite these achievements, sexual violence is still being committed like an epidemic in conflict and other fragile environments around the world. The SRSG has all the more important work to do to deal with this reality.

The Republic of Korea has been a staunch supporter of the SRSG mandate since its creation ten years ago. My country will continue to be committed to global efforts led by the SRSG to prevent sexual violence and support victims. It is against this backdrop that my government launched the initiative “Action with Women and Peace”, convening the first conference in Seoul last July.

Thank you, Madam Patten and Dr. Mukwege and Madam Diop for participating in the conference and contributing to the successful launch of the initiative. The conference served as a platform to reaffirm the collective will of the international community to combat sexual violence in conflict. Stories of survivors and their recommendations for ensuring a survivor-centered approach were heard. The young generation’s voices were brought to the fore to hear their creative and innovative solutions for the issue of conflict-related sexual violence.

The Korean Government wishes to keep up this momentum and plans to host the second international conference next year. I look forward toward the honor to welcome you to the conference on “Action with Women and Peace” in Seoul. In addition, as part of this “Action with Women and Peace” initiative, my government introduced humanitarian and empowerment projects that target women and girls in



conflict situations in a few Asian and African countries. These projects are being carried out in close cooperation with international organizations such as UNFPA and UNICEF.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Korea also welcomes and strongly supports the launch of the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The creation of this Fund manifested the importance of the survivor-centered approach which was persistently emphasized by Dr. Mukwege, Ms. Murad and Madam Patten. No doubt, the Fund will help rebuild the lives of thousands of survivors of sexual violence through reparation. Korea is now working on a financial contribution to make to the Fund.

In conclusion, I would like to once again thank Madam Patten and her predecessors for their great work over the past decade. I hope that today's event will serve as a meaningful opportunity to gather collective wisdom to build our tasks for the next ten years.

Thank you.

SESSION 2: SURVIVORS HEARING PART 1



Testimony by the survivor from South Sudan

I am 36 years old, and a mother of six children, from South Sudan Upper Nile State, Nasir. I am a survivor of sexual violence in July 2016. Those who sexually assaulted me were soldiers wearing a mix of military uniforms. Some were in camouflage uniform belonging to South Sudan Wildlife, some were in green SPLA uniforms. They were carrying guns. The incident happened during the July 2016 crisis in Juba. We ran for our life and sought refuge in UNMISS Protection of Civilians (PoC) Site. We had no food and nothing to survive on. So, a group of eight women, including myself, decided to get outside the PoC to collect firewood. While collecting firewood in the bush, a group of seven SPLA soldiers attacked us and raped us. They loaded their guns and threatened to kill us. Some of us tried to run but did not succeed. We all had to sit down. The soldiers talked to us in Arabic and kept us at gunpoint. The seven soldiers started taking one woman each to a bush and repeatedly raped us. The only woman that was not raped was one old woman among the eight of us. We tried to see their faces to recognize them but they covered their faces with clothes; they were so aggressive and said they wanted to kill us.

Because of the rape, two women and myself became pregnant. As a result of the sexual assault, some of the victims developed gynecological complications and could not bear children. Some of these women still have problems of swollen stomach. The three of us with children born of rape have difficulties raising them with no fathers. We have nothing to feed and raise them with, we cannot afford to buy milk or any necessity.

I would have wanted to join my children in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. But after my husband heard about the rape, he rejected me, and he has blocked any communication with my children. I am a mother of three boys, two girls, plus this child born of rape. My children are informed of what happened to me and they have been told 'your father rejected your mother'. They are in constant fear of family disintegration. I am not allowed to call and speak to them.



I call for accountability of perpetrators. These people need to be accountable for what they did to us including their superiors and commanders. I know they are government soldiers. Us, the victims, need support; we are nobody now. We don't have education, we have been rejected since most of us are no longer welcomed by our husbands. No means of survival; no mean for livelihoods. I aspire to work, earn some income. My husband blames me for what happened and I constantly feel shame. I am going to get old with access to only this child born out of rape. My life is just meaningless.

My message to the Security Council is that people in South Sudan have been in crisis for more than five years now. Didn't you hear of all these issues that are happening to us, especially women of South Sudan? I am here informing you that there are a lot of victims of sexual violence. Not only me but a lot of women can testify. My appeal to the UNSC is this: we need immediate support for the victims of sexual violence, support to hold perpetrators accountable. Also put a tangible pressure so that the crisis is settled in a peaceful way. A lot of people are suffering and some have mental problems. If I am still alive, I would like to testify in front of a court, be it in South Sudan or outside South Sudan. We are getting tired and exhausted because we speak about what happened to us but there is no immediate help. People are talking about peace coming to South Sudan. In case peace process collapses, sexual violence against women will happen again. Lack of peace will mean that all of us will die. We ask the Security Council to help us, the women.

Look at this ration card. What I receive is not enough for me and my daughter to survive for a whole month. Some humanitarian agencies visited my tent and saw how I live. I live on the grace of neighbors who give food for me and my daughter. If I had not been raped, I would still have my dignity and could be united with my children.

Testimony by the survivor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs en vos titres et qualités respectives.

Je suis aujourd'hui devant vous, non seulement en titre personnel, mais **au nom de milliers de personnes**, de femmes, de filles, d'enfants innocents de même moins de 5 ans, et aussi d'hommes qui sont passés par ce massacre qui sont les violences sexuelles dans mon pays, la République démocratique du Congo. Je suis très consciente que j'ai pu trouver ma voix tandis que beaucoup trop de personnes n'osent pas. Je suis là pour toutes ces personnes.

Nous nous retrouvons maintenant à plus de 20 ans de massacres sur des personnes entièrement innocentes. Une petite précision est en ordre. Dans mon pays et partout dans le monde dans les zones de conflit, nous ne mourons pas uniquement des conséquences des balles des armes. **Je vous assure que nous mourons chaque jour du viol : car "violer une personne, c'est la tuer, tout en la laissant respirer"**. Les violences sexuelles ne détruisent pas seulement le corps: les violences sexuelles s'imposent et détruisent tout dans leur passage, avec des conséquences systématiques sur **la personne humaine en entier**, son état physique, son esprit mental, sa situation économique, et son rôle au sein de sa famille et dans sa communauté.

On dit très souvent: "éduquer une femme, c'est éduquer toute une nation". **Avons-nous également bien compris que détruire une femme, c'est détruire toute une communauté?** Lorsqu'une femme est victime de violences sexuelles et que ses capacités physiques sont affectées, les impacts économiques sur la famille et même la communauté sont très importants.

Je ne pourrais vous parler de mon pays sans vous raconter certaines de ses réalités amères. Je vous parle de Gisèle, pour qui la vie n'a été que cauchemar depuis son premier viol. Alors qu'elle n'avait que 13 ans, elle est partie participer à un mariage avec sa famille à Bunyakiri et là, en allant chercher de l'eau à la rivière, ses amies et elle ont été violées. Elle m'a dit: "J'ai été violée par un tel nombre

d'hommes que je n'ai jamais su compter". Depuis lors, elle vit avec une paralysie. Un mois après, Gisèle et sa famille constatèrent qu'elle était enceinte: un bébé garçon est né après ce viol. Trois ans plus tard, Gisèle a encore été violée et a eu un deuxième enfant issu de ce dernier viol. Ce sont deux de milliers d'enfants **innocents qui ne sont pas acceptés par leurs communautés.**

Il y a trois semaines, lors de mon travail en tant que membre de SEMA, le réseau global de survivantes, j'ai rencontré Florence, âgée de juste 15 ans. Florence vit à 20 kilomètres de Mikalayi, au Kasai central. Elle a été violée à l'âge de 12 ans par des hommes armés qui ont ensuite tué ses parents. Elle vit aujourd'hui doublement discriminée: elle n'a plus d'accès aux études à cause de sa pauvreté, mais aussi parce qu'elle est saisie par une peur profonde qui ne la lâche pas. Elle s'imagine qu'à un moment donné elle sera obligée à se prostituer comme tant d'autres filles de son âge qui sont victimes de ces atrocités et en manque critique d'options et de moyens.

Florence et Gisèle sont seulement quelques exemples parmi des milliers. La guerre a fait et continue à faire des ravages sur la santé de nos communautés. Et pourtant depuis 20 ans, nous entendons des belles promesses: des promesses de mettre fin à la guerre, des promesses que les victimes seront reconnues, des promesses que les coupables seront arrêtés et jugés, des promesses que les enfants nés de ces violences seront soutenus, des promesses que les femmes pourront rétablir leur dignité, refaire leur vie.

A votre avis: de quoi ont-elles besoin, toutes ces victimes ?

Je vous assure qu'elles ne cherchent pas et n'ont pas besoin de pitié. **Elles ont besoin de la réalisation de ces promesses. Elles ont besoin d'être rassurées que ce n'étaient pas seulement des belles paroles en l'air. Parce qu'alors, ce serait un coup supplémentaire qui nous est donné!** Je vous demande: qui peut prétendre réellement savoir ce dont nous avons besoin sans nous avoir consultées? Il n'y a pas assez de centres médicaux qui offrent de l'assistance post-viol; les frais de santé restent inabornables pour la majorité des victimes, et pour arriver au centre médical il faut souvent marcher pendant des heures à travers des zones très dangereuses.

Les survivantes ont donc d'abord un besoin primordial et urgent de se reconstruire. Dans un premier temps, il faut des soins médicaux compétents et convenables qui sont accompagnés d'un soutien psychosocial et légal, c'est à dire une prise en charge véritablement holistique. Ensuite, tout aussi vitale, elles doivent pouvoir se réintégrer dans la société. Et cela demande entre autres l'accès à des outils pour pouvoir redevenir économiquement autonome. Pour une survivante de violence sexuelle, la sécurité économique est une priorité une fois que la sécurité physique et la santé psychologique ont été rendue assez stable. **Leur sécurité économique n'est pas viable tant que les survivantes n'ont pas reçu un vrai soutien et une réparation holistique adaptée à leurs besoins.**

Quelle vie pourront-elles vivre sans un toit, sans la capacité de répondre aux besoins primaires de leurs familles? Cela peut sembler évident, trouver des activités économiques, mais pour exercer quelconque activité, il faut se sentir en sécurité. Pour moi, la sécurité physique n'est pas sécuriser que l'individu, mais la communauté. **La sécurité n'est pas le quotidien pour des milliers de femmes et de filles que je suis venue représenter ici, aujourd'hui.** Ce n'est pas mon quotidien, non plus.

Pour cette raison, je recommande à l'État congolais:

Une mise en place d'un **mécanisme de justice qui est fonctionnel et efficace**, pour mettre une fin à **l'impunité et de briser ce cycle de violence** si néfaste pour toute la société. Nous ne l'avons toujours pas: même dans un cas où nous avons enfin obtenu justice, comme dans le cas des enfants de Kavumu, ces enfants et leurs familles n'ont jamais reçu de réparation.

Je recommande aussi:

Des **programmes de prévention** misés vers toute la communauté - les hommes, les femmes, les enfants - **pour changer les idées des droits des femmes, pour directement adresser la masculinité toxique, et pour éradiquer le tabou** qui met le blâme sur la victime au lieu des inciviques. Ces programmes pour **combattre le stigmata** doivent avoir lieu dans toutes les institutions; donc dans les écoles, oui,



mais aussi auprès des juges et avocats, la police, dans les centres médicaux, pour sensibiliser les personnes qui ont les premiers contacts avec les victimes.

Je recommande aux Etats Membres:

Un accès plus répandu à des systèmes de réparation efficaces, comme le Fonds Globale, qui pourront fournir un véritable soutien et l'accès à des activités génératrices de revenus pour que les survivantes puissent devenir une fois de plus autonome et s'assurer de leur sécurité physique. Tout ceci contribue à leur guérison, à la guérison de leurs familles et de leurs communautés.

Sans écouter les voix des survivantes, sans mettre en place des solutions convenables et durables, il n'y aura pas de paix, il y aura toujours de nouvelles victimes. Tant qu'il n'y aura pas de justice, il y aura toujours de nouvelles victimes, et il n'y aura pas de paix pour les survivantes. Cela fait 10 ans que la communauté internationale a créé un mandat onusien contre les violences sexuelles perpétrées lors des conflits. **Il est temps que les promesses dans ce mandat se transforment en actes. Pour Gisèle, Florence et toutes les autres.**

Je vous remercie.

Testimony by the survivor from Iraq

I am Badriyah from Sinjar. I am in New York to say that ISIS is weak. They took us prisoner. They oppressed us, and you cannot imagine the pain we went through. We are still here so we are still strong.

When I was a kid, I dreamed of becoming a doctor one day. This dream still exists. I am still dreaming of it. Nobody can stop me, not even ISIS. When I was 14, I was kidnapped by ISIS. I was separated from my family. Seven ISIS men shared me.



ISIS took us prisoner. They tortured us, they prevented us from drinking and eating. They separated us from our families for three long years.

The last person who had me was Moroccan. His wife was American. During this period, I saw massacres. I saw killings. I saw shellings and I went to the hospital. I saw parts of corpses of men having been killed. This was the best day - to see ISIS men being killed because I felt that it was possible to be liberated. The American woman allowed me to go out and see what is happening. Through the neighbors, I learned how I can contact my uncle. That American wife gave us money to flee.

When I saw my mom again for the first time I cried. I told her: “Is this a dream, mom? Am I dreaming, am I dreaming, mom? If this is a dream I do not want to wake up.” I am in a dream. I am in a dream where some people are still living in the nightmare of ISIS. Some of them are from my family: my brother, my sister, and my father. My sister is in a camp and we cannot get her back because there is no protection. Those criminals were not held accountable. This is very hurtful. I described their faces, I gave their names. I gave their names to the Committee on the Crimes of ISIS, but they were not prosecuted.

When I go to Mosul, I feel great fear. I feel that these people are still present. It is not right. Isn't it right to have these people prosecuted? Isn't it right for people who saw oppression to see those people prosecuted and held accountable?

My city was destroyed. There are no services. The services provided are from NGOs and organizations. If these organizations disappear, they will no longer have services on the ground. Our buildings were destroyed. Nobody built them again. Many people are now living in camps. These people, they want to build their homes, they want to build Sinjar again, they want to go back because they do not want to live in camps, in tents. At least they can bring life back to my city. At least my family would go back. At least my city would be built. At least criminals would be held accountable. This is the least we can do to provide justice.

Testimony given on behalf of the survivor from Mali

Je me nomme Fatoumata Cissé et j'ai 31 ans. Je suis née à Goundam dans la région de Tombouctou. Je suis mère de cinq enfants. Je suis 'sonrhäi' de mère 'peulh'.

La crise de 2012 a éclaté lorsque j'étais à Tombouctou. Les Djihadistes sont venus un jour chez nous dans notre concession où je vivais avec mon mari et mes enfants. Nous avons été séquestrés, les djihadistes voulaient savoir où était mon mari car il était enseignant. Ce dernier était caché dans la maison car il avait très peur. Il a profité de l'inattention des djihadistes pour escalader le mûr et fuir. Depuis je n'ai plus entendu parler de lui.

Etant seule avec les enfants, j'ai décidé de regagner Bamako pour me réfugier chez ma sœur. J'ai emprunté le bus. Le jour de mon départ il y avait beaucoup de passagers dans le bus. C'est entre Niafouké et Léré que notre bus a été attaqué par des djihadistes en avril 2012. Ils ont fait descendre du bus tous les passagers. Les hommes ont été ligotés et amenés très loin sous escorte armée et personne n'a entendu plus parler d'eux jusqu'à ce jour. Les femmes ont été réparties entre les membres du groupe djihadistes qui avait attaqué le bus. Moi j'avais un petit garçon de quatre mois qu'on m'a retiré. Les djihadistes m'ont ensuite amenée de force dans un véhicule accompagné de deux motos jusqu'à leur base en pleine brousse. Je les ai suppliés avec toutes mes forces pour qu'ils me laissent partir, ils n'ont pas accepté. J'ai été donnée à un djihadiste qui semblait être le chef. Ils m'ont attaché les pieds, j'ai été retenue pendant deux semaines sous la tente du chef djihadiste qui m'a violé pendant tout ce temps. J'étais son esclave sexuel. Après quinze jours ils m'ont transporté jusqu'aux environs de la ville de Goundam en me remettant quinze mille francs pour me soigner.

De ce viol est né un garçon le 5 janvier 2013 que je ne voulais pas du tout. Je le hisçais de toutes mes forces et refusais de lui donner le sein. J'ai fait plusieurs tentatives d'avortement traditionnel pour me débarrasser de la grossesse sans

succès. Le garçon est né à Bamako car j'étais arrivée à me réfugier chez ma sœur à Bamako.

Durant ma captivité, j'ai constaté que le groupe djihadistes priait à chaque moment de prière. On me détachait pour prier. Ils parlaient un dialecte que je ne comprenais pas. Ils communiquaient avec moi en français, certains d'entre eux parlaient tamashek que je comprenais. Souvent les djihadistes amenaient des femmes qui ne faisaient que quelques jours (2 à 3 jours), elles étaient aussi violées puis relâchées ensuite. Une personne de bonne volonté, un pasteur, a appris l'existence de mon enfant et a accepté de prendre cet enfant pour l'éduquer. Il l'a rebaptisé Jérôme.

J'ai pu supporter toute cette peine, ces frustrations, souffrance et dégoût de la vie grâce à l'accompagnement du WILDAF/Mali et de ce pasteur. J'ai été soutenue sur le plan psychologique, juridique et matériel.

Actuellement je me sens très mal dans ma peau, je souffre encore de palpitations cardiaques et de cauchemars. Tous les produits qu'on m'a prescrits ne marchent pas.

J'ai déposé plainte à travers le WILDAF/Mali. Je souhaite que justice soit faite car j'ai trop souffert. Je voudrais vous demander si vous pouvez :

- Diligenter les procédures pour l'accès à la justice des victimes de violences sexuelles.
- Mettre la sécurité sur les routes car beaucoup de femmes ne peuvent plus se déplacer et beaucoup ont été violées. Elles vivent avec la honte.
- Soutenir les actions de réinsertion des ONG comme WILDAF/Mali en octroyant des bourses de formation professionnelle aux victimes pour être formées auprès des structures appropriées pouvant faciliter leur réinsertion socio-économique.
- Renforcer la prise en charge psycho-sanitaire des victimes de violences sexuelles.
- Mettre des abris à disposition pour que les victimes puissent sortir de la souffrance de la location dans les grandes villes.

Mon plus grand souhait aujourd'hui est de me faire soigner et d'être formée comme monitrice de jardin d'enfants. J'aime beaucoup les enfants, je veux consacrer le reste de ma vie à eux.

Testimony by the survivor from the Central African Republic

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est un honneur pour moi de prendre la parole devant votre auguste assemblée pour témoigner brièvement ce que j'ai vécu personnellement dans ma chair pendant les événements douloureux qui se sont produits en Centrafrique, mon pays. En effet, j'étais opératrice économique, achetant des marchandises à Brazzaville et revendant dans mon pays la RCA surtout en province.

En date du 4 janvier 2018, je me trouvais à Kembé, une ville de province située à 620 km de la capitale, lorsque les groupes armés des anti-balaka ont lancé un assaut à 22h sur la ville déjà sur le contrôle de la faction rebelle Seleka. Victorieux les anti-balaka ont déporté un grand nombre de population vers leurs camps. J'en faisais partie. Arrivées dans leurs camps, toutes les femmes et les filles ont été violées et maintenues en captivité. J'ai subi des violences sexuelles pendant 4 mois puis j'ai réussi à m'enfuir du camp et arriver à Bangassou, à pieds, après un parcours de 130 km, après avoir tout perdu, maisons et biens matériels, ainsi que d'autres femmes. Très traumatisée par les faits et la stigmatisation, j'ai réussi à m'embarquer dans un convoi de la MINUSCA pour arriver à Bangui. Aussitôt arrivée, l'ONG Les Flamboyants m'a référé à Médecins sans Frontières pour une prise en charge médicale. Dieu merci, je n'ai pas été infectée en dépit de tous les sévices sexuels que j'ai subis de ces bourreaux. Grâce à l'ONG Les Flamboyants qui a assuré ma prise en charge psychosociale et diverses assistances, j'ai retrouvé l'espoir de vie et ai pu braver la honte pour témoigner en public. N'eut été également la sensibilisation, le soutien et l'appui multiformes des membres de la plate-forme religieuse qui nous ont donné, mes sœurs victimes et moi, un message d'espoir, nous n'aurions pas tenu jusqu'aujourd'hui.

Je profite pour plaider pour les victimes de violences sexuelles de Centrafrique: la plupart sont infectées des suites de violences et d'autres sans assistance. Je lance un cri de détresse à la communauté internationale et à vous distingués participants à ces assises. Les conséquences de ces violences sexuelles constituent un désastre pour notre nation centrafricaine. Permettez-moi d'attirer votre bienveillante attention sur le cas de mon pays qui détient le record mondial de la plus mauvaise couverture en matière d'infrastructures de santé, constituant ainsi une circonstance aggravante dans la lutte contre le VIH-SIDA dont le taux de prévalence est de 3 %.

En effet, cette crise parmi tant d'autres crises militaro-politiques à répétition que mon pays a connu, présente la particularité que jamais le viol utilisé comme arme de guerre et ses corollaires, je veux dire le SIDA, les MST, les Violences Sexuelles Basées sur le Genre, n'a atteint un tel degré de sauvagerie, sans distinction d'âge, de catégorie socio-professionnelle, de statut social. Je regrette de n'avoir pas été parmi vous ce jour, pour rendre un triste mais réel témoignage de ce que j'ai personnellement subi, mais aussi des affres et traumatismes divers que mes sœurs de Centrafrique vivent encore aujourd'hui.

En cet instant, j'ai une pensée attristée pour les femmes et les hommes des provinces de la RCA, hors capitale Bangui, car dépourvues de moyens de prévention dont celui du dépistage précoce, donc de soins appropriés.

La prise en charge du VIH fait face à de nombreux défis dont le principal est la disponibilité des ressources. Seul le Fond Mondial de lutte contre le VIH-SIDA, la Tuberculose et le Paludisme dispose de ressources qui prend 38% des cibles en Anti-Retro Viraux (ARV). Le gap est à combler. Les campagnes de sensibilisation ont permis d'augmenter le nombre des bénéficiaires sans augmentation des ARV. Le Fonds Mondial a suspendu l'achat des tests de dépistage VIH avec pour conséquence la fermeture des centres de dépistage. S'il y a rupture en ARV alors les victimes de violences sexuelles sont hautement exposées, ce qui nous pousse aujourd'hui à lancer un vibrant appel à votre représentation pour disponibiliser très rapidement un maximum de kits.

Bien que le Président de la République ait signé un décret portant sur la gratuité ciblée des soins aux femmes enceintes, allaitantes, victimes de violences sexuelles basées sur le genre et les enfants de moins de 5 ans, ce programme attend

toujours sa mise en œuvre effective. A ce jour, quelques partenaires ont pu prendre en compte la couverture sanitaire de 24 districts sur 31 au total.

Soulignons que le département de la santé a monté un projet pilote de prise en charge holistique basée dans un des hôpitaux de la place à Bangui (l'Hôpital de l'Amitié) selon le modèle Congolais de Panzi, avec Dr. Mukwege, en partenariat avec la Fondation Pierre Fabre financé par l'Agence Française de Développement. Malheureusement jusqu'à ce jour ce projet n'est toujours pas opérationnel et les victimes désespèrent chaque jour. Justement en parlant des victimes, ces dernières subissent la double peine: les bourreaux non seulement sont en liberté, mais aussi continue de violer chaque jour des dizaines, voire des milliers de jeunes filles et femmes. Bien sûr il y a eu la mise en place du Comité Vérité Justice Réparation Réconciliation mais cela ne constitue qu'une timide avancée alors qu'il faudrait durcir sensiblement la loi sur la criminalisation de la transmission volontaire du VIH-SIDA.

La CPI n'a pas encore donné un signal fort en direction de nous victimes. Et la Cour Pénale Spéciale de Centrafrique n'est pas encore pleinement opérationnelle à ce jour. Qu'allons-nous devenir nous victimes, Mesdames et Messieurs?

Notre sentiment contre ce qui pourrait être une injustice flagrante est douloureux. Ces quelques brèves réflexions de ma part sont la traduction du désarroi des victimes centrafricaines, de même, les messages de ces dernières qui vous sont adressés par ma voix, ainsi qu'il suit, sont:

- Elles souhaitent que les États Membres, dont la RCA mon pays, trouvent un mécanisme approprié et exercent une pression sur les gouvernements pour que les aides multiformes à travers ONUSIDA par exemple parviennent effectivement et réellement aux victimes.
- Elles souhaiteraient que tous ces projets élaborés pour les aider ne restent pas que des vains mots mais que cela devienne une réalité dans les meilleurs délais.
- Elles pensent que seule la solidarité entre les victimes sexuelles pourra impulser davantage notre combat dans toute sa dimension.



Je vous prierais d'aider le Gouvernement et les ONG comme Les Flamboyants qui accompagnent et protègent les victimes par un appui multiforme. Vous aurez ainsi contribué à sauver des vies.

Pour conclure, restons solidaires, unies: notre combat doit être connu pour combattre les violences, et éviter la perte de notre dignité.

Je vous remercie.

SESSION 3: LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL FUND FOR SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



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Introductory Remarks by OSRSG-SVC Patten at the launch of the *Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*

It is my honor to join Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Ms. Nadia Murad and Dr. Denis Mukwege in launching the *Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*.

In the almost two decades that I have spent working to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, the most consistent demand that I have heard from survivors of sexual violence is for *justice, reparations and recognition of what they have gone through*. They all affirm that reparations will help to restore their lives and enable them to spend their remaining years in dignity. In addition to monetary compensation, survivors also ask for rehabilitative measures ranging from education, medical care, and livelihood support. It is my firm conviction that *reparations are the most survivor-centered justice remedy available, and the most significant means of making a difference in the lives of victims*. Yet even though this is what survivors want most, unfortunately it is what they receive least. The reparations deficit continues to be a critical gap in the overall response to conflict-related sexual violence.

That is why the establishment of the *Global Fund* represents such an important milestone along the path of our collective advocacy and action on behalf of survivors all over the world.

From the initial discussions on what this Fund should be, to the development of the pilot projects that will be launched in the **DRC, Guinea and Iraq**, survivors have been at the centre of the consultations and will continue to lead the way as this initiative advances. One of the many innovations of this Fund is the partnerships it will foster. The Governing Board will be composed of survivors, civil society representatives and frontline service providers, working alongside governments, donors and the private sector. My Office and the United Nations will continue to support the establishment and implementation of the Global Fund, playing a



key advisory role at the strategic and technical level. My Office will continue to advocate for the sustained political and financial backing that will be required to realize our collective aspirations for this Fund.

I am delighted now to give the floor to Dr. Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad to express their vision for the *Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*.

Remarks by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Nadia Murad at the launch of the Global Survivors Fund

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would first like to thank Ms. Pramila Patten and all of the former Special Representatives of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Office of the SRSG has been a voice on behalf of survivors the past ten years. Thank you for all of your work!

I am honored to be here today and stand alongside my friend, Denis Mukwege. I am honored to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Mukwege to launch this Fund. I know first-hand the important role reparations can play in helping survivors heal.

I would like to take a moment to celebrate Denis Mukwege. He has worked tirelessly for many years to start such a Fund and I want to recognize his efforts and those of his team. Without their dedication and hard work, we would not be standing here. I am grateful to not only Dr. Mukwege and his team but to all of those who have fought so hard to reach this day – the SEMA Network, Nadia's Initiative team, and all survivors who have advocated for reparations for many years. Thank you!



Today marks the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The launch of the Global Survivors Fund is truly a historic moment and I am humbled to have played a role in reaching this day.

The Global Survivors Fund will help transform the lives of thousands of survivors and their families. But what makes the Fund truly unique is its commitment to being 100 per cent survivor centric. The importance of this cannot be overstated. Survivors must be an integral part of the process and play a meaningful role in all aspects of peace and reconciliation. I am a survivor – there are thousands of survivors – many of whom are activists, as we have seen this morning. Our real-life experience entitles us to a seat at the table – we have meaningful insights about what needs to happen – survivors are here and need to be part of the solution.

Access to reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence has not been a high priority on the policy agenda at the international, national and local levels of government. This must change.

Reparations are a right and pressure must be put on governments to take their responsibility to fulfill this right. Reparations are not only a right, but they serve to help survivors begin to heal – reparations allow survivors to be seen - to be heard - and to be acknowledged. Without reparations survivors cannot begin to pick up the broken pieces of their lives and rebuild. Survivors deserve the right to define what that means to them individually and collectively. The Global Survivors Fund will not only make it possible for local communities to design local solutions, but it will also work with governments and civil society actors to provide survivors with the access to reparations.

What resources are currently being allocated to survivors? I can't help but think of the Yazidi community – approximately 350,000 – stranded in IDP camps without access to basic necessities – the injustice of this is evident.

Women and children that managed to escape ISIS do not have access to psychosocial support, healthcare and a safe shelter. Their lives are shattered and they receive no support to rebuild their lives.



The Global Survivors Fund establishes a direct way to make reparations a reality and will change the lives of individuals, families and communities worldwide. I would like to thank those that have already committed to supporting the Fund – France, the European Union and Germany – thank you for heeding our call to help. I stand with survivors from around the world to ask all Member States to support the work of the Global Survivors Fund. We must recognize the moral imperative to act.

Collaboration is essential – complex social problems require the work of multiple stakeholders. Together we can achieve so much, alone we can achieve nothing.

Children deserve a future driven by collaboration.

Children deserve that we work together and put humanity above politics.

Let today be the beginning of something we can all be proud of.

Thank you!

Discours du Lauréat du Prix Nobel de la Paix, Dr. Mukwege, à l'occasion du lancement du Fonds Mondial pour les Survivantes

Madame la Représentante Spéciale du Secrétaire Général,

Excellences Mesdames, Messieurs les Représentants des Etats,

Mesdames, Messieurs, en vos titres et qualités respectifs,

Avant toutes choses, permettez-moi de saluer en ce jour les 10 ans d'existence du Bureau de la Représentante du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies pour les violences sexuelles en période de conflit.



Les progrès réalisés en si peu de temps sont encourageants et nous laissent espérer que dans 10 ans, le mandat de ce bureau sera devenu obsolète. C'est notre souhait d'éradiquer définitivement les violences sexuelles dans les conflits. Nous avons côtoyé de trop près les souffrances des victimes de la violence sexuelle en période de conflit pour vous dire que nous sommes aujourd'hui heureux de prendre la parole à l'occasion du Lancement de ce Fonds Mondial pour les Survivants.

Nos yeux de médecin ont vu ce qu'aucun chirurgien ne devrait voir. Ces violences ne devraient pas exister. Ce Fonds ne devrait pas exister.

Les Etats devraient assumer leur responsabilité de protéger les populations civiles. Ils devraient fournir des soins adéquats aux victimes de la guerre. Ils devraient poursuivre et juger les auteurs et les instigateurs de ces crimes odieux. Ils devraient accorder des réparations et assurer la réintégration des survivants dans la société.

Nous savons tout cela. Vous savez tout cela. Pourtant, jusqu'il y a peu, le lien entre les violences sexuelles et la paix et la sécurité internationales n'était pas établi et les cris des survivants n'étaient ni écoutés ni entendus, car l'indifférence et l'inaction ont trop longtemps prévalu.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Aujourd'hui, ce qui apparaissait comme une conséquence inévitable de la guerre semble devenir évitable. Nous espérons vivement qu'une ligne rouge va enfin être dressée contre l'usage du viol et des violences sexuelles comme arme de guerre, de terreur et même d'extermination.

Le Prix Nobel de la Paix qui nous a été décerné avec ma Co-Lauréate Nadia Murad a eu le mérite de placer la question des violences sexuelles au sommet de l'agenda de la communauté internationale.



Sous le leadership de la France, le sommet du G7 à Biarritz en août dernier a mis l'accent sur l'égalité des sexes et la violence sexuelle dans les conflits et la résolution 2467 du Conseil de Sécurité a enrichi l'Agenda *Femmes, Paix et Sécurité* sous l'impulsion de l'Allemagne, en insistant sur l'importance de reconnaître le statut des enfants du viol, sur la nécessité d'adopter une approche centrée sur les victimes, mais aussi de renforcer les mécanismes de sanctions.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Cela fait 20 ans que nous avons développé un modèle d'assistance holistique accessible au sein du système de soins de santé primaire, centré sur la personne et les besoins de nos patientes, qui se cristallise dans un guichet unique, dit « *One Stop Center* », et permet à la victime des violences sexuelles de trouver au même endroit, en racontant son histoire une seule fois, sans stigmatisation, des réponses à ses besoins médicaux, psychologiques, juridiques et socioéconomiques.

Nous devons redoubler les efforts déployés pour que cette prise en charge soit considérée comme un droit humain à la réhabilitation pour toutes les survivantes de violences sexuelles, conformément à la résolution 2106 du Conseil de Sécurité, et ainsi contribuer à l'effectivité de ce droit à travers le monde. En parallèle, cela faisait 10 ans que nous plaidions aux niveaux national et international pour obtenir des réparations pour les victimes de violences sexuelles, sans recevoir suffisamment d'attention.

Le lancement du Fonds Mondial pour les Survivants représente donc une réalisation très importante, et nous tenons ici à exprimer notre sincère reconnaissance à toutes celles et ceux qui nous ont accompagné sur ce chemin de la restauration de la dignité des victimes. Car partout où nous allons à la rencontre des femmes et des jeunes filles, mais parfois aussi des hommes qui ont été abusés sexuellement, nous retrouvons le même langage, la même dévastation par rapport à ces actes qui

laissent quelqu'un en vie mais qui lui donne l'impression de l'avoir perdue. « *C'est comme si j'avais été tué* », nous disent les survivants que nous rencontrons.

Que le viol et les actes de tortures et autres traitements cruels, inhumains et dégradants à caractère sexuels soient anciens ou récents, il y a un toujours un avant et un après, et la vie des victimes est dévastée. Leurs organes génitaux ont été détruits, elles sont stigmatisées par les leurs, moquées et pointées du doigt, mises au banc de la société, rejetée de la famille, de l'école. Et profondément traumatisées. Souvent pour le reste de leur vie.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

C'est dans ce contexte que les réparations, qui signifient une reconnaissance du dommage qui a été fait, envoient le message opposé : « *tu es un être humain, tu as été victime d'une atrocité, mais ce n'est pas ta faute, ta voix est entendue, et la société va t'accompagner pour reprendre le chemin de la vie* ».

Pourtant, nous le savons, seulement une petite minorité de survivants des violences sexuelles recevront des réparations du préjudice subi allouées par un mécanisme de la justice formelle. Les obstacles, légaux et autres, sont multiples. Bien souvent, les victimes ne connaissent pas et ne sont pas en mesure d'identifier ni leurs bourreaux ni leurs uniformes. Même dans le cas où elles connaissent l'auteur, déposent plainte et obtiennent un jugement, ceux-ci sont rarement exécutés. De plus, les procédures légales d'admission des preuves sont souvent si contraignantes qu'elles profitent aux criminels et contribuent à engendrer un climat d'impunité. Lorsque l'Etat n'a pas su protéger et rendre justice aux victimes, la communauté humaine a l'obligation morale et juridique d'agir.

Adopter une approche centrée sur les victimes, c'est essayer de nous mettre à leur place, dans l'esprit de la résolution 2467 du Conseil de Sécurité. Elles réclament la



vérité et une reconnaissance publique des atrocités qu'elles ont subies, et elles ont le droit d'être indemnisées et réhabilitées.

C'est animé par cet esprit que nous avons plaidé en faveur de la création de ce Fonds Mondial pour les survivantes, qui répond à la fois à une logique de solidarité et de responsabilité. Cette initiative a été élaborée pour et avec les survivantes, en coopération avec le Bureau de la Représentante du Secrétaire Général pour les violences sexuelles dans les conflits, afin de contribuer à la réalisation d'un objectif ambitieux : permettre aux victimes de violences sexuelles liées aux conflits d'accéder aux réparations dans le monde entier.

Ce Fonds sera complémentaire des efforts de lutte contre l'impunité en matière de crimes à caractère sexuels et n'aura pas vocation à se substituer à la soif de justice des survivantes de violences sexuelles. Son objet est de mobiliser des ressources financières pour mener des programmes et des projets de réparation, de réinsertion et de réadaptation, mais aussi de fournir une assistance technique, de rassembler et de disséminer des bonnes pratiques, et enfin de mener des actions de plaidoyer pour que les décideurs et les débiteurs d'obligations assument enfin leurs responsabilités.

Le Fonds aura donc vocation à adopter une conception large des réparations et des autres formes d'indemnisations, individuelles et collectives, matérielles ou symboliques, notamment sous la forme de reconnaissance et de garanties de non-répétition. Ce Fonds sera administré par les représentants des états, les membres des associations des survivantes, les membres de la société civile et les acteurs privés avec les agences de l'ONU dans un rôle consultatif.

Mesdames, Messieurs,

Nous formulons le vif souhait et le sincère espoir que la dynamique de soutien initiée par la France, l'Allemagne et l'Union européenne, déjà suivie par d'autres Etats qui



ont exprimé leur intérêt à nous soutenir, vont inciter de nombreux Etats et autres acteurs non étatiques à alimenter le financement du Fonds.

Merci de venir en aide à celles et ceux qui en ont le plus besoin. En vous joignant à nous, vous démontrez que lorsque la communauté internationale est soudée, elle peut contribuer à rendre le monde meilleur et plus juste.

Je vous remercie.

SESSION 4: STATEMENTS BY UN MEMBER STATES CO-SPONSORS OF THE EVENT: THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GERMANY, FRANCE, JAPAN, THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC





Remarks by H. E. Michelle Müntefering, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany

Survivors,

Thank you for sharing your testimonies with the international community. Thank you for your incredible strength. Thank you for speaking to us and thank you for making us listen. I will take your words with me. I will never forget what the survivor from the DRC has just said: "Destroying a woman means destroying her community."

Distinguished Colleagues,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With great concern we observe - once again - that sexual violence against women is on the rise. Something has changed: for a long time sexual violence was accepted as a "certainty of conflict".

Since the adoption of the landmark resolution 1888 ten years ago, sexual violence is now recognized as a crime that has to be prosecuted and prevented, as we heard this morning from SRSG Pramila Patten. A lot of progress has been made since the establishment of the "mandate on sexual violence in conflict" and I wish to congratulate Margot Wallström, Zainab Hawa Bangura and Pramila Patten on the many things they could achieve and will achieve with the support of us, the Member States.



This brings me to the role that my country can play in this regard. Germany addresses this crucial issue and cooperates with civil society to prevent and eradicate sexual violence. In doing so, we are focusing on two aspects.

First: survivor support. Second: accountability.

- For the support of survivors of gender-based violence, we need to take a comprehensive approach. Medical and psychological care, opportunities for economic participation and legal protection are central, as is accountability for perpetrators. Support of civil society is paramount to it. In Iraq, for example, Germany has since 2015 successively invited around 1.600 Yazidi refugees, most of whom were women and their children - to come to Germany and undergo medical and psychological treatment.
- Criminal prosecution of crimes committed by Da'esh is a priority. The German Federal General Prosecutor is well advanced in proceedings against members of ISIS and the SYR regime. German authorities have issued several arrest warrants and initiated proceedings for crimes committed by intelligence officers of the regime and by Da'esh against the Yazidi population. This strategy is laid out in resolution 2467, which would not have been possible without all previous resolutions that dealt with sexual and gender-based violence.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having achieved the adoption of resolution 2467, its implementation is now a priority to us. To effectively support survivors, Member States need to cooperate closely with civil society.

We therefore welcome Ms. Nadia Murad's and Dr. Denis Mukwege's initiative of setting up an International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. Germany has supported the Mukwege Foundation with 200.000 Euros in 2019 in



order to support groundwork for this Fund. In 2020 we will again contribute to the efforts of the Mukwege Foundation.

We are implementing this pillar of the Women, Peace and Security agenda both by mainstreaming of its resolutions in our work in the Security Council, and through implementing projects with a focus on core issues mentioned in the resolutions. While there has been recognition of the suffering of women and girls in conflict, there has always been a taboo around that same fate when it comes to men and boys. Due to images of masculinity, gender roles, homophobia and stigma, very few male survivors of this crime come forward. Germany is working with civil society to understand and address this aspect and to offer support and protection to survivors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years after the adoption of resolution 1888 and (!) the establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, we know:

a lot of work has to be done. Our action is needed. As Member States we need to redouble our efforts;

and we need the civil society right by our side to end rape in war - and beyond.

Intervention de l'Ambassadeur Nicolas de Rivière, Représentant permanent de la France auprès des Nations Unies

Madame la Représentante spéciale,

Mesdames et Messieurs les Ministres,



Mesdames et Messieurs,

Cela a déjà été dit. En 2019, 35 millions de femmes et de filles se sont trouvées dans une situation de vulnérabilité accrue face au risque de violences sexuelles. 35 millions! Au-delà des chiffres, les témoignages que nous venons d'entendre illustrent l'horreur des violences sexuelles et contredisent toute notion d'humanité.

Il y a 10 ans, la création du mandat de Représentant spécial du Secrétaire général des Nations unies sur les violences sexuelles représentait un progrès important et répondait à la conviction que les Nations unies devaient se donner les moyens d'endiguer ce phénomène et de répondre aux besoins des victimes.

10 ans après, la persistance à grande ampleur des violences sexuelles dans les conflits reste intolérable. Utilisées comme arme de guerre, y compris par des groupes terroristes comme Daech ou Boko Haram, elles brisent les victimes, divisent les communautés et sèment la terreur parmi les populations. Il y a douze mois, le comité Nobel a récompensé l'action de Nadia Murad et du Dr. Mukwege ici présents, en faveur des victimes de violences sexuelles. Cette décision nous a rappelé l'importance de rester mobilisés contre ce fléau. Ce combat contre les violences sexuelles dans les conflits doit être mené sans relâche et sans compromis. Les ONGs, la société civile joue un rôle remarquable. Nous les avons entendues ici. Nous ne pouvons pas les laisser seules.

Convaincue de cet impératif, la France a décidé de placer la lutte contre les violences sexuelles en temps de conflit au cœur de sa présidence du G7. A Biarritz, le G7 a reconnu l'urgence d'adopter une approche centrée sur les rescapés de violences sexuelles. Ces rescapés doivent avoir un accès à un suivi médical, psychologique et social pour favoriser leur retour à une vie normale. La mise sous sanctions des auteurs de violences sexuelles est nécessaire et le Conseil de sécurité doit faire davantage en ce sens. Les responsables doivent rendre aussi des comptes devant la justice, y compris devant la Cour pénale internationale quand les Etats ne veulent pas ou ne peuvent pas poursuivre ces crimes.



Depuis plus de vingt ans, la France est engagée dans la lutte contre les violences sexuelles. Depuis 2015, elle a consacré plus de 7,5 millions d'euros à des projets humanitaires et de stabilisation pour les populations traumatisées par Daech. Nous avons apporté un soutien psychologique à plus de 50 000 personnes, principalement des femmes et des enfants. En 2018, cet engagement a conduit la France à accueillir plus de 220 femmes et enfants yézidiés, où ils reçoivent un suivi médical, psychologique et social.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Ces 10 ans nous permettent de faire un bilan. Mais cet anniversaire doit surtout nous projeter vers les 10 ans à venir. C'est donc un appel pour que notre action collective soit démultipliée, contre l'impunité comme en soutien aux rescapés de ces violences.

Le lancement aujourd'hui du Fonds international pour les rescapés de violences sexuelles est un pas majeur.

Il y a quelques semaines, le Président de la République Emmanuel Macron a décidé d'apporter un premier soutien financier de 6,2 millions d'euros au Fonds que nous lançons aux côtés de nos prix Nobel. Nous nous réjouissons de la collaboration future du Fonds avec le bureau de la Représentante spéciale. La participation des rescapés de violences sexuelles à la gouvernance du Fonds est la meilleure garantie pour que leurs besoins spécifiques, y compris leurs droits et santé sexuels et reproductifs, soient bien pris en compte. La France invite l'ensemble des Etats résolus à mener ce combat et à y apporter leur soutien. La lutte contre les violences sexuelles sera également au cœur du Forum Génération Egalité que la France présidera avec le Mexique en juillet 2020.

Je vous remercie Madame la Présidente.



Remarks by H.E. Yasuhisa Kawamura, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the 10th anniversary of the mandate on sexual violence in conflict as well as the launch of the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. We are honored to have you here today with Ms. Pramila Patten, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), and the other co-sponsors.

Excellencies,

We cannot tolerate sexual violence in conflict.

In this belief, Japan has consistently supported the work of the Special Representative by contributing 11 million US dollars in total to projects of the UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Today, we have testimonies from survivors, and all of us are very, very touched and moved by those testimonies of courage. And we couldn't hear those testimonies without having tears and deep sympathy, and also without feeling the necessity to work with solidarity. Those testimonies we have heard today underline for us the imperative to promptly respond to survivors' ongoing and specific psychological, physical and social needs while holding those responsible accountable. In this regard, let me announce our strong support to the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence which was launched today. Prime Minister Abe



has expressed his support for this initiative directly to Nobel Laureates Mr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad in recent meetings, respectively.

Japan would like to actively engage with the Fund in order to prevent sexual violence in conflict and to support those who have suffered from such acts. Accordingly, Japan wishes to become a board member of the Fund, and we are currently making the necessary arrangements to make an appropriate financial contribution to the Fund.

In conclusion, preventing sexual violence in conflict is a priority area for Japan's wider efforts to create a "society where women shine". Japan is fully committed to continuing to work closely with the SRSG-SVC and other partners to eradicate sexual violence in conflict.

I sincerely hope that this event will be a meaningful navigator for us to address sexual violence of conflict for the next decade.

I thank you.

Palabras pronunciadas por S.E. José Manuel Trullols, Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores, República Dominicana

Muchas gracias.

Nos complace haber co-auspiciado este evento junto a Corea, Japón, Alemania, Francia y Sudáfrica, así como con la oficina de la Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos.

Conmemoramos el día de hoy el Décimo Aniversario del establecimiento del mandato de la Representante Especial sobre Violencia Sexual en Conflicto, y en miras al vigésimo aniversario de la resolución 1325, se hace aún más crucial realizar mayores esfuerzos para hacer realidad las resoluciones del Consejo de Seguridad



sobre violencia sexual relacionada con el conflicto y a la Agenda Mujeres, Paz y Seguridad en el contexto más amplio.

Se ha marcado una década y la violencia sexual ya no corresponde a un derivado del conflicto, sino más bien como un crimen que es prevenible y penalizado bajo el marco internacional de los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Penal Internacional. Ha surgido un cambio en el paradigma de tratar la violencia sexual como un asunto exclusivo de las mujeres a una amenaza a la seguridad.

En los últimos años hemos sido testigos de nuevos movimientos como “Me too” y “Ni una menos”, los cuales con sus manifestaciones y sus voces han despertado un mayor compromiso en la búsqueda de respuestas a la violencia sexual y las desigualdades de género. Momento que nos compromete aún más a redoblar nuestros esfuerzos en miras a poner fin a la violencia sexual relacionada al conflicto. En tal sentido, nos complace escuchar sobre acciones más precisas para su prevención y para ponerle fin, como ha sido el lanzamiento el día de hoy del Fondo Global para las Sobrevivientes de Violencia Sexual relacionada con el Conflicto. Por tanto, quisiéramos enfatizar que para combatir la violencia sexual se deben ampliar los servicios, incluido servicios de salud sexual y reproductiva, el apoyo a la reintegración socioeconómica de las mujeres desplazadas y retornadas y en la defensa de la política de tolerancia cero ante tal violencia llevando a los infractores ante la justicia, y para garantizar que las víctimas y sobrevivientes, así como los testigos, estén protegidos y se hagan las reparaciones adecuadas a las víctimas.

El acceso a la justicia para todas las víctimas y hacer responsables a los perpetradores es clave para hacer frente a la amenaza de la violencia sexual en conflictos.

Nos complace haber podido escuchar las experiencias y perspectivas de sobrevivientes de violencia sexual, recordándonos que las decisiones en esta materia se deben tomar con ellas y que no podemos considerar subsanar o eliminar conflictos si no reconocemos y enfrentamos en su justa medida el impacto y las secuelas de estos crímenes sobre la búsqueda y mantenimiento de la paz. No podemos continuar ignorando las múltiples voces y silencios de violaciones sexuales. Sigamos vigilantes ante estas atrocidades y que las mismas no sean toleradas ni normalizadas.



La República Dominicana quisiera aprovechar para reafirmar nuestro compromiso con el mandato de la Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos para continuar trabajando en la prevención y poner fin a la violencia sexual.

Muchas gracias.

SESSION 5: REFLECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGENDA





Remarks by Ms. Margot Wallström, former SRSR-SVC

Very often victims don't want to be victims but want to be actors of change. They wish to be able to influence the future of their country. We started this mandate with naive optimism, but optimism can help you along the way. I want to thank everybody that helped me because we haven't been alone. We had fantastic teams that helped us throughout, especially the Team of Experts that we could send out to the field. We immediately saw that our priority was to fight impunity, to shed the light on this issue, and to equip the UN system with the necessary tools and structures to deal with this crime. We have also understood that we have to involve men and boys more. They are also often victims. We have to look at children born of war, although it was not part of how the mandate was initially formulated. We have seen how the changing nature of war now has turned this into a tactic of terrorism. For years this has really been exacerbated as a challenge; there were many different directions and we had to choose and make sure that the resolutions would follow and give us the legal framework necessary to allow us to act. I have mixed feelings and maybe most of you do.

First of all, we need to acknowledge that so much has happened over these ten years. A lot has happened also since Resolution 1325. At the same time, we are so frustrated at the lack of progress, at the fact that this is still a huge problem, and at that we can't get a grip on it so that we can become more effective. And from the very beginning we have the problem of how to measure success. Do you measure it by the higher number of rape cases being reported because this implies that women trust that there's a system that listen to them and take her cases seriously? I also feel that we want to be positive to every country that wants to do something in this field, but I also wonder: do we need more conferences? I do not mean to downplay the initiative by the UK or others, but is it really more conferences that we need? Or how can we use a conference and turn it into action? How are small women's organizations - that actually make the most useful work in the field - going to get their money? Or is it only big money in big projects? What about the seed money that these organisations



need to be able to help women and victims locally? We really have to make a move from words to deeds. We do not need pompous actions. But we have to continue in this work and it motivated me to announce that Sweden would pursue a feminist foreign policy. Everything that I experienced left me with a heavier heart, but also more hope for the future because of all these amazing people that dare to come here and tell their stories, that dare to build new lives everywhere the Office has been. **We owe it to them to make sure that we know the agenda and the to-do list. We just have to start doing it.**

I think it's an amazing vision the one that we have heard from Dr. Denis Mukwege. He said that in 10 years we won't need this mandate any longer because then sexual violence will not be used as a tool or a weapon of conflict anymore. In order to reach this vision, we have to continue to fight impunity. We have to make sure that we have all the instruments necessary. We have to make sure that there is a national ownership of this issue and accountability. We need to understand that this also has to do with gender equality and the way we discriminate against women and girls around the world; and also, how boys and men are affected by this, of course. It really boils down to that. This is where it starts. What do we teach children about the roles of girls and boys? It links to everything else that happens in society. To me, it really comes down to what I call the 'feminist foreign policy', that it's about the rights, representation and resources to women and girls around the world. **We need to use everything that we have now - the resolutions, the legislation, the normative framework that exists, the ambition, and the promises that have been made - and turned them into a reality.**

Remarks by Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura, former SRSR-SVC

I'll join Margot in congratulating Pramila for this wonderful meeting and for bringing us all together to give us an opportunity to focus on the victims. I want to say thank



you to Margot. I was extremely lucky because Margot had set a really strong foundation when I took over. I inherited this foundation and I built on it. The normative framework was established, as well as the naming and shaming, the listing of parties, etc. However, at the end of the day this is an issue that belongs to Member States. The crimes are committed in individual countries by either the military or the police. There was a strong culture of denial and silence. People thought that this is a UN issue or that it's an NGO issue. It's a United Nations Security Council issue. I spoke with countries and, even if I had the information in front of them, they said that it was not happening here; there was a lot of denial. I thought that if I can break that culture of silence and denial, I have given some dignity to the victims. Because, at the end of the day, **the victims were living in the shadow. They didn't have a face, they were just statistics and we had to bring them on the table to make sure that they mattered.** I think we managed to do it and the Team of Experts were a wonderful tool. Having been a Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Health myself before I came here, I knew about diplomacy. I was very fortunate to have a lot of commitments, energy and consensus within the Security Council and within the Members States. I will tell you a very interesting story.

We got a report of somebody who had been raped in Somalia. Both herself and her husband were arrested and detained. The Health Worker who dealt with this rape case was also arrested and detained. The Human Rights Officer and the journalist who documented the story were also arrested and detained. At that time, the President of Somalia was going to the US, the UK, and the EU. Hence, we got in touch with the US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton. When the President of Somalia arrived in Washington, they asked him what happened to this woman in Somalia and why she is still in prison. He thought it was a joke but of course President Obama raised it. The President of Somalia asked himself why this was so important. He then went to London and Prime Minister Cameron also raised the same issue with him. When he arrived in Europe, they also raised the same issue with him. He eventually made some calls and asked to release her from prison. The UK was organizing a donor conference with him and they put the signature of a Joint Communiqué with us as a pre-condition. If he didn't sign the Joint Communiqué, he



wasn't not going to have the donor conference. At the conference, the Joint Communiqué was eventually signed by the UN Deputy Secretary-General. It was like carrot and stick. For example, in the case of Guinea and Mali, I even traveled Deputy Assistant Secretary of States. As leverage, I used the commitment I had from Member States to be able to pull along. For example, if we had a problem in Guinea, we called the ICC; we also went there with the State Department Senior Officer. For me, that was the first challenge we were able to achieve. I had heads of state who, a year or two ago, said that they don't have sexual violence in their countries, that our annual report is just a report generated by the UN, or that these women want to have refugee status which is why they are claiming that they are being raped. We couldn't have done it on our own. The UN entities were very good in informing us immediately if there was a crisis either here or in the field. The second challenge we had was the extremists. During my time we saw the rise of Daesh which created a whole crisis for us. For me, as a Muslim woman, it was very challenging because it was under the pretext of Islam. That's how Daesh came and they had a fatwa. Hence it was challenging to go to religious leaders in the Middle East — in Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan — and tell them that they had to come out with a statement to counter the narrative and say that this is not true. You have to deal with this problem at a national level. The UN has drafted all these resolutions, so how do you turn these resolutions, like Pramila said, to solutions on the ground? If you don't do that, you'll never be able to have answers because they keep committing the crime. The military keeps committing the crime. The police keep committing the crime. Like Dr. Mukwege was saying this morning, governments have to take responsibility. Heads of states have to know that these women and girls who have been raped are their own citizens. **They have a moral responsibility as leaders in their own countries to be able to take control and address those problems and ensure that those women who are voting for them actually enjoy the benefits of living as citizens in the country.** Heads of states now are proud. They started taking pride in the fact that they are reporting. By the time I left office, they were almost “competing” over how much they have done in their own country. For me, that was a great achievement.



When we talk about national ownership, **governments should not just look at conflict-related sexual violence as a women's issue. They should look at it as a cross-cutting issue**, as a peace and security issue, as a human rights issue, as a development issue, and as a health issue. **They should have enough resources allocated in the national budgets to address this crime** in the health, the peace and security, the defense, the police, and in the human rights budgets. Mental health and psychosocial support are still a problem. I have been Minister of Health in my country and not many countries in Africa have resources, or even strategy, for mental health. Having proper national ownership and leadership means that there are resources. In national governments, the Minister of Gender has the least budget, the least support, and the least resources. When I was SRSG I would never allow a government to assign the Minister of Gender to me because I knew the Minister of Gender will not call the Minister of Defence for a meeting knowing that most likely he will not respond.

Remarks by Ms. Bineta Diop, African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security

First of all, let me congratulate my sister Pramila on the 10th anniversary: ‘bon anniversaire!’. But also let me congratulate both of you Margot and Zainab because the 10th anniversary is about all three of you. But also, to all of us ‘so, bon anniversaire to all of us for this 10th birthday’. I also wish to congratulate Nadia and Dr. Denis Mukwege for the Fund because maybe we are going to see some light at the end of the tunnel. I echo Margot when she asked: ‘how do we measure progress?’ I think this Fund is part of the progress and we need to make sure that it's going to trickle down to the survivors because they are the ones that need it the most.

I was listening to the survivors this morning and every time I listen to them their stories take me back to the field. I have been with Margot in several places. I was in



Lake Chad Basin with UN DSG Amina Mohammed. We found a girl that came back from Boko Haram and who lost her leg because she was a suicide bomber. Those are things that you see on the ground. I was with Pramila when we met the Chibok girls in one of the refugee camps in northern Nigeria. When we met with some of the women who came back from Boko Haram, I asked to one of them, “would you go back to Boko Haram if you have the possibility? Or are you happy in the camp where you are?”. The lady said: “I would go back”. I looked at Pramila in disbelief. She had a baby, they killed her husband, they kidnapped her son, but she was still ready to go back to the kidnapper. Most likely she had the Stockholm syndrome.

Another time, I was in the DRC, I met a 7-year-old boy who had been raped. He reminded me of my grandson.

We need to do more for the survivors and we need to look at how we can support them. After listening to the survivors, working with this mandate for us is a must. **This mandate covers 19 countries, and 11 of them are in Africa. This tells a lot.** An agreement between the AU and the UN was signed and currently Pramila is following up with my office to make sure that we implement it. Let me just give an example. I was in South Sudan for almost six months to investigate not only what is happening and the root causes of the violence, but also what are the solutions. There was a testimony today about how the South Sudanese are still in the camps. We made a recommendation including the establishment of the Hybrid Court because we need to redress and restore the dignity of the women. **This is number one: restore the dignity of the women that have been raped, of the women that are still in the camps, of the women that are asking for justice, and the women that are asking for recovery.** Yet, it is not happening. The women of South Sudan are still waiting. That's why I try within my mandate to link it to women, peace, and security, participation, and protection. But this violence in conflicts, where the body of women has been used as a battlefield, is one of the critical areas we need to concentrate.

We need to look into prevention and make sure that we address the root causes of those conflicts. In this sense, implementing the framework between the UN and AU



has become a priority. Most importantly we need to put it within our continental result framework because, at the end of the day, it is about accountability. How do we make our Member States accountable if we don't collect, if we don't report, and if we don't push them? For example, we had a case within AMISOM (African Union Mission to Somalia). South Africa today talked about how sometimes the peacekeepers are not protecting the civilians but do harm to those that are supposed to protect. When we have this type of cases, we need to make sure that it is reported. We send these people back home. We monitor this Member State to make sure that perpetrators are brought to justice because it's not the AU's responsibility to do the latter. But when they go home, what happens to them? Are they going to be sent somewhere else? These are some of the issues that we need to monitor. We need to monitor implementation, but we also need to investigate. The UN and AU work hand in hand. At the last session, hosted by the Peace and Security Council, Pramila and myself decided that we will have an annual open session to monitor the implementation of the framework, to look into the number of incidents, the measures that have been taken to capacitate the security forces, and the measures established to respond to women and girls survivors. We need to look at all the indicators of our two frameworks to measure the progress. We need to make sure that Member States respond to the plight of the women in our continent. We worked with Margot, we worked with Zainab, and we continue to work with Pramila.

Today I have heard that we need more prevention than cure. We have 55 Member States in Africa. My dream is to have the 55 countries, even those who are not in conflict, working in prevention. I want to see Africa say that we prevent rather than cure.

That's my dream.

SESSION 6: STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS FOR PRACTICAL CHANGE



Remarks by Ms. Tone Skogen, Deputy Defence Minister of Norway

Conflict-related sexual violence has long been seen as an inevitable but regrettable consequence of conflict. However, as shown by the testimonies we have heard today, conflict-related sexual violence is not inevitable.



It is used as a deliberate weapon of war.

A weapon targeted specifically at civilians.

At women, girls, men and boys.

The courageous women and men who have come forward as survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have set CRSV high on the international agenda. Your brave testimonies, including the ones that were shared with us today, makes it possible to fight this scourge.

Thank you for your courage and strength.

The perpetrators of CRSV have long relied on the stigma surrounding sexual violence to make it a more effective weapon. By upholding the silence – the destructive effects are multiplied. Not only for individual survivors, but also for their families, communities and countries. CRSV erodes the very fabric of society, and it undermines efforts to achieve sustainable peace, security and stability. One way of reducing its devastating impact is breaking the silence and taboos.

I applaud all survivors for speaking up about the horrors you have endured. Representing the international community, we must work harder to address sexual violence in conflict and support survivors. CRSV is a violation of both international human rights law and international humanitarian law. As witnessed in multiple contexts around the world, it can be a war crime, a crime against humanity as well as an act of genocide. Despite this, perpetrators have far too often been able to act with impunity.

This must end.

Norway commends the UN Security Council for adopting resolution 2467, which represents a milestone in our common efforts to prevent and counter CRSV. The resolution strengthens prevention through justice and accountability and affirms the need for a survivor-centered approach. With this in place, we must continue to ensure that CRSV is addressed in all UN peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives on the ground. It must be included in all security and justice sector reform



efforts, as well as in negotiations of peace agreements and ceasefire verification mechanisms.

Turning promises into practice and resolutions into solutions is crucial.

Norway strongly believes in the need to turn resolutions into solutions. That is why Norway is developing a whole-of-mission handbook on the prevention and response to CRSV for UN peace operations. However, this is not something we do alone. On the contrary, we work closely with several partners: the United Nations Department of Peace Operations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict all partake in this effort. The handbook will serve as a practical guide for all UN peacekeepers to enhance the efforts of UN Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions to prevent and respond to CRSV on the ground. The handbook is based on good practices, lessons learned and recommendations from UN peace operations. Thus, it will give civilian, military, and police peacekeepers concrete tools to improve coordination, enhance community engagement and address impunity. All with a survivor-centered approach. The handbook will be launched and put into practice in all UN peace operations next year, aiming to contribute towards lasting changes on the ground.

Norway also welcomes the launch of the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, led by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Dr. Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad. The Fund will provide survivors of conflict-related sexual violence with better access to reparations and other forms of redress. It will help survivors reintegrate fully into their communities.

We firmly support this important survivor-centred initiative.

We commit to join SRSR Patten, Dr. Mukwege, Nadia Murad and other partners to ensure survivors are being cared for, their rights are respected, and the reprehensible acts of sexual violence in conflict come to an end.

Thank you for your attention.



Remarks by Ms. Maxine Marcus, Founder and Director of the Transitional Justice Clinic

Sincere warm thanks to SRSR Patten for the privilege of joining with you today.

Some years ago, I was part of a team preparing a case involving grave crimes, including CRSV, for prosecution. One survivor who had testified in several prior cases was reported to be experiencing extreme trauma, and it was recommended that she not be asked to testify again for fear of the harm it could cause her.

I tried unsuccessfully to find alternative evidence to prove the incident on which she was to testify. Finally, prior to seeking to drop that incident from the indictment, I travelled to meet with this survivor in the location where she was living. We spend the first half of the day talking about our families, sharing our thoughts and feelings, and after lunch, she said to me, “so when do you want me?” I said, it was my understanding that you do not wish to testify because it could be potentially quite upsetting for you. She looked at me and took my arm, and said “They killed my brother; they killed my father; I want to testify, when do you want me?”

In the course of my 20+ years of work as an investigator and prosecutor of CRSV, I have learned from survivors directly this key lesson: **Nothing about them, without them, is for them.** We simply cannot work on behalf of survivors without the direct engagement of the survivors. Victim-centred justice in practice means precisely this; that we cannot decide on behalf of the survivors even with the best of intentions. It means that each step on the path toward accountability must be informed by direct consultation with and involvement of the survivors – the beneficiaries of the justice process.

What is it that drives the reluctance to hold perpetrators of CRSV accountable? What is it about sexual violence that makes it seem so difficult to investigate and prosecute?



I am the Director of the Transitional Justice Clinic (TJC). The TJ Clinic is a mobile clinic of practitioners, and we provide peer-to-peer mentoring for national prosecutors, investigators, and victim representatives - on their request - to help them overcome real and perceived obstacles to the investigation and prosecution of CRSV in national courts.

In the course of our work, peers in the field – prosecutors, investigators, and victim lawyers from countries all over the world have asked for help in bringing justice for conflict-related sexual violence and other serious crimes. We have seen the challenges they’re facing up close, and, at their request, we’ve developed concrete practical tools to help them bring victim-centred justice.

The SRSG is pioneering knowledge products that support this change in practice. The Legislative Guidance on CRSV which we were commissioned to draft for the SRSG is a tool to help our colleagues in national jurisdictions to overcome obstacles in ensuring accountability for CRSV.

The Legislative Guidance adopts a victim and survivor-centred approach, meaning it prioritises the rights, needs, and wishes of the victim or survivor of sexual violence. To inform the Guidance, we studied the relevant national criminal and procedural provisions from 27 states representing a non-exhaustive but nonetheless wide range of legal traditions and geographic locations. Many of the states whose laws were reviewed and analysed have adopted legislation aimed at addressing international crimes, and several of these states’ courts have held trials on that basis. The Guidance provides options for common law, civil law and hybrid systems, and is adaptable for use in informal and customary justice contexts. The Legislative Guidance was further informed by the expertise of academics and established practitioners in the areas of conflict-related sexual violence, international criminal law, and victim-centred litigation, as well as by survivors of sexual violence and other atrocities, including those who have participated in litigation against their perpetrators. It is currently the subject of internal consultation within the UN system and once all key agencies have provided their critical input, the final product will be published and shared.



Let me underline this point. This tool was prepared with survivors, and thus, it is about and for the survivors. It is our sincere hope that it will be the sort of tool our colleagues in national jurisdictions can use to bring survivor-centred justice for grave crimes involving sexual violence. The Legislative Guidance sets out crimes such as sexual violence as an act of genocide and sexual violence as an act of terrorism, reflecting the most advanced standards. It allows for the widest range of possible violations that survivors may wish to have adjudicated in cases which are brought on their behalf. This tool contains all those elements that are truly necessary to prosecute these crimes and empower the victims, elements we have learned over the last ten years, since the SRSR's mandate came into effect.

The Guidance ensures that the justice system will not only “do no harm” but will actually “do it right.”

Victims and survivors of CRSV have been disempowered by the perpetrators and putting them in the driver's seat in the justice process puts the power back into their hands, where it belongs.

Victims and survivors deserve justice close to home; justice which involves and includes them; justice which empowers rather than sacrifices them; justice which honours their courage and respects their constraints; justice which considers their needs as a core consideration rather than an afterthought; justice which uplifts them rather than further victimising them; justice which paves the path for other victims to come forward; justice which is accessible, tangible, visible, and transformative.

Thank you.

SESSION 7: SURVIVORS HEARING PART 2





Remarks by Dr. Chris Dolan, Director of the Refugee Law Project - Work with Male Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Excellencies and Distinguished Guests,

I think if you had asked me ten years ago when we first started working systematically with male survivors when this issue might be discussed in a space such as this, I would have guessed 20 or 30 years. It had taken ourselves as a refugee organisation so many years to overcome our own collective deafness to the cries of help that we were hearing from male survivors, but not listening to. So how much longer might it take for the whole international system? The fact that we are here today I think, after only ten years is a tribute to the work of the Office, and the leadership of the three Special Representatives.

In 2009 we launched a documentary with the provocative title “Gender Against Men”. That interrogated the assumption that gender norms and patriarchal systems always work in favour of all men and suggested instead that these norms can work against them, not least when it comes to sexual violence. And that film triggered a number of further disclosures from male survivors, one of which led us to a short documentary called ‘They Slept With Me’. The words used are a classic example of how language can cover up rather than convey the gravity of what has taken place, whether that be rape in all its forms, genital tortures, sexual slavery, forcible sterilisation through castration, etc.

When we began our programming for men in 2009, we found many gaps in services and support, ranging from the absence of protections in the law, to a lack of medical workers able or willing to work on the kind of injuries associated with sexual violence against men, and a lack of funding to support such work. We also had only a very tiny number of survivors who were willing and able to meet, even in a closed space, let alone in a public one.

With medical support as our entry point, coupled with psychosocial support, today we have a number of major support groups that are able to speak up and be heard,

both in rural refugee settlements and in urban centres. On the International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence this year, for example, ‘Men of Hope’, a survivor support group in Kampala, was able to bring together over 300 male survivors in one space, but from many countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Burundi, Rwanda, Eritrea, Somalia. As such, when on 3 April of this year, Mr. Aimé Moininga addressed the 49th Session of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in Geneva (surely one of the first male refugee survivors to speak in such a space on this issue) he spoke not only for victims and survivors from his own country, but also for every other country in which we see conflict.

While these, together with a growing body of empirical data, academic and policy literature and the most recent UNSCR 2467, are all major steps in the right direction and have been consistently supported by the Office of the SRSR, there is still a very long way to go in achieving the necessary recognition, response and prevention of sexual violence against men and boys in conflict settings. What we have come to see clearly is that working with men and boys, alongside - not in competition with - our work with women and girls, is a critical piece in the jigsaw puzzle of how to respond to and prevent sexual violence in conflict settings more effectively. Let me summarise the reasons for saying this in just three brief points:

First, when we respond to male survivors of what is often extreme violation with profound harms to the individual’s entire being, we are realising **the humanitarian imperative** to assist those in need, regardless of their prior status.

Second, and no less important, we are walking the talk of **human rights**, both in terms of recognising the rights that were violated, and in terms of promoting the rights to access health, physical and mental wellbeing, family life, justice and dignity.

Third, we have come to see the work with men as also having very significant benefits for their loved ones, and as a necessary step towards a more complete understanding of the realities of sexual violence in war. Indeed, if we do not work with men as well as women survivors, I don’t believe we can never fully understand how sexual violence in conflict is deployed and experienced as a weapon of war. In helping to overcome individual and social dysfunction we see the work with men as



helping also with challenges of domestic and intimate partner violence, as well as interrupting larger cycles of violence. As such we believe - in line with 'Leaving no one behind' - that working with men and boys must be understood as an integral part of the broader Women, Peace and Security agenda.

So, with much appreciation for this opportunity to speak, I now feel very privileged to introduce my friend and colleague, Mr. Aimé Moninga. I first met Aimé more than six years ago when he was still a relatively newly arrived refugee in Uganda. He first disclosed his experiences to a colleague of mine in 2012. Three years later, since 2015, following in the footsteps of the first leader of 'Men of Hope', Mr. Alain Kabenga, Aimé has provided I can really say *daily* leadership to this ever-growing support group of male survivors. He has sensitised dozens of community leaders, he has provided personal inputs into training of hundreds of police, prisons and military officers, and he is and remains one of only a handful of male survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to share in international spaces.

Testimony by the survivor from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Je m'appelle Aimé, j'ai été victime, survivant de violences sexuelles pendant le conflit armé en République démocratique du Congo. Désormais, je me tiens ici devant vous comme un activiste afin de défendre les sans-voix. Plusieurs hommes meurent en silence puisqu'ils ont perdu leur masculinité après les abus sexuels subis et pensent ne plus mériter d'être appelés « homme ». Je suis le Président d'une association, « Men of Hope » en Ouganda.

J'ai souffert de solitude, de honte et de confusion de personnalité après avoir été abusé sexuellement. Tout comme les autres hommes, j'ai gardé le silence pendant longtemps, par ignorance et par manque de motivation et de conseils adéquats. J'ai été torturé par mes propres pensées par rapport à l'attitude de

notre communauté et notre coutume relative aux violences sexuelles faites aux hommes pendant longtemps, ne voyant aucun espoir pour m'en sortir. Ce n'est que plus tard que j'ai décidé de me libérer de ma captivité pour fuir vers l'Ouganda où je m'étais inscrit comme réfugié. Par hasard, je suis tombé sur « Refugee Law Project » qui a été la première étape vers la consolation avant de rejoindre « Men of Hope » au sein duquel j'ai trouvé des gens aux expériences similaires à la mienne, voire même plus lourde que la mienne. C'est grâce à « Men of Hope » que j'ai décidé de briser le silence afin de surmonter l'étape de 'victime', de ' survivant ' et parler tout haut de ce sujet tabou qui est la violence sexuelle basée sur le genre. Alors, j'ai commencé à en parler. J'ai parlé de violences sexuelles faites aux hommes une première fois au « South-South Institute » à Kampala, puis en « Nouvelle Zélande » par Skype, puis à Kitgum devant les officiers militaires de l'armée ougandaise (puisque la Constitution ne reconnaît pas le viol et les violences sexuelles faites aux hommes), à Londres, à Genève et aujourd'hui à New York. Étant survivants nous avons la capacité de nous organiser malgré les différentes difficultés auxquelles nous faisons face.

BESOINS DES SURVIVANTS

Au sein de « Men of Hope », les survivants des violences sexuelles liées au conflit sont de différentes nationalités et proviennent de plusieurs conflits passés et actuels. Les besoins sont les suivants :

- La justice: nous voulons voir les auteurs être punis par la loi. Nous voulons aussi que les décideurs puissent voter la loi protégeant les hommes victimes de violences sexuelles.
- La paix.
- La dignité.
- Un soutien psychosocial, des soins de santé mentale et physique.
- Des fonds pour organiser des sessions d'informations et de sensibilisation dans plusieurs secteurs de Kampala et en Ouganda et identifier les victimes, ce qui est notre objectif principal.

- Enfin nous mentionnons également la réinstallation dans un troisième pays où il n'y aura pas d'actes xénophobes, d'insécurité, de viol et de naissances d'enfants non-désirés. Cette dernière solution est la meilleure et la plus durable afin d'aider un survivant de sexe masculin à récupérer ses droits et devoirs en tant que parent et enfin redémarrer une vie et assurer un avenir meilleur pour ses enfants. Ceci donnera de l'espoir et favorisera la guérison de manière durable.

Testimony by the survivor from Bosnia and Herzegovina

I come from a small town located on the coast of the river Drina in eastern Bosnia. I was born in 1993 during the worst time of the war when there was nothing that people needed. There was no electricity, no water, no food, no warmth nor love, there was no hope.

My mother left me two days after my birth and went on with her life. My biological father is a man who was not convicted of wartime rape. I was adopted by a janitor that was working at the hospital where I was born. The Muhic family dared to adopt me. A child that is the result of rape. Those are the people that gave me unconditional love all of these years. The people that treat me like their own child. I never once felt adopted though I knew I was. Today I am happy to be able to speak freely and proudly about myself and my family without a speck of shame. I did not allow myself to be trapped in the victim's armor and thus remain permanently in a state of helplessness and wait for someone's mercy.

I'm a fighter by nature. I love people, I love life. I am the father of a 3-year-old son and a husband. I work at the hospital where I was born, at the hospital where I was left by my biological mother, at the hospital where I was adopted. I am an activist



and chairman of the assembly of the ‘Forgotten Children of War’ association. There are children from different ethnic groups in our association. But we are siblings. We are not interested in inter-ethnic divisions. We are one. We love each other and help one another.

The association ‘Forgotten Children of War’ was founded in 2015, 20 years after the war. The organization’s primary objective is to initiate and represent the sensitive narrative of war consequences concerning its most innocent victims: the children born of war. There are three subcategories of children born of war; and the majority of these are children born out of wartime rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina. What these children, who are now adolescents and young adults, have in common are the experiences of stigmatization and discrimination, identity and attachment issues, emotional difficulties, lack of legal rights and status, as well as difficulties in facing the process of finding out the truth and their biological origin.

According to estimates, between 20.000 and 50.000 women, girls, and men were victims of conflict-related sexual violence during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the number of women victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking in post-conflict and yet military context after the war is unknown.

The organization is the first of its kind to deal with the repercussions of mass rape and sexual exploitation and trafficking that took place during and after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the present-day pertinence of speaking out about the large number of children born this way. The general and main problem related to this phenomenon is that these children remained totally isolated and also unrecognized as a vulnerable group.

We are dedicated to providing adequate help and support to the children born of war who suffered violations of basic rights. One of our aims is overcoming negative lived experiences, regaining trust and hope, as well as ensuring opportunities for the construction of a more peaceful, prosperous future for these children and the families they will form. Moreover, we are focused on raising awareness about the vulnerability of different subcategories of children born of war; the improvement of



their psychosocial and legal status in Bosnia and Herzegovina; developing a framework for advocating the changes and amendments in the international and domestic legislation regarding the protection of the rights of children born out of war; supporting their social integration, and fighting stigma and discrimination attached to women survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and children born of war. Networking and collaboration with different institutions, women's organizations and similar international organizations are also an important part of our activities, and we are proud of our membership in the international association 'Born of War'.

The association launched an initiative for the legal analysis of the existing laws in Bosnia and Herzegovina that might regulate the legal status of children born of war. Our goal is advocacy directed towards the adoption of a unique law on civilian victims of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina: a law that will not segregate the surviving victims from members of the general population.

Although growing in a society where the leading political elites constantly talk about the past nurturing inter-ethnic divisions and animosities, children born of war from Bosnia and Herzegovina go beyond these barriers, and want to be loyal to humanity to be able to formulate a meaningful vision for a future for everyone.

These are the ways in which we are demanding to end all forms of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings, to end child rights violations now, but also supporting the processes of peacebuilding and reconciliation in our country, and beyond.

Lastly, on behalf of all my brothers and sisters, I would like to share a few of their messages:

- we do not want to be falsely portrayed as a “malignant cells of cancer” that are spreading the seeds of hatred,
- we do not preserve a potential for conflict within us, and we are not and we will not be seeds of the new wars,



- we are not the mistakes of war but only human beings, and should be treated as such,
- do not allow our inherent dignity to be trampled and our vulnerability misused,
- instead, we want it to be recognized and respected!

I forgive everyone for all that has been done to me. I don't hate anyone. Hate destroys and that's why I have chosen love. It builds bridges and allows for hope. Love is more powerful than hate because love can end violence! In life, in the end, the winner is the one who is stronger than hatred and revenge.

SESSION 8: JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY AS KEY ASPECTS OF PREVENTION



Testimony by the survivor from Colombia

Hace diez años, con la creación del mandato para la Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos, todas las víctimas de

violencia sexual empezamos a ser visibles no sólo para el sistema de Naciones Unidas, sino para la cooperación internacional, para nuestros gobiernos, e incluso, para las organizaciones defensoras de derechos humanos. No hay duda de que el rol de esta oficina ha sido clave para los avances que hemos logrado.

Para mí, el más importante es el empoderamiento de nosotras las víctimas porque ahora, y cada vez más, podemos, con nuestra propia voz y propuestas, influir en diferentes espacios, incluido este, el de Naciones Unidas. De hecho, este año, el Consejo de Seguridad aprobó la resolución 2467 en la que se reconoce que es necesario tener en el centro a las víctimas para lograr mejores resultados en los programas para la prevención y erradicación de la violencia sexual, durante las guerras y en tiempo de paz.

En Colombia, para que las víctimas empezáramos a hablar, a organizarnos, para buscar reconocimiento como víctimas específicamente del conflicto armado, fue necesario que entendiéramos que la violencia sexual no es una práctica cultural sino un crimen que debe ser sancionado. Este es el argumento que los gobiernos y las sociedades comparten para explicar por qué la violencia sexual no solo persiste, sino que está creciendo, al menos en Colombia creció en un 9%, en el último año. En mi país, cada media hora, un niño, una niña o una mujer es violada.

Es cierto que, para erradicar la violencia sexual, en tiempo de guerra y en tiempo de paz, se deben transformar las relaciones desiguales y abusivas de poder entre hombres y mujeres, pero también es cierto que para lograr estos cambios se debe pasar de las palabras a los hechos. Necesitamos mejores condiciones de vida, mejor educación y, sobre todo, que tengamos derecho a la justicia. En mi país nos piden a las víctimas que denunciemos, y muchas lo hemos hecho, ¿pero para qué? La impunidad en los casos de violencia sexual es de casi el 94%. Ahora, las víctimas entendemos que no hay justicia porque este es un crimen que afecta sobre todo a niñas y mujeres. Esto lo que refleja es que nuestros derechos y aportes a la sociedad siguen siendo subvalorados, por eso la discriminación y violencia contra las niñas y mujeres persisten.



Todo esto lo queremos cambiar con el proceso de paz. A pesar del gran logro que significó la firma del Acuerdo de Paz en noviembre del 2016, no podemos hablar de paz y seguridad si cada año, en mi país, cerca de 22.000 personas denuncian este crimen. Y aquí quiero resaltar otro gran avance en el que la oficina de la Representante Especial jugó un papel importante durante el acompañamiento a la Mesa de Conversaciones en La Habana: su apoyo nos permitió hacer visible que la violencia sexual es un mecanismo de terror que no se inventó en la guerra; con el que se busca ratificar el poder de los hombres sobre las mujeres, tanto en la guerra como en los ámbitos privados; que fue usado por todos los actores armados, y sobre todo, que no desaparece con el desarme y la desmovilización.

Por esto, las víctimas hicimos propuestas a la Mesa de Conversaciones y logramos que la violencia sexual fuera incluida en el Acuerdo como un crimen autónomo, y que los perpetradores no tengan beneficios ni amnistías. Nuestro Acuerdo de Paz es el primero en el mundo que incluyó la violencia sexual y un enfoque de género. Para que este gran avance tenga algún impacto real en nuestras vidas es necesario que la Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz abra el caso de violencia sexual. Las víctimas hemos hecho el esfuerzo de presentar diez informes a esta jurisdicción y confiamos en que la justicia transicional muestre resultados investigando y sancionando a los perpetradores. La justicia transicional es también la oportunidad para proponer medidas que garanticen la no repetición, y sobre todo, esperamos que esta justicia nos garantice el derecho a la reparación integral. Para que este avance deje de ser un acuerdo entre quienes hicieron la guerra y se convierta en una alternativa real de justicia, es necesario que la oficina de la Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos apoye técnicamente a la Unidad de Investigación y Acusación, y a las salas y tribunal de la Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz. Este apoyo debe tener en cuenta las solicitudes y aportes de las víctimas, tal como lo estableció la Resolución 2467 aprobada por el Consejo de Seguridad este año.

Un tratamiento adecuado de la violencia sexual en la justicia transicional será un paso importante para terminar con el uso de la violencia sexual como un mecanismo para mantener la humillación y subordinación de las mujeres.



Con nuestro empoderamiento y liderazgo no solo hemos logrado enfrentar la estigmatización y apoyar a otras víctimas que nos ven como un ejemplo, también nos hemos convertido en defensoras de los derechos de las niñas y mujeres. Sin embargo, como ustedes saben, defender la paz, los derechos de las víctimas, los derechos humanos o simplemente tener liderazgo comunitario y social, siempre ha generado riesgos. Desde que se firmó el Acuerdo de Paz hasta la fecha han sido asesinados setecientos dos (702) líderes sociales y defensores de derechos humanos, de los cuales noventa y ocho (98) eran mujeres. A pesar de esta dolorosa situación quiero decirles que mi país no es el mismo, porque ahora estos asesinatos han generado un nivel de reconocimiento nacional y un sentimiento de indignación generalizado. Esto no es suficiente, es necesario que el Estado colombiano desarrolle acciones efectivas para proteger a los líderes y defensores de derechos humanos.

El Consejo de Seguridad y la Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos, en sus roles de verificación y de acompañamiento para la incorporación de un enfoque de género en la implementación del Acuerdo Final, respectivamente, pueden jugar un papel muy importante en este asunto, incluyendo las voces de las víctimas y particularmente de las víctimas de violencia sexual. Las víctimas sabemos que contamos con ustedes, ustedes pueden contar con nosotras.

Gracias.

Testimony by the survivor from Guatemala

What happened to us

- Before the Guatemalan internal armed conflict, we lived peacefully and happily in our ancestral lands. However, due to the interest in installing mega and hydroelectric projects in our lands, farmers and state actors were

concerting to expel us from our ancestral territories. Due to our claim for legalizing the lands, our husbands, partners and family members were detained, tortured, disappeared and/or murdered during the internal armed conflict in Guatemala.

- Sepur Zarco was a military rest base where conflict-related sexual violence was perpetrated against Mayan women. We were made sexual and domestic slaves for years, enduring collective rape and other forms of sexual violence. We were forced to serve the soldiers, cook, wash and clean for them. Our families, husbands, our bodies, and our liberty were stolen from us. We were also exploited economically, as our belongings were taken, our houses and crops were burnt, and we were forced to provide our scarce resources in the preparation of food, the washing of the cloths and the provision of services for the soldiers, preying the little we had to feed our children and families. Some of us faced their starvation and death. As a result, we were also deprived and cut off from our community and support networks, left to destitution and with chronic illnesses. Many of us, as of today, do not have homes or shelter, means of production and social security. For many years, we carried the stigma of being survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. We were pointed out and ostracized by our communities.

The search for justice

- Accompanied by women organizations, we started discussing among ourselves and discovering that we were not the only victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Breaking the silence was not easy. It took us several years, but, together, we faced the justice system and told the truth. Whereas the accused did not want to acknowledge the crimes against Q'eqchi' women in the Sepur Zarco military rest base, I faced the Jury and declared the truth at the High Risk Court that sentenced the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in the conflict-related sexual violence through sexual and domestic slavery. I am not literate, but I have knowledge of my rights and carry the pain of what has been inflicted on us in my body. I asked for justice.

- My husband was tied up, carried in a wooden kart and then disappeared. I was left alone with two children who lost the opportunity to go to school, have a place to cultivate, and live a normal life. We endured conflict-related sexual violence as we were then made sexual and domestic slaves. We had to take turns in serving the soldiers in the Sepur Zarco military rest-base, cooking, cleaning and washing for the soldiers who constantly raped us.
- During the trial we had to cover our faces, as the accused lived in our communities and were powerful men. We also faced the prejudice and judgements of the communities as survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The sentence confirmed that we were victims and placed the guilt on the perpetrators. We no longer carry the stigma. We uncovered our faces as a signal of peace and freedom; of achievement of the truth.

Transforming through reparation

- We have built a path for justice, for ourselves, our communities and our children. After the sentence, our community started understanding our struggle for justice and recognizing our leadership as peacebuilders through justice. Recognizing us, as right's holders.
- Our aim is that what happened to us will never happen again. Conflict and post-conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls should be addressed, prevented and eliminated; transformative reparation actions are needed to ensure that rape and other forms of conflict-related sexual violence do not happen again.
- Now we work hand in hand with 'Mujeres Transformando el Mundo' (MTM) (Women Transforming the World) who were our legal representatives and were in charge of the strategic litigation of our case before the High Risk Courts, and other women organizations, with other community leaders, to build together protection and eliminate violence against women and girls from our community. We sit at decision making tables to monitor the compliance of state institutions of their reparation sentence. of the reparation sentence by State institutions.



- With UN Women, we co-lead a programme for the reparation measures of the Sepur Zarco sentence to be transformed in guides and norms to repair human rights violations against women and establish non-repetition measures. We lead, we recognize each other, and we support other women. We build together and act, for our present, for our daughters and for our grand-daughters. As the political instability continues, we raise our voices and strengthen our partnerships for peace and gender equality. We pass the message that if we support each other, justice can happen and peace can be recovered, knitted, every day, with love and dignity.

Remarks by Ms. Michelle Jarvis, Deputy Head, International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism – Syria (IIIM)

Good afternoon and thank you SRSG Patten for the opportunity to be a part of the discussion at this important event.

After ten years of the SRSG's mandate, I think it is a really important opportunity for all of us who are working to address this issue to renew our commitment to accountability for these crimes. With the ultimate goal being prevention, we see accountability for conflict-related sexual violence as a crime in its own right being an essential precondition for the non-recurrence of this type of violence. As criminal justice practitioners working on these issues, I think we are very conscious of how high the stakes are for those most affected.

The historical silences surrounding this issue have been broken by the courageous victims who have been willing to come forward over the years to tell their stories and to put the blame on the perpetrators, where, of course, it belongs. It is therefore a very serious responsibility that we have as criminal justice actors to critically reflect on what we do and to find ways to keep strengthening our own approaches to



accountability. I think there is significant scope for us as practitioners to make sure that we collaborate better globally by sharing our insights into good practices and lessons learned so that we can find ways to overcome the obstacles that are presented by our differences in language, culture and jurisdictional frameworks.

As a prosecutor at the Yugoslavia war crimes tribunal for many years, I was very conscious of the opportunity that the tribunal had to contribute to this process of global best practice sharing. The tribunal was one of the first institutions to grapple with the challenge of accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, and as you can imagine, many important lessons were learned over 25 years of its work. As the end of the tribunal approached, we realized that we had a closing window of opportunity to pull this experience together into a practical resource that we could make available to other prosecutors to inform their daily work, which would help to push forward stronger approaches to accountability. This ultimately resulted in a 500-page book, which is publicly available and is today being used by many actors working on conflict-related sexual violence, including prosecutors in national war crimes units around the world, military actors, and UN actors, including the SRSG's Office and our colleagues at UN Women, who have all been strong supporters of this project and the resource that we produced.

It is against this backdrop that I moved to the IIIM, the new Mechanism that has been set up on Syria, and the efforts that we are making to adopt a stronger strategy for addressing conflict-related sexual violence in Syria. The Mechanism was created by the General Assembly in 2016 and has a novel mandate. We have not seen a framework like this before for an accountability mechanism. The IIIM is not a court or a tribunal, but it is mandated to carry out essential preparatory work to support accountability for Syria in the short and the long term. This includes collecting and preserving the crucial evidence of crimes that have been committed, including conflict-related sexual violence; building criminal law case files, and supporting the work, in the short term, of the national war crimes units that are already working to establish accountability for crimes committed in Syria.



The Mechanism's terms of reference importantly show our commitment to learning lessons from the past when it comes to sexual and gender-based violence. We see an emphasis on the importance of effective strategies on sexual and gender-based violence specifically, and there is also a really important reference to the need for the Head and Deputy Head of the Mechanism to have a demonstrated commitment to ensuring gender equality. This is ground-breaking language in the mandate of an accountability mechanism and a precedent that we should definitely be looking to in the future as well.

At the IIIM, we are taking very seriously these directions in terms of sexual violence and the integration of a gender perspective. I want to touch on four things today in the limited time we have available. Firstly, we are recognizing that effective approaches to sexual and gender-based violence depend on having an institutional environment that is conducive to that goal. We know that we will never make effective progress on accountability if we have an office environment that is marked by negativity towards gender issues or gender-based harassment and discrimination.

Secondly, we have adopted a strategy of integrating a focus on sexual and gender-based violence as a core part of our work and do not view these crimes as separate from the rest of what we do. Some of the concrete steps we have taken include putting in place an office-wide network of experts on sexual and gender-based violence across our key professional categories: investigators, analysts, lawyers, and evidence management officers. It is really important that the expertise extends across the whole office framework. We are working hard to contextualize sexual violence in the cases that we build, and this is a key insight from past experiences where we have seen much greater success when we are able to present a complete account of the victim's experience that links sexual violence with the other harms that they experienced during the conflict. It is perhaps tempting to assume that it is a good thing to separate sexual violence in our investigations and prosecutions, but the reality is that these crimes are typically committed amid a range of other types of harms. We do not serve victims or accountability by isolating sexual violence crimes out from the broader context.



Thirdly, we are incorporating into our strategies the many lessons learned about how to establish accountability not only for direct physical perpetrators, but also more senior officials who direct, encourage and condone sexual violence. As we heard directly from survivors throughout the course of the day, for them it is very important that we hold both physical perpetrators and their superiors accountable, and we now have the benefit of a great deal of useful experience and important precedents about what strategies work the best for this.

Finally, recognizing the unique mandate of the IIIM, we are undertaking a pilot project focusing on sexual and gender-based violence specifically in the context of Syria. The first phase has been a collaborative engagement with Syrian NGOs to build a detailed, contextual understanding of sexual violence in the Syrian context to inform our work. We are also prioritizing the collection and analysis of materials already gathered by others relating to sexual and gender-based violence so that we can map what has already been done, assess where possible gaps are, and what suggestions we can make to our interlocutors to strengthen our combined work in the future. Importantly, our efforts also involve prioritizing statements from female witnesses, who are, in general, significantly underrepresented in much of the documentation carried out to date. A critical component of our overarching gender strategy is the development of specific strategies to address sexual violence as part of case file building, and in particular, strengthening strategies for reflecting the role that gender plays in driving violence as a step towards a more transformative approach to the justice process.

In conclusion, we have learned how important it is to see accountability work as part of a broader process involving many stakeholders and particularly local ones. Looking back after 25 years on the experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we see clearly that no matter how effective we are in securing convictions, we will not affect broader transformational change if success is limited to the courtroom and is not translated into knowledge and understanding at the grassroots level, particularly for the next generation.

Thank you.

Déclaration de maître Ahmedou Bal, Conseiller Senior aux Affaires Judiciaires TOEs - Etat de Droit VSC, Nations Unies

Bonjour Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je m'appelle Ahmedou Bal et je suis Conseiller Senior aux Affaires Judiciaires au sein de l'Equipe d'experts sur l'Etat de Droit et les Violences Sexuelles liées aux Conflits déployé à Conakry depuis décembre 2012 pour le règlement du dossier du 28 septembre 2009. J'ai eu l'honneur de travailler sous le mandat de Madame Zainab Bangura et de travailler actuellement sous celui de Madame Pramila Patten.

Comme vous le savez, le 28 septembre 2009 au stade de Conakry une manifestation d'opposants à la candidature à la présidentielle du chef de la junte a été violemment réprimé occasionnant des centaines de morts, des viols, des cas d'esclavage sexuel et d'autres sévices. Après une enquête internationale, un Communiqué conjoint a été signé entre les Nations Unies, représentées par le département de la RSSG, et la Guinée, mettant à la charge de celle-ci de juger les auteurs de ces crimes dans le cadre de la lutte contre l'impunité et rétablir les victimes et ayants droit dans leur droit et cela avec l'aide des Nations Unies et de la communauté internationale. Ce Communiqué conjoint est la base de la collaboration des Nations Unies avec la Guinée et la justification de son intervention, ce qui a permis à la CPI de se suffire de la complémentarité positive dans le traitement de cette affaire avec la Guinée, qui a ratifié le Statut de Rome. J'ai donc été déployé à Conakry dans ce cadre aux fins de former et encadrer le panel des juges désigné à cet effet par les autorités judiciaires guinéennes, favoriser l'entraide internationale, trouver la meilleure stratégie de communication avec la société civile ainsi que la protection des juges, des victimes et des témoins entre autres tâches.

Parallèlement à l'encadrement des Magistrats, l'Equipe d'experts a dû tout d'abord fournir une aide matérielle et bureautique au panel des juges et a dû par mon intermédiaire accompagner des réformes judiciaires essentielles pour améliorer le climat de lutte contre l'impunité. En effet, à cette époque la carrière des juges

guinéens n'était pas régie par un statut de la magistrature mais par la fonction publique et aucun conseil de la magistrature ne siégeait pour la gestion de cette carrière et la gestion ou l'orientation du travail de celle-ci. Ces activités du département de la RSSG ont ainsi vu l'accusation de près d'une quinzaine d'accusés malgré les complications politiques, militaires et administratives, ainsi que l'audition de plus de 500 parties civiles, malgré les lourdeurs psychologiques et culturelles pour les victimes.

Nous avons réussi à mener le travail du panel jusqu'à la clôture de l'information et la prise de l'ordonnance de renvoi devant la juridiction criminelle, ordonnance confirmée par la Cour Suprême. L'enjeu de toujours a été la présence d'une volonté politique permanente pour que le procès soit une réalité. Nous avons toujours soutenu que la volonté politique affichée par le pouvoir devrait dépasser le simple slogan et s'observer sur le terrain.

Ainsi les deux RSSG, dont je salue le courage et la fermeté, ont effectué des visites et contacts permanents auprès de plus hautes autorités pour requérir que cette volonté politique soit au rendez-vous.

J'ai vu Madame Patten exiger et obtenir de la plus haute autorité politique guinéenne la mise en place effective du Comité de Pilotage pour l'organisation du procès, dont nous avons recommandé l'institution et qui avait été prévue par un arrêté réglementaire du Ministre de la Justice. De la même manière, la RSSG a mis en place un mécanisme de soutien médico-social pour le soulagement des victimes et favorisé une mission de l'équipe du Dr. Mukwege de l'Hôpital Panzi à l'effet d'examiner les victimes de ces douloureux événements et fournir des informations utiles au procès. C'est à dire donc que nous venons de loin et que ce dixième anniversaire doit laisser dans les mémoires le travail important et particulièrement difficile effectué durant le mandat du département de la RSSG dans la lutte contre l'impunité, spécialement s'agissant des violences sexuelles.

C'est le lieu de saluer ici le lancement du Fonds International des Survivantes dont l'action ira dans le même sens que le fond d'indemnisation prévu par le Comité de Pilotage du procès pour le plus grand bonheur des victimes.



En conclusion, je lance un appel à la communauté internationale et aux donateurs et autres bailleurs à l'effet d'accompagner ce travail titanesque qui aborde la phase cruciale du jugement. Plusieurs dates avaient été jusque-là été avancées pour la tenue du procès par les autorités politiques sans qu'elles aient été respectées.

Je viens d'être informé que dans une déclaration datée d'hier le Ministre de la Justice a annoncé qu'au plus tard au mois de juin prochain le dossier devrait être jugé. Croisons les doigts et espérons que cette fois sera la bonne.

Je terminerai en sollicitant de la diplomatie bilatérale et multilatérale accréditée en Guinée, d'user de moins de langage diplomatique, et de tenir un langage de fermeté aux plus autorités guinéennes pour la tenue d'un procès équitable répondant aux attentes des victimes, de la société guinéenne et de la communauté internationale.

Video Remarks by Ms. Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC)

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct pleasure and honour to address this esteemed audience at this important commemoration.

I deeply regret not being with you in person to celebrate this milestone and to contribute to the ongoing rich discussions with a view to identify lasting solutions to address the scourge of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict. I hope that nonetheless you accept my warmest greetings from The Hague, along with my sincere gratitude to Special Representative Pramila Patten and other co-organisers, for putting together this seminal event.



Allow me at the outset to express my personal admiration and respect for SRSG Patten, her predecessors, some of whom are present here today, and of course, the hardworking staff of her Office, and indeed the many champions at the forefront of this common struggle participating at this event and beyond, for their crucial work around the globe. I consider the UN mandate on sexual violence in conflict a key cornerstone of the global structure and response to sexual violence in conflict, and along with my Office, we feel privileged to consider SRSG Patten and her Office a natural partner in the advancement of our joint goals of curbing the scourge of these appalling crimes.

As Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, I regularly witness the devastating consequences of sexual and gender-based crimes, on victims and affected communities. In the courage and dignity of victims and survivors, I have seen human nature *at its best*. And in the sheer brutality of crimes against them, I have seen it *at its very worst*.

Sexual and gender-based violence is sadly characteristic of so many conflicts. It is too often perpetrated as a deliberate weapon of war or repression against women, men, girls and boys. It is used, despicably, in the machination of ethnic cleansing.

This must stop.

But we must be realistic: no one single person, no one single entity, no one institution, and no one country can hope to achieve real success and progress alone. That is my key message today – a call for collective action; all, in our respective capacities, in a coordinated and complementary fashion, to counter the horror of sexual and gender-based crimes.

I want to take this opportunity to salute the courageous survivors present at the conference who have shared with us their harrowing stories. Despite their ordeals, they have shown profound inner strength. Their sheer resolve - to be heard, to move forward - gives us all inspiration. It is my firm belief that justice has a vital role to play, in both deterring and punishing sexual and gender-based crimes in times of conflict. Sexual and gender-based crimes are explicitly and extensively



proscribed in the founding treaty of the ICC, the Rome Statute. Upon taking Office as ICC Prosecutor, one of my primary goals was to ensure that the protection of the law is employed to the fullest extent, to foster a culture of accountability where sexual violence is no longer tolerated without consequence. We still have much work to do towards this aim. In 2014, I launched a comprehensive Policy Paper on Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes. The Policy guides my Office's investigations and prosecutions of these crimes. I have made our work in this area a strategic priority. This Policy is being implemented in all relevant aspects of my Office's work. In many of the situations of which we are seized, from Myanmar (in the context of the alleged deportation of the Rohingya), to Guinea, Nigeria, and Ukraine; or in our formal investigations in the Central African Republic or the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to name only a few, we are confronted with the pervasiveness of sexual and gender-based crimes.

We try to gather the necessary evidence to build cases that are reflective of the nature of these crimes, with a view to holding the perpetrators to account.

In July this year, for instance, Trial Judges of the ICC unanimously convicted Mr. Bosco Ntaganda on all charges my Office brought against him, including rape and sexual slavery committed against child soldiers within his own armed group, in the DRC. In doing so, the ICC pushed the envelope of the law to bring added protection to children from the blight of sexual violence. Ensuring such tangible results in court is my Office's job and main contribution. It is nevertheless not an easy task. Challenges can come in different forms, however, but they will not and should not deter us from doing what is necessary.

For me and my Office, survivors' stories, each and every word, strengthen our resolve to fight against impunity, no matter how formidable the challenges, or *how powerful the perpetrators*.

The ICC is of course also not a panacea. The investigation and prosecution of these crimes, at the national level in particular, is crucial.



My Office stands ready to assist and continue to collaborate with national jurisdictions and international actors to incentivise such work at the national level in a complementary fashion. Specific and concrete collaboration has notably taken place on a regular basis between my Office and the Office of the Special Representative. This includes the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. This collaboration has aimed to encourage national investigation and prosecution of alleged sexual crimes, notably in Guinea and Nigeria. But civil society and non-governmental organisations also play a critical, multi-faceted role from raising awareness; to focusing and keeping the attention of key actors on this important issue to ensure responsibilities are met; or, as first responders, to report on situations on the ground; and to document alleged crimes, where appropriate.

Ours must be an age where we finally ensure that sexual and gender-based crimes will no longer be tolerated, and that we will *relentlessly* pursue those who tear violently at the social fabric of society through such egregious crimes.

I thank you for your attention.

SESSION 9: PERSPECTIVES OF UN ACTION PARTNERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY



Remarks by Dr. Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA

First, thank you to the survivors. You courageously shared your stories today, and we resolve to help you change the course of history.



When the voices of women and girls are heard loud and clear, this avails us of the opportunity both to understand and to respond better. UNFPA is committed to ensuring that the voices of women and girls are heard, and drive everything we and our partners do.

Today, we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict and launch the Global Fund for Survivors.

UNFPA was a founding member of the UN Action network against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and we remain firmly committed to continued collaboration and coordination with Special Representative Patten and all our network partners. I salute the Special Representative and her team on this historic day. We continue to march forward together, and I am pleased to be here with our UN Action partners from UN Women, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the International Organization for Migration. Our inter-agency partnership catalyzes synergies. It helps overcome funding gaps in a number of countries where we work. UN Action has also been a key contributor to the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), which promotes safe and ethical collection and sharing of GBV data for better analysis, prevention and response.

While widespread, sexual violence in conflict can be prevented, and survivors can receive the services and support they need to begin to heal, recover and play a full role in their communities.

UNFPA is present before, during and after crises to ensure access to life-saving services and information, and to put coordination mechanisms in place for effective GBV prevention and response. We work to connect women and girls with safe, survivor-centred legal services that protect their rights and promote access to justice. We collect critical population data on those affected and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and the rights and agency of women and young people in emergency response. In countries around the world, our teams are joining forces with partners to overcome challenges and obstacles.



In Yemen, the hiring of local drivers enabled the delivery of lifesaving rape treatment and other reproductive health supplies, in a context of limited humanitarian access.

In Somalia, the first female police officer in one local community supports survivors of gender-based violence in her region. After conducting a thorough investigation of a case involving the gang rape of a young girl, the officer identified six perpetrators, who are now in custody.

The obligation to keep women and girls safe and to help survivors of sexual violence rebuild their lives is one that we at UNFPA take very seriously. We recently led the development of *Inter-Agency Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies Programming*. These standards, which will be launched next month, will help ensure quality services for survivors. They will also advance women and girls' leadership, their role as first responders, and community engagement to end gender-based violence. This is absolutely crucial.

In closing, let me reiterate our gratitude for the partnership and support UNFPA has received at the country and global level. Sexual and reproductive health and rights must be upheld – everywhere! **UNFPA will fight every day for the health and safety of women and girls.** And we are committed to delivering life-saving, survivor-centred care.

As one woman told me: **“It’s the wound you don’t see, Doctor, that hurts most deeply.”** These invisible wounds are as devastating and crippling as the physical harm survivors suffer. Every survivor needs access to life-saving sexual and reproductive healthcare, psychosocial support and justice.

We look forward to welcoming you, Special Representative Patten, at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 and to your important contribution during the session: “No Women No Peace”. Phumzile will also be making her voice heard in Nairobi, and I hope others will join us.

It’s time to speak out, stand up, and take action together – for human rights, for justice and for an end sexual violence everywhere!



Remarks by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

Dear DSG, dear SRSG Patten;

Dear Ministers, Ambassadors and delegates from Member States and regional organizations;

Dear Nobel Prize Laureates and former SRSG's on Sexual Violence in Conflict (Ms. Margot Wallström and Ms. Zainab Bangura);

Dear United Nations colleagues, justice experts and NGO representatives;

And most importantly, **respected and courageous survivors and service providers;**

It is an honor to address this room on this important day.

The United Nations Security Council resolution 1888, adopted ten years ago today, provided normative strength, mechanisms and tools to help us in our effort to prevent and end sexual violence in conflict.

Since its inception, **UN Women has been a strong supporter of this mandate and works in partnership with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence and her team** in our efforts to implement the full **Women, Peace and Security agenda**. Furthermore, since its adoption, the UN Action network, has achieved significant milestones by bringing services; protection and justice to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) survivors and persons at risk in several locations around the world. This includes support for:

- the implementation of Joint Communiqués as strategic frameworks to tackle sexual violence at the country-level;
- increased holistic service-provision for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence;
- improved awareness on sexual violence among duty bearers to prevent future violations;



- access to justice, including reparations, for survivors;
- and enhanced capacities by UN actors to collect reliable data on patterns and trends of sexual violence.

Despite achievements made and increased global commitments, the trends and challenges we face cannot be ignored. During this decade, sexual and gender-based violence has continued to be widely used around the world as a tactic of war and terror. There is room for improvement in our actions:

First, we need to ensure a survivor-centered approach to both prevention and response strategies. These actions need to be shaped by the interests and needs of survivors!

Second, more effort is required to **empower survivors to build their resilience** and path the way for sustainable recovery, including through livelihood support and access to services.

Third, we have to **protect women and girls at risk of CRSV and continue to strengthen the pathways to justice for survivors, including by holding perpetrators accountable** for their crimes and ensuring access to reparations for survivors.

Fourth, we **need to focus on prevention** by addressing the root causes of sexual violence: **gender inequality and harmful social norms**.

We have to work on preventing sexual violence, rather than reacting to it. We can do it by increasing our financial and technical support to women's organizations; they constitute a critical and unique stakeholder to build gender equality and foster the prevention of sexual violence.

We have the capacities and the mandate. We have a responsibility vis-à-vis of women and girls at risk in many locations affected by armed conflict or widespread violence. It is a long road, but we can certainly do it.

Thanks for your attention.



Remarks by Mr. Rob Pulver, Chief of Justice and Corrections Service, Department of Peace Operations (DPO)

Excellencies, Survivors, Distinguished Panelists, Guests,

On behalf of the Department of Peace Operations, I would like to thank the Government of South Africa and SRSR Patten and her team as we commemorate ten years since the establishment of the mandate to end sexual violence in conflict. I would also like to extend gratitude to the courageous women and men who have shared their testimonies with us as well as to Nobel Laureates, Doctor Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, who are spearheading the newly launched Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

Ten years ago, the United Nations Security Council mandated a bold approach to address the plight of sexual violence in conflict – reiterating that sexual violence represents a threat to international peace and security and constitutes a grave international crime. While celebrating the efforts undertaken thus far, we must also pause and say that, working together, the international community can and must do much more to address this problem. As the Deputy Secretary-General put it “let us work harder” in this regard.

We in the Department of Peace Operations are very proud to have served for the last ten years as one of the co-leads of the *UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict*. The team, operating with the guidance and leadership of SRSR Patten, assists national authorities to strengthen the rule of law with the aim of ensuring criminal accountability for perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence.

The Department of Peace Operations remains committed to working with the SRSR and the Team of Experts to address conflict-related sexual violence in the settings in which we operate. This effort requires a whole-of-mission approach, starting with our political engagement with host-country authorities.



Let me briefly highlight some of the steps we are taking.

1. Mainstreaming conflict-related sexual violence through the deployment of Women Protection Advisers and specialized police expertise

Today, our five largest peacekeeping operations – deployed in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Sudan, and South Sudan – are mandated by the Security Council to address conflict-related sexual violence. We have deployed Women Protection Advisers to all of these Missions.

2. Early warning indicators of conflict-related sexual violence

Peacekeeping operations have also incorporated early warning indicators of conflict-related sexual violence into their broader protection strategies. In South Sudan, to provide just one example, following human rights investigations into conflict-related sexual violence perpetrated in Northern Unity State last year, UNMISS launched patrols in vulnerable areas as a measure to protect women threatened by attacks.

3. Support to Host Governments

Combining good offices and technical support to host-country governments, peacekeeping operations contribute to the reinforcement of national institutions to address conflict-related sexual violence. This includes efforts to promote and support women's participation in the security sector and to improve responsiveness to security needs for all segments of society. I firmly believe that addressing conflict-related sexual violence is in the best interests of all – including host-countries and their security forces. For example, in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA supports the Government to establish vetting mechanisms to prevent the integration of individuals responsible for conflict-related sexual violence into the armed forces. MINUSCA also assisted State authorities to establish a mixed brigade of police, civilians and gendarmerie for rapid response to reports of violence against women and children.

4. Accountability



Peacekeeping operations also promote, support and facilitate criminal accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. This includes the protection of victims and witnesses, and the enactment of laws and policies to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, MONUSCO Prosecution Support Cells support Congolese authorities in the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence as an international crime. This has led to the conviction of even high-level commanders of the national military and armed groups.

Specialized police teams, provided by Member States, as well as judicial and human rights experts are dedicated to developing national authorities' capacities in the investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, and until recently, Haiti.

Conclusion

In closing, the Department of Peace Operations commits its continuing support to host-countries, civil society, the SRSG, other UN partners to do more to combat sexual violence. We further commit to ensuring that the perspectives, needs, and recommendations of survivors inform our work to this end. While today we celebrate ten years of the mandate, we also must redouble our efforts to address the scourge of sexual violence in conflict as expected by survivors and by all of humanity.

Thank you.

Remarks by Ms. Simone Monasebian, UNODC Director, New York Office

Thank you so much sisters and brothers. I thank the survivors here today for their extraordinary courage and vision and I thank SRSG Patten and her stellar team for this exquisitely executed and most meaningful commemoration.



The urgent need to stop sexual violence in conflict has become increasingly recognized in no small part thanks to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the UN Action network. There is growing awareness of this execrable sum of all villainies being used as a weapon of war, particularly against women and children and tearing apart lives and communities.

Shining a light on this horrific crime, Nadia Murad was co-awarded the Nobel for Peace in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of victims of sexual violence in conflict. Nadia, who is the UN Office on Drugs and Crime Goodwill Ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking, suffered unspeakable treatment at the hands of ISIL terrorists who attacked her Yazidi community in Iraq, murdered members of her family and abducted thousands of women and girls.

Nadia's story shows how sexual violence in conflict is closely related to the crime of human trafficking. Armed conflict means that human rights safeguards and the rule of law have broken down. Traffickers take advantage of the instability that ensues and most often operate with impunity. Trafficking for sexual exploitation, sexual slavery, forced marriages and forced pregnancy are among the most frequently reported forms of trafficking in conflict situations.

UNODC is contributing to improving responses to human trafficking in conflict situations, delivering on our mandate as the guardian of the UN Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children. Our 2018 thematic paper on countering trafficking in persons in conflict situations aims to advance the identification of victims, improve their access to protection and services and end impunity of perpetrators. UNODC's 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons has a dedicated section focusing on trafficking in the context of armed conflicts, particularly for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

Sexual violence is often used specifically as the tactic of terrorism to strike fear within communities and recruit new fighters. **UNODC is supporting UN efforts to ensure that counterterrorism frameworks can effectively address offenses**



involving sexual violence. In May, we published a new Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism.

In closing, as a proud member of the UN Action network, UNODC remains committed to supporting countries in their efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict and strengthen survivor-centered approaches to achieve justice.

Thank you.

Remarks by Ms. Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, CEO of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

Thank you to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) most especially to SRSR Pramila Patten for her leadership and vision; to the Member States who are supporting this event to mark the 10th anniversary of the mandate on sexual violence in conflict. I thank and congratulate Nobel laureates Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad for spearheading the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Victim Assistance Fund; and of course, again, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict for supporting this noble initiative.

This Fund is important as it is both a symbol of hope and an important resource for survivors in their quest for justice and in their journey to full healing and recovery. Above all, I thank and honor the women who came here to share their stories and including those who may not be here with us. But who bravely stand against the perpetrators, navigate often difficult judicial systems and demands justice for the atrocious sexual violence crimes committed against them. This is an important moment to step back and take stock of the many important achievements under this mandate. Once such achievement is that the concept of conflict-related sexual



violence as a war crime, crime against humanity, and or constituent act of genocide that cannot be included in amnesty provisions in peace negotiations and transitional justice processes has been widely accepted and has garnered global support. Peace negotiators and mediators, military and police peacekeeping personnel, ceasefire monitors, sanctions experts, war crimes investigators, religious and traditional leaders are now speaking with human rights, women's rights and peace activists like myself and together we work with the UN, regional organizations and Member States to find common ground and negotiate given our different mandates and agenda.

The prevention of sexual violence in conflict is now a central element of our work in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. This is strongly articulated in the different Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security beginning with resolution 1820. However, stronger commitment and decisive action is much more needed to fully and effectively implement the Women, Peace and Security resolutions. Full implementation means translating the commitments on women's participation in decision making, in peace and political processes, in protection of women and girls, men and boys from sexual and gender-based violence, protection of their rights, and provision of quality services including reproductive healthcare into action.

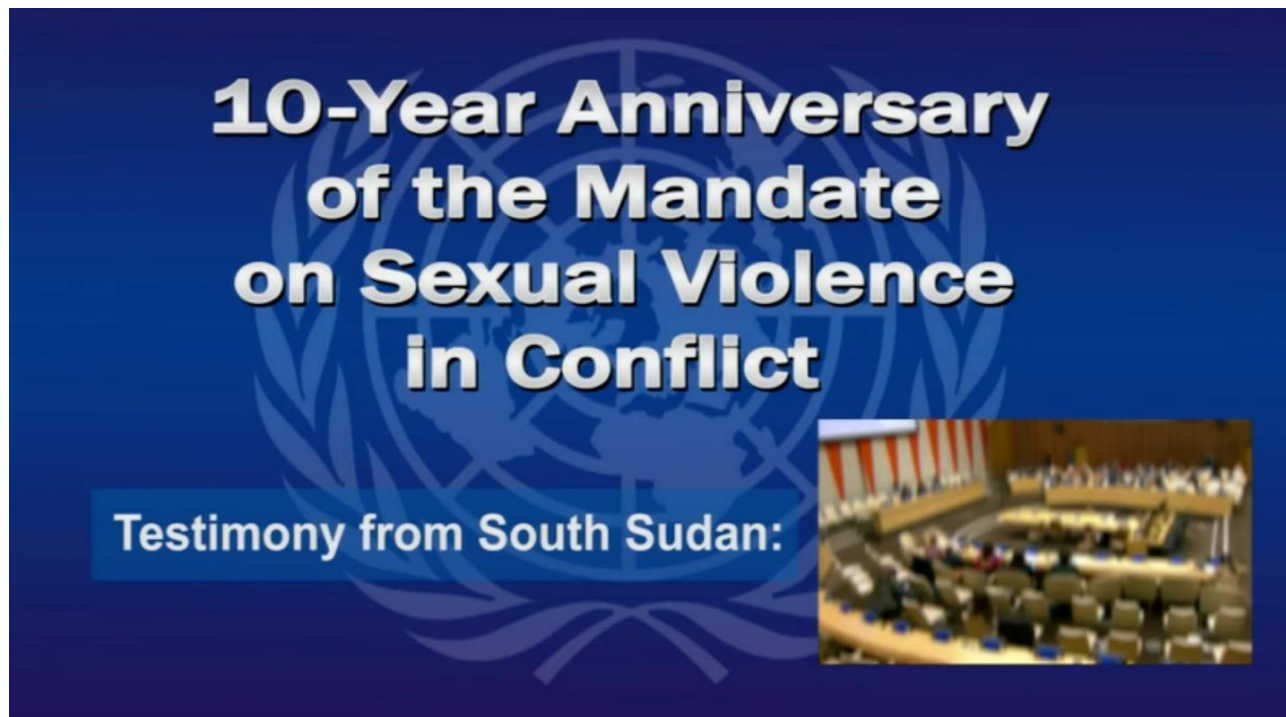
Our organization, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, is particularly committed to coordinating an independent civil society monitoring of the Joint Communiqués that the Special Representative has signed with Member States to effectively address conflict-related sexual violence. To hold Member States and all policymakers and jury bearers accountable is what we do best. And you can count on us that we will continue to do this with a lot more fervor, passion and commitment to end the scourge of sexual violence. The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and many other civil society actors stand ready to work with the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, UN Action, the Security Council, Member States and everyone who supports this mandate, who implement this mandate, and are passionate about ending this crime. We look forward to the day when the only time that we will come across the issue of sexual violence in conflict



is when we read it in history books and tell young people about what all of us did to end it, but most especially to tell them about the courage of the survivors to speak about this crime and take action.

Thank you.

SESSION 10: PERSPECTIVES OF FRONTLINE SERVICE PROVIDERS



Testimony by the service provider from South Sudan

My name is Angelina Nyajima Simon Jial, I am a proud Nuer and the Founder and Executive Director of 'Hope Restoration' which is a grassroots women's rights organization in South Sudan. My organization was one of the few entities to be



present in Bentiu during and after the mass rapes that took place in the last quarter of 2018.

My intervention will reflect on the testimony of a survivor from South Sudan who has a child born of rape which was screened during the morning session.

Social stigma

The testimony we heard reminded me of a young woman who was raped in Leer Town during the conflict. The 35-year-old woman never received medical attention and she also got pregnant as a result of the rape. Her husband abandoned her and her family ostracized her. She was isolated with a fatherless child, left to raise the baby on her own. The child, who kept asking about the father, made the situation even more frustrating and painful. Having no means to support herself and the family, she is forced to live in dire conditions. She faces daily humiliation which has pushed her to think of committing suicide many times. She has been coming to the women friendly space run by my organization since the incident took place, which is the only support she has. She is part of our programme in Leer. The Centre is near Temporary Protection of Civilians (TPA). Our social workers attended to her first at the center where we did case management, psychosocial support, and counselling. We also did referral pathways to one of the clinics; however, there were no PEP Kits, so she did not get the medical assistance that she wanted hence she ended up getting pregnant. She joined the group of women who we were being trained on vegetables and gardening to help them get empowered economically and reduce the burden of not having income to support themselves. We also help them set up small businesses, like tea making and working in small restaurants. These income generating activities helped them to engage their minds from thinking about the situation they have gone through, build their future and the child, and support themselves and their children.

The 35-year-old woman is happy now and still comes to the Centre. She now has a small restaurant business in Leer town, and she is one of the advocates who help support other women who feel shy to open up and seek help.

The major stigma in the community is treating rape as a mistake on the side of the survivor instead of the community transferring the blame on the perpetrator. This makes it hard for the service providers to fight to bring justice to the survivor,

Secondly, the harmful cultural norms that make the survivors not speak about the rape because it is going to bring shame to the family and community. In most cases it takes a long time of interacting with the survivor for them to be able to open up and it takes longer when the help is too late in terms of getting medical attention.

Thirdly, some traditional chiefs treat rape as part of marriage. They don't see it as a crime so if you report the incident, they will ask the perpetrator to pay dowry to the family of the survivor and ask him to marry her. They always say no body will marry someone that has been raped. This is rewarding the criminals twice whereas they should be punished for what they have done. Most marriages in South Sudan are based on "bride price" and if one has been sexually violated, they never reveal that due to the fear of not receiving the "bride price".

Lastly most of the rapes are committed by armed personnel and there is no justice for the survivor. Survivors are heartbroken because they meet their rapist on the street instead of them being locked in cell.

Lack of services

The inability to receive proper care to avoid pregnancy and the lack of health services in conflict locations is a major challenge. In some cases, even when the health facility is there, often there are no drugs or preventive care such as PEP kits and this makes it extremely challenging and dangerous for women's health. Moreover, as soon as insecurity increases, most international organizations who provide preventive and curative support to rape survivors pull out of the areas. Therefore, during conflict there are little to no services and once the service providers return, it is too late for survivors. Local organizations remain behind in these areas often lack resources, funding and capacity to respond.

Comprehensive health services

Services are limited to medical care while there is so much psychological trauma which is not dealt with. There are very few trained individuals in the country to handle mental health issues emerging from sexual violence. In many cases they not only require counselling support, but they also need medications for their mental health.

There are major injuries, disease and deformities such as fistulas, dislocation of the uterus, etc. due to sexual violence, especially in the cases of gang rape. There are a few curative and surgical facilities at the state level with low level of capacity. Survivors are scared of travelling to the locations where the services are available due to the long distance and fear of further attacks.

Lack of livelihood support

In terms of livelihood support, most of these survivors have limited education and are therefore, unable to seek work. There are very limited number of livelihood programmes. Many rape survivors suffer from trauma and are sometimes not fully fit to be part of such programmes. This impacts their performance which is sometimes lower than others. Also, being the only bread winners in the family, it is a hard choice to attend trainings as opposed to earning money for the family. With all these factors, many of the stories are similar to what the women whose testimony we just heard today.

Prosecution of cases and punishment for accused

Prosecution of cases and punishment of the accused is also rare to add to the series of challenges. The perpetrators never face justice because the crimes are committed mostly by armed personnel. Secondly, the judicial system has collapsed in the country. The level of impunity is so high as everyone is getting away with it without consequences. The customary courts favor men only and do nothing to protect women. Rape is also not under the jurisdiction of customary courts which is another challenge we face. When perpetrators are influential men, even judges do not dare to convict them. No-one raises a finger. NGOs also fear reprisals if they work actively on accountability issues.



I want to end by saying that South Sudan is supported by the international community, the UN, donors, and many others. There are many positive ongoing initiatives for prevention, protection and accountability. We are grateful for your support but I'm sad to say that this support is far from sufficient. We need more support to protect the women and girls of South Sudan. I urge the international community to put pressure on all parties to abide by the peace agreement and implement it in totality, including chapter five which calls for accountability for past crimes.

I request the international community to support this peace process. Peace is very important to us. It is the first step towards protection of all civilians, especially the hundreds of victims of conflict-related sexual violence. There is no lasting peace without justice and South Sudanese parties have to make sure that they balance peace and justice.

Testimony by the service provider from Myanmar

Good afternoon, I am from Kachin, which is a conflict area in northern Burma, and I will be speaking on behalf of my Organization, 'Kachin Women's Association of Thailand'. A civil war has been going on for 70 years in Burma, due to the central Burmese government's failure to respect the Panglong Agreement of 1947, which promised equality to the ethnic peoples of Burma. Until today, even though there have been elections, the military retains absolute power, due to the 2008 Constitution. They continue to attack the ethnic peoples and commit systematic, widespread human rights violations, including the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war.

Since renewal of war in Kachin areas in 2011, over 120,000 civilians have been displaced, hundreds killed, and hundreds of women and girls raped by the Burma Army, some of whom were also killed. My organization has been documenting cases



of sexual violence, seeking justice, and also assisting survivors. There are many challenges and I would like to talk about some of the key challenges.

Most cases of sexual violence by government troops take place in remote areas, far from any medical facilities. It is rare for survivors to receive emergency medical care or access any medical tests that can prove rape. Even if they can access a hospital, the staff are too afraid to release evidence if they know that the Burma Army is involved. In the well-known case of the rape, torture and murder of two Kachin volunteer teachers in 2015, where all evidence pointed to the government troops based in the village, medical staff were threatened by the military not to release evidence from the post mortem examination. The army commander in chief himself publicly threatened to sue anyone who accused the military of involvement in this case. Until today, there has been complete impunity for these rape murders.

It is very rare for cases to be taken to court, as police do not want to accept cases involving the military. Under the constitution, the police are under the Home Affairs Ministry which is headed by the military. Lawyers are also afraid to take up cases against the military. Cases taken to court are always dismissed.

For example, in the case of Sumlut Roi Ja, who was abducted, sexually assaulted and killed by the Burma Army in 2011, her family submitted her case to the Supreme Court in Burma, but it was dismissed and no justice has been served to her family.

The Kachin State government also does not want to take any action against the military, even though we have appealed for their help to stop human rights violations including sexual violence in conflict which is rampant. This impunity for the military is ongoing. In July this year, a Kachin woman was murdered and likely sexually assaulted by Burma Army troops in a remote village in northern Shan State. But the military blocked a police investigation, and threatened the village headman not to accuse their troops.

My organization has set up safe houses for women survivors, including those who suffered sexual violence. We assist with medical support, counseling and legal aid. We also provide livelihood support for survivors and their families. Unfortunately,



some survivors are so traumatized that they suffer permanent mental health problems. Access to services in these remote areas is a challenge and there is very little funding available for full service provision for survivors in these hard to reach areas.

Twenty-five years ago, there were only 20 Burma Army battalions in Kachin areas of northern Burma. Now there are over 200 battalions. With ongoing impunity, these troops are a constant threat to women and girls. Through a genuine and meaningful peace process we urgently need to end the conflict.

Therefore, we urge the international community to stop “business as usual” and to pressure the Burmese government to immediately stop attacks and the use rape as a weapon of war, to withdraw its troops from ethnic areas, and to begin inclusive political dialogue outside parliament towards a new federal constitution, which will bring the military under civilian control.

I would like to end by highlighting three points:

We urge the international donors to provide cross-border support to ethnic civil society groups who are addressing community needs, including providing assistance to survivors of sexual violence.

We also call for a moratorium on resource extraction and large-scale infrastructure development in conflict affected areas, as these projects fuel conflict and violations against local communities.

And lastly, we urge the UN Security Council to act to end military impunity by supporting referral of the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court.

Thank you so much for your attention.

SESSION 11: PERSPECTIVES OF MEMBER STATES AND REGIONAL GROUPS



Remarks by Ambassador Mara Marinaki, Principal Advisor on Gender/WPS, European External Action Service's (EU/EEAS)

I would like to start by thanking and congratulating Ms. Pramila Patten, as well as her predecessors Ms. Zainab Bangura and Ms. Margot Wallström, for your dedication, determination and leadership enabling us all to be here together today to



both celebrate achievements and to remind ourselves and each other what challenges and hard work remain to be done to eradicate conflict-related sexual violence.

We are (too) painfully aware that in many countries, survivors of wartime rape and all forms of sexual violence in conflict, cannot rebuild their lives nor can they contribute fully to their communities and society, because of the lack of justice and recognition of the crimes that they were subjected to. This is where reparations play a key role: by aiming to repair the harm caused by gross human rights violations, reparations are at the core of survivors' demands to get back a life of dignity, respect and equality. On this we cannot highlight enough the important role played by civil society and especially women's organisations.

Our first EU strategic priority is prevention and deterrence – namely reversing the culture of impunity into a culture of justice and accountability. Preventing and protecting from sexual violence is among EU's most important goals in combating all forms of violence including sexual and gender-based violence. This means both assisting the survivors and taking the necessary steps to ensure that there are no more victims.

Though there are many victims among men and boys, the grim reality still is that women and girls are predominantly affected. We must focus on more pre-emptive action, than only provide services of recovery, we must first address the root causes, including harmful gender ideologies and societal, traditional and religious prejudices and pre-conceived notions that need to be uprooted through education for all.

Another strategic priority for the European Union is the importance at all times of a survivor-centred approach to protect the survivors, promote their recovery process and empower their reintegration into society. A survivor-centered approach means prioritizing the rights, needs, and wishes of the survivor; ensuring that all survivors have access to accessible and good quality services including healthcare; psycho-social support; legal services and livelihood support especially in cases where survivors have been rejected by their families or communities.



As EU we are placing a lot of focus on the economic empowerment of survivors, as it is critical to bolster their self-esteem and facilitate the healing process. Allowing survivors to seek legal redress through reparations is another important element of a comprehensive response.

I would like to conclude by thanking **Dr. Denis Mukwege** for his lifelong commitment and also to commend your important work on peace and reconciliation both as a medical doctor and as a Human Rights activist. And I would also like to thank **Ms. Nadia Murad** for bravely sharing her story and supporting and inspiring millions of other victims and survivors to **STAND, SPEAK and RISE UP**. And we are all grateful to all the survivors that shared with us here today the heart-wrenching stories of the crimes that they have fallen victims of.

The EU firmly supports zero tolerance and full accountability through the criminal justice systems worldwide, and in particular the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, as the essential cornerstones to ensure that these serious crimes affecting the international community as a whole are thoroughly investigated, that perpetrators are brought to justice and victims receive adequate assistance and reparation. The significance of the ICC's Rome Statute as one of the first international treaties to extensively address conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence as an international crime, cannot be overstated.

While the EU and its Member States continue to work towards the universal ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute, **it is also important to encourage states to strengthen accountability on sexual violence in conflict at the national level**. We must stress the necessity for states to establish effective investigative and prosecutorial measures at the national level, since the primary responsibility lies with states, considering that the ICC is a court of last resort and the States should be sufficiently able to perform investigations based on their national law.

The international community spends far more time and resources responding to crises than preventing them. It is critical to rebalance our approach on peace and security, by upholding human rights, ensuring sustainable development and



harnessing the power of the participation of women, which makes peace agreements more durable, societies more resilient and economies more dynamic. Indeed, we should treat all the millions of survivors as a testament of our collective failure, as the atrocities inflicted on the bodies and the souls of these women and girls could have been prevented, if more had been done, earlier, faster and more collectively – **by all of us.**

On behalf of the European Union, I will continue in my advocacy role to urge the international community to give that agenda the priority that it deserves, to invest time and effort for all the necessary action it deserves, so as to replace horror with hope. This is the least we can do to redeem our pledges for help and support to all the survivors.

Remarks by Member States that have signed formal agreements (Joint Communiqués) with the OSRSG-SVC and supporters of the mandate: Argentina, Canada, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Finland, Ireland, Italy, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Poland, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Argentina

En el décimo aniversario del establecimiento del mandato de la Representante Especial del Secretario General sobre la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos, la Argentina agradece por sus continuos esfuerzos y compromiso en su compleja tarea.

Consideramos que la prevención y el combate contra la violencia sexual en conflicto deben estar al frente de todos los esfuerzos de prevención y de mantenimiento, consolidación y sostenimiento de la paz por parte de la organización y la comunidad internacional en su conjunto. En tal sentido, su mandato contribuye claramente a



generar mayor consciencia y buscar soluciones a largo plazo que tengan como eje a las víctimas en el centro del accionar de los estados.

Permítame recordar que la adopción de la Resolución 69/293 que decide proclamar el 19 de junio de cada año “Día Internacional para la Eliminación de la Violencia Sexual en los Conflictos” fue una iniciativa de mi país que contó con el copatrocinio de 114 Estados Miembros, lo cual representa una muestra clara de la seriedad y la importancia que la comunidad internacional otorga a esta temática.

La violencia sexual en conflicto representa una de las más atroces y terribles violaciones a la dignidad humana, lo que constituye una inconfundible e ineludible amenaza a la paz y la seguridad internacionales. Es por ello que debemos continuar aunando esfuerzos para asegurar la protección, promoción y pleno goce de todos los derechos humanos de hombres y mujeres, niños y niñas, en condiciones de igualdad. En dicha tarea la Representante Especial cuenta con el fuerte apoyo de mi país a su mandato, y estamos comprometidos a seguir trabajando en forma conjunta para fortalecer esta agenda en las Naciones Unidas.

Muchas gracias.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Canada

Thank you, Special Representative Patten for convening us today.

We have collectively made important progress on this issue. That progress is due to the leadership of Special Representative Patten and her predecessors, and their teams; the commitments of Member States; UN partners; the civil society organizations that we’ve heard time and again today are the most important, and often simply the only providers of services.



Without a doubt, any progress is due to the courage of survivors who have shown us the way. I'm also saddened to think that if many of us looked at the statements our countries made ten years ago when this Office was established, too much of the text we used then would still be relevant today. We are still highlighting that sexual violence is increasingly used as a deliberate and horrific tactic of warfare. That we cannot tolerate impunity. That survivors must have access to comprehensive support and must inform every aspect of our work. We are still needing to emphasize that a survivor-centred approach cannot occur without women at decision-making tables. And, that to prevent sexual violence and uphold the rights of survivors, we need to implement the full Women, Peace, and Security agenda – recognizing that the four pillars are wholly interconnected.

Canada will keep working for as long as it takes to bring about these changes – always learning, and looking both inwards, and around the world. We will keep a focus on gender inequality as a structural root cause of violence. And, we will continue to recognize that sexual and reproductive health is essential to women's autonomy and human rights. Indeed, upholding access to sexual and reproductive health services is a primary objective of Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

We're immensely grateful to the survivors who showed immense bravery sharing your testimonies with us today. I hope that our ambitions will rise to your expectations and translate into concrete progress. And that colleagues who speak on this issue ten years from now will have much less to say, and will be able to use our remarks here today only as reference points to illustrate how much progress has been made since.



Remarks by the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais, avant toute chose, remercier Madame Pramila Patten, Représentante Spéciale du Secrétaire général chargée des violences sexuelles commises en période de conflit pour l'organisation de cette réunion qui offre à mon pays l'opportunité de s'associer à d'autres Etats, de partager avec eux son expérience et d'envisager les perspectives d'avenir. Permettez-moi avant de poursuivre mon propos de saluer la présence dans cette salle des Mesdames Margot Wallström et Zainab Hawa Bangura, anciennes Représentantes spéciales du Secrétaire général chargées des violences sexuelles en période de conflit, qui ont beaucoup soutenu mon pays lors de leur mandat et qui lui ont apporté un concours inestimable dans la lutte contre cette situation dramatique qui fait l'objet de nos discussions.

Pour revenir à notre sujet du jour, il est important de rappeler brièvement que la République démocratique du Congo, mon pays, a connu depuis plus d'une décennie des conflits armés récurrents qui sont à l'origine des violences sexuelles, observées particulièrement dans la partie Est de notre territoire.

Pour y faire face, le Gouvernement s'est engagé dans la lutte par une politique de tolérance zéro. Dans le cadre de cette lutte, l'accent a été mis sur la lutte contre l'impunité, la prévention et la réponse socio-économique. Les actions menées ont bénéficié du soutien de nos différents partenaires que nous remercions ici, en l'occurrence les Nations Unies, le Gouvernement du Japon, le FNUAP, l'ONU femmes et les ONG locales.

Concernant la prise en charge des rescapés, mon pays a essayé autant que faire se peut à apporter à la situation une réponse socio-économique, il faut l'admettre, qui n'est pas jusqu'ici en mesure de satisfaire tous les besoins. En dépit des efforts immenses fournis dans cette lutte, les défis persistent. Toutefois, mon pays reste déterminé à poursuivre la lutte engagée et s'inscrit résolument sur la voie de la consolidation des acquis de sa politique. Dans cette perspective, son programme



comporte plusieurs actions qu'il compte poursuivre pour mettre un terme aux violences sexuelles. D'une manière non-exhaustive, ces actions se définissent en termes de renforcement de l'arsenal juridique existant pour la répression contre les violences sexuelles, la protection des victimes et des témoins, le renforcement au sein de l'armée et de la Police de la formation en matière de droit de l'homme et du droit international humanitaire, la multiplication de centres administratifs et de police de proximité pour la protection des personnes ainsi que le rapprochement des tribunaux avec les justiciables pour la prise en charge rapide des dossiers, le financement du programme de prise en charge des rescapés pour permettre leur insertion socio-économique. S'agissant de ce dernier point, mon pays salue le lancement du Fonds Mondial pour les rescapés des violences sexuelles. En effet, ce fonds pourra compenser le manque de moyens suffisants au niveau de nos Etats pour permettre aux victimes d'être réhabilitées en vue de leur réintégration dans la société.

Avant de clore mon propos, il me semble important de souligner ici que pour mon pays, les actions, que nous venons d'évoquer tout comme celles proposées par d'autres intervenants qui nous ont précédés, ne pourront effectivement contribuer à la normalisation de la situation qu'avec la neutralisation effective des groupes armés et le rétablissement d'une paix durable dans la partie Est de notre pays. Mon Gouvernement y travaille et l'apport de la communauté internationale et des Nations Unies est nécessaire pour y arriver.

Je vous remercie.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Finland

Madam Chair, Excellencies,

The Secretary-General's latest report to the Security Council on conflict-related sexual violence provides harrowing accounts of violations and gaps in responses,



including in justice and services. It also spotlights the impact of structural gender inequalities and discrimination, which inhibit women's full, effective, equal and meaningful participation in political, economic, and social life as well as women's full access to responsive justice and security institutions.

Promoting gender equality and women's participation is critical if we are to ever tackle the causes of sexual violence. We must always remember that women are powerful actors. We have to ensure that women are involved in political decision-making and in economic life in their societies, and that their voices are heard and respected. Therefore, investments in gender equality and women's full enjoyment of human rights – not least in fragile states – must be seen as core to preventing sexual violence in conflict.

We all should work in unity to condemn human rights violations and discrimination and prevent all forms of gender-based violence, including against women human rights defenders. Sexual rights, the rights of girls and women, and equality are very important for Finland. Preventing and responding to sexual- and gender-based violence is a priority for us. Various accountability measures are needed to prevent international crimes from reoccurring and to help ensure justice for victims of ongoing and past conflicts.

We support the work of the UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflicts, especially their projects in Africa. We commend the important work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its Trust Fund for Victims, which Finland has supported consistently. Our latest multi-year contribution to the Fund is ear-marked for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Justice Rapid Response and UN Women are doing valuable work in investigating SGBV crimes. Effective measures to end impunity should be combined with multi-sectoral services to survivors of sexual violence, including their access to legal services and health services. We have to ensure survivors' access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services.



Finland was one of the first countries to finance the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for Syria. We commend the decision to integrate gender perspectives and expertise on sexual and gender-based crimes and crimes against children into the Mechanism.

This 10-Year Anniversary calls for more action to fulfil the Mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict. We welcome the International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and look forward to having a closer look at it.

Thank you.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Ireland

Thank you South Africa and the Office of the Special Representative for today's event. Ireland fully supports the mandate on Sexual Violence in Conflict and recognises its significant achievements in the fight against impunity for conflict-related sexual violence. We welcome the focus on putting survivors at the centre and amplifying their voices, voices we have heard loud and clear today. We owe a great debt to survivors of sexual violence for having the courage to challenge taboos, speak out and drive forward international action. I am thinking of women of awesome resilience, such as Nadia Murad, and the moving testimony I heard from a female peacekeeper from South Africa this week who spoke of her experience of sexual violence on a tour of duty in Darfur.

Ireland recognises that gender inequality is at the root of sexual violence in times both of war and peace. We welcome the work of the mandate to drive home this understanding. To prevent sexual violence we need to advance gender equality before, during and after conflict, including by ensuring women's full and effective participation in political, economic and social life and ensuring gender-responsive justice and security institutions.



Promoting gender equality is central to Ireland's foreign policy. Earlier this year we launched our new policy for international development, 'A Better World', which recognises that gender equality is fundamental for the transformation required to achieve the SDGs.

In 2019, we have increased by 33 per cent our funding to partners supporting gender-based violence prevention and response interventions in conflict-affected and fragile contexts. This includes funding for the ICRC's Special Appeal on Response to Sexual Violence and a multi-year partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support the provision of GBV prevention and response services in conflict-affected and fragile contexts in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security includes commitments to support women and girl's protection in fragile and conflict affected contexts and to strengthen mechanisms to ensure the protection and rehabilitation of women in Ireland affected by conflict. We recognise the need to be pro-active in continuing to prevent and respond to the crimes of conflict related sexual violence, particularly within our peacekeeping work.

Our determination comes not only from conviction but also from experience. One of the most malign impacts of the conflict in Northern Ireland was the effect it had on women, including in regard to domestic and gender-based violence. As I have said elsewhere this week, the convergence of milestone anniversaries on gender equality in 2020 are not, in my view, moments for celebration, but rather calls to action. We still live in a world where over 50 parties to conflict are credibly suspected of having instigated patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations on the Security Council's agenda, where women are increasingly targets of political violence, and where one in five refugee or displaced women experience sexual violence. The cost of collective failures to stand up for women, peace and security is devastating and has generational consequences. It is time to move from talk to action.



Ireland looks forward to continuing to support the Office in implementing its mandate to address sexual violence in conflict and in converting cultures of impunity into cultures of justice and accountability.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Italy

Excellencies, colleagues, (all protocol observed),

I would like to thank South Africa and the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict for organizing this important event to commemorate the **tenth anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict**.

The live testimonies of the courageous survivors who shared their stories with us today, reminded us once again that fighting the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence must remain a priority for all of us. For Italy, it is indeed at the top of our agenda: it was pivotal during our last term in the Security Council in 2017 and we continue to devote to it our greatest attention as we plan further initiatives in view of the twentieth anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

In his **2019 Report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**, the Secretary-General described a picture that remains utterly gloomy: sexual related crimes continue to be used, all too often, as part of a global war strategy by State and non-State actors, and States continue to face frequent setbacks when exercising the responsibility to protect their nationals. Even though progress towards combating the culture of impunity has been made in some countries, accountability and non-compliance with UNSC resolutions are still an open wound, and much remains to be done. As we had the chance to express during the Open Debate of last April, Italy is ready to support the horizontal recommendations set forth by the Secretary-General.



In particular, **we support the inclusion of sexual violence as an automatic and independent designation criterion in all relevant sanction regimes.** We also agree that the work of the Security Council should benefit from a more systematic **involvement of the International Criminal Court.** When investigations and prosecutions by national or international courts are not possible, the Security Council should create international fact-finding mechanisms in order to conduct gender-sensitive investigations, and ensure the collection and preservation of evidence.

Tackling the root causes of violence is key, as the prevention of systematic sexual violence begins in times of peace, when national laws should be sufficiently robust to prevent permissive attitudes in wartime. **Training on gender sensitivity and the prevention of sexual exploitation should be a mandatory component of national military and police training, as well as pre-deployment and in-mission training of all UN Peacekeeping and civilian personnel.** To this end, Italy stands ready to provide its contribution through the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, offering specialized courses on the rule of law, protection of civilians, sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, and the WPS agenda.

Establishing a stronger women presence in UN missions should also be a priority, in order to facilitate the dialogue with local populations and encourage victims to speak out. At the same time, it is fundamental to assist countries in situations of conflict in reforming their judicial systems and **strengthening the rule of law and the accountability mechanisms.**

We concur on the **need of a survivor-centered approach:** the international community should provide appropriate reintegration support, in order to restore the social fabric of societies after conflict. This includes reaffirming our commitment to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the right of every individual to have full control and responsibly over their sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.

Italy is the largest contributor to the UN Trust Fund on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The launch of a **new Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual**



Violence is timely and important, and we will positively consider the possibility of contributing.

Finally, **female leadership** opportunities are essential for prevention and reconciliation: violence stems from deeply entrenched patriarchal societal rules, which can only be dismantled through the active engagement of women in the decision-making system.

Involving **civil society** is also key to achieving sustainable results over the years. The presence in this room of the Nobel Prize Laureates Dr. Denis Mukwege and Ms. Nadia Murad is the paramount evidence of the essential role that the civil society can play.

Let me conclude by reaffirming once again, as stated during yesterday's Open Debate, **Italy's strong commitment to the WPS agenda** and, in this context, to the fight against sexual violence in conflicts. We will continue to fully support the work of the Secretary-General and that of his Special Representative in order to pursue greater and increasingly tangible results in this field.

Thank you.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Thank you, Madam Moderator, Ms. Pamela Falk, CBS News, for the floor.

We would like to congratulate SRSG Ms. Pramila Patten and her team on the 10-year Anniversary of the SRSG's mandate. And with today's launch of the Global Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. Since the establishment of your Office, conflict-related sexual violence has become central to discussions about peace and accountability processes. Your Office has been instrumental in the documentation of evidence of sexual violence in conflict. Important milestones have



been achieved. Yet there is a long way to go. Sexual violence continues to be part of the broader strategy of conflict. Women and girls, men and boys, who faced these crimes are scarred for life. It is positive to see more global attention for survivors. Your efforts have contributed to amplifying their voices. We thank survivors for their bravery to speak about their experiences today. It brings me to my first point. The importance of adopting a survivor-centered approach.

Point 1: Adopting a survivor-based approach

We want to emphasize the importance of listening to survivors of sexual violence and respecting their rights, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Survivors should be the drivers of their personal recovery process. We reiterate the importance of resolution 2467 as the first resolution that outlines a survivor-centered approach. This is a major step towards the inclusion of survivors and respecting their needs. Choice is at the corner stone of the survivor-centered approach. We should support survivors with information and with comprehensive health services. This includes the right of a women or girl to make herself the decision whether or not to terminate pregnancy as a result of rape. Health services for survivors should also include mental health and psychosocial support. A holistic, survivor-centered approach empowers and builds resilience of affected individuals and communities. Many good practices exist: one-stop centers, women safe spaces, female police, and strengthening traditional justice structures. These interventions need adequate financing by donors and adoption in national systems and action plans. The impunity gap for sexual violence must be closed, which brings me to my second point.

Point 2: Accountability

Justice and accountability are key to deterrence and prevention of sexual violence in conflict. Despite increased attention to ending impunity for sexual violence crimes, accountability remains elusive. Sexual violence is used as a tool to instill fear, humiliate and punish not only the victim, but entire communities. Therefore, it has been widely recognized as a weapon of war. We have seen this in northern Iraq, where ISIS committed a widespread and systematic campaign of abduction, rape and sexual slavery against the Yezidi community. More than 6000 women and girls were



abducted, enslaved and held in captivity by Da'esh. Many remain missing. Those who have returned to their communities face stigmatization and trauma. Perpetrators of these crimes need to be held accountable. Accountability remains one of our country's top priorities. As a Security Council member, we pushed for adoption of sexual violence as stand-alone designation criterion in sanctions regimes. This led to the inclusion of a reference to sexual and gender-based crimes in four sanctions regimes. Furthermore, we should push for criminal investigation and prosecution of these crimes. When states are unable or unwilling to prosecute, the International Criminal Court can play an important role in holding perpetrators accountable. This brings me to my final point.

Point 3: Netherlands' commitment to implementation

Our National Action Plans, programming and diplomatic efforts are geared towards protection against sexual and gender-based violence. Jubilee year 2020 will provide great momentum. For Women, Peace and Security programmes, EUR 40 million will be available. Double the amount of previous programmes. Financing is a tool, but too often, we see scattered interventions while not addressing the political economy of the conflict. We call for better coordination of WPS funding and diplomacy. Major impact can only be achieved if we work together. We count on effective leadership in this regard by all multilateral organizations.

Madam Moderator, I thank you for the floor.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Madam Chair,

It gives me great pleasure to speak at this commemorative event. We thank the organizers and the delegation of South Africa for arranging it.



We acknowledge the important work carried out by the SRSG in taking forward the mandated work. Over the years the mandate has also evolved to address newer forms of violence and abuse in conflict situations. We thank the SRSG for taking great interest in listening to victims, assessing the situation on the ground and its gravity, and following due process in information, evidence and data collection.

Madam Chair,

Bangladesh appreciates the recent endeavour of the international community in addressing SVC through a survivor-centered approach. The adoption of SCR 2467 in April this year is expected to bring a perspective shift in the treatment of conflict-related sexual violence initiated under Security Council resolution 1888. The resolution represents a powerful new instrument in our fight to eradicate this menace, significantly strengthening prevention through justice and accountability and affirming, for the first time, that a survivor-centred approach must guide every aspect of the response of affected countries and the international community.

We find this very significant in the context of the Rohingya crisis. Since 25 August 2017, the Myanmar military and security forces unleashed in the Rakhine state a reign of terror on the Rohingya population. In particular, Rohingya women and girls were subject to sexual violence and rape which many referred to “as a tactic of war”. Many did not survive. Those who did shared with the SRSG on several occasions, and with other high officials of the UN including the SG their horrific experience. Still traumatized these victims underscored one fundamental demand for justice.

In September 2018, under a Framework of Cooperation on addressing conflict-related sexual violence against the displaced Rohingya population from Myanmar hosted in Bangladesh signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations, we are cooperating with the SRSG on SVC on five priority areas of cooperation and capacity building guided by SCR 1888 and the engagement of the inter-agency network “UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict”. We are ready to take forward the good work.



We, the international community, therefore, have the obligation under international law to address the issue. The various Security Council resolutions, which have the provisions for ensuring justice and accountability, must be implemented to hold all the perpetrators, who commanded, committed and condoned, to justice. The Security Council has the authority and they should take custodianship of such process.

Today's observance also includes the launching of an International Fund for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. Our delegation reiterates its support to the SRSG and her Office to work with the international community to stop and prevent sexual violence in conflict. It is crucial that we translate promises into practice, and resolutions into solutions.

I thank you.

Remarks by the Permanent Mission of Poland

Madam Special Representative, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

It is a decade since that the Security Council first agreed that sexual violence in conflict is not simply a gross violation of human rights, but also a security challenge that destabilizes communities and undermines post conflict reconciliation and stability. The last ten years showed a paradigm shift in the understanding of the scale, forms and root causes of conflict-related sexual violence and its impact on international peace and security. It has been understood that preventing sexual violence requires the advancement of substantive gender equality before, during, and after conflict, including by ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful participation in political, economic and social life and ensuring accessible and responsive justice and security institutions.

Despite international recognition of sexual violence as a crime against humanity, this devastating abuse continues to plague conflicts around the world. Survivors still



too often lack access to the comprehensive services they need to recover. The human rights activists fighting to prevent sexual violence are themselves, under growing attack.

Sexual violence has massive long-term repercussions. This is particularly true for children born of sexual violence. It is difficult to think of a more tragic situation than the one faced by innocent children, who through no fault of their own suffer not only discrimination but also the most extreme forms of stigma by their families and their communities. They are often denied nationality, excluded from school, deprived of medical treatment and subjected to physical and psychological violence; only because they were born of sexual violence. These children are as much victims of sexual violence as their mothers.

The Arria Formula meeting organized by Poland in October 2018, on the plight of children born of sexual violence, was the first time the Security Council addressed this issue. We are proud to see that only a year later the question of children born of sexual violence is seen as an integral part of the sexual violence agenda and it has gained the international attention it deserves. We see this as our legacy and one of the achievements of our term as a non-permanent member of the Security Council.

We look forward to the report of the UN Secretary-General on children born of sexual violence. We are sure it will help us to understand it better, and to find ways to develop the best policies to protect children born of sexual violence as well as their mothers.

Madam Special Representative,

I would like to assure you of Poland's continued support for your mandate and your leadership in fighting conflict-related sexual violence.



Remarks by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Madam Moderator,

My delegation appreciates SRSG Ms. Patten's commendable contributions in discharging her mandate towards global efforts in addressing conflict-related sexual violence. We are especially thankful for her cooperation and support to the Government of Myanmar in preventing conflict-related sexual violence and in capacity building efforts toward this end.

The Government of Myanmar is committed to addressing conflict-related sexual violence and signed the Joint Communiqué with the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict in December 2018. Subsequently we have facilitated her visit to Myanmar in February this year. To increase the national ownership and effectiveness in implementation of the Joint Communiqué, a National Committee on Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence was established last March. We have already begun the process of drafting a National Work Plan with the technical assistance from the United Nations.

Madam Moderator,

The ultimate solution to end all violence in conflict is to end all armed conflicts. As a country enduring over seven decades of protracted ethnic insurgencies, achieving peace and national reconciliation has been our topmost priority. Therefore, we have initiated an inclusive framework for political dialogue, the 21st Century Union Peace Conference, with the aim of ending ethnic armed conflict and ushering in a democratic federal union. Myanmar adopts a zero-tolerance policy against sexual violence. The Government has been undergoing legislative and public institutions reforms. It is also strengthening the rule of law to create a fair, just and gender-responsive society which guarantees fundamental human rights for all. The Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women Law has been drafted and will soon be enacted by the Parliament.



Moreover, One Stop Women Support Centers (OSWSC) have been set up throughout the country to support women and girls who have experienced violence. The Centers provide physical, legal, psychological and social support. Moreover, national gender-based hotlines have been established since 2016 to help the victims of violence to report and get counseling.

Madam Moderator,

My delegation believes that accountability is an important component of preventing sexual violence in conflict. However, it is not the only solution to prevent or to stop sexual violence. The countries concerned have the primary responsibility to protect and prevent such crimes against innocent people in conflict situations. On the other hand, the international community should render to them the necessary legal and technical support to countries in conflict situations in fulfilling their responsibility to protect their people and their national efforts to address accountability issues.

With the constructive cooperation and engagement of the international community, we are confident that we will be able to reduce and ultimately end the suffering of the victims of sexual violence. We look forward to working closely with the Office of the SRSG on advancing in addressing conflict-related sexual violence in Myanmar.

I thank you.



SESSION 12: CLOSING OF THE HEARING

Closing Remarks by SRSR-SVC Pramila Patten

I would like to conclude today's anniversary event by thanking everyone who has contributed for their valuable insights. Looking around this room, I am reminded of all the partners – governments, civil society organizations, academics, and UN entities alike – who have rallied around this mandate and share in its achievements and challenges.

In particular, I am reminded of the survivors – both those who are here, and so many others I have met. They are our profiles in political courage. Their plight is the moral compass that guides our actions and charts the way ahead. What the survivors and service providers have demanded here today, in terms of justice, reparations and redress, are not just aspirations – they are obligations.

When the Security Council adopted resolution 1888 in 2009, speakers condemned the “efficient brutality” of these crimes, committed by actors “operating with an impunity that encourages further attacks”. They lamented the profound impact of sexual violence in “shredding the fabric that weaves us together as human beings”. Despite all the progress made in the intervening years, these observations remain painfully and poignantly relevant today. Indeed, resolution 1888 remains unfinished business. To realize its full promise will require much more than “business as usual”.

When I took up this mandate in 2017, I asked myself three questions:

- How do we convert cultures of impunity into cultures of deterrence?
- How do we address structural gender-based inequality as an invisible driver of these crimes? And
- How do we foster national ownership for a sustainable, survivor-centered response?



These considerations continue to guide my approach. Indeed, the atrocities we have heard about today could have been prevented if more had been done, early and collectively. The challenge before us, as we enter a new decade of decisive action, is to replace centuries of horror with newfound hope. The hope and vision of resolution 1888 was that in recognizing sexual violence as a core security issue, all peace, security and diplomatic tools would be brought to bear in a concerted effort to stem this scourge. So, the question I would like to leave you with today is: What do we want to say here, at the United Nations, ten years from now?

First and foremost, I would hope that we have managed to prevent these heinous crimes from occurring, even in the midst of war. Should these abuses tragically persist, let us at least be able to affirm – once and for all – that when this mandate reaches its 20th anniversary:

- Survivors will have access to justice and reparations;
- Commanders and direct perpetrators will be held accountable;
- Sanctions Committees will routinely list perpetrators of sexual violence and economic pressure will be applied;
- The humanitarian response will be well-funded, well-coordinated, and commensurate with the scale of the needs;
- Sexual violence will be duly addressed in peace talks and ceasefire agreements;
- Protection from sexual violence will be included in the mandates and pre-deployment training of all peacekeepers;
- Women Protection Advisers and Gender Advisers will be swiftly deployed to the field;
- Justice and security sector reform at the national-level will be gender-responsive and zero-tolerance policies for sexual violence will be enforced; and, above all, that;
- Survivors will have a voice, not just as objects of protection, but as subjects of international peace and security, and agents of change.

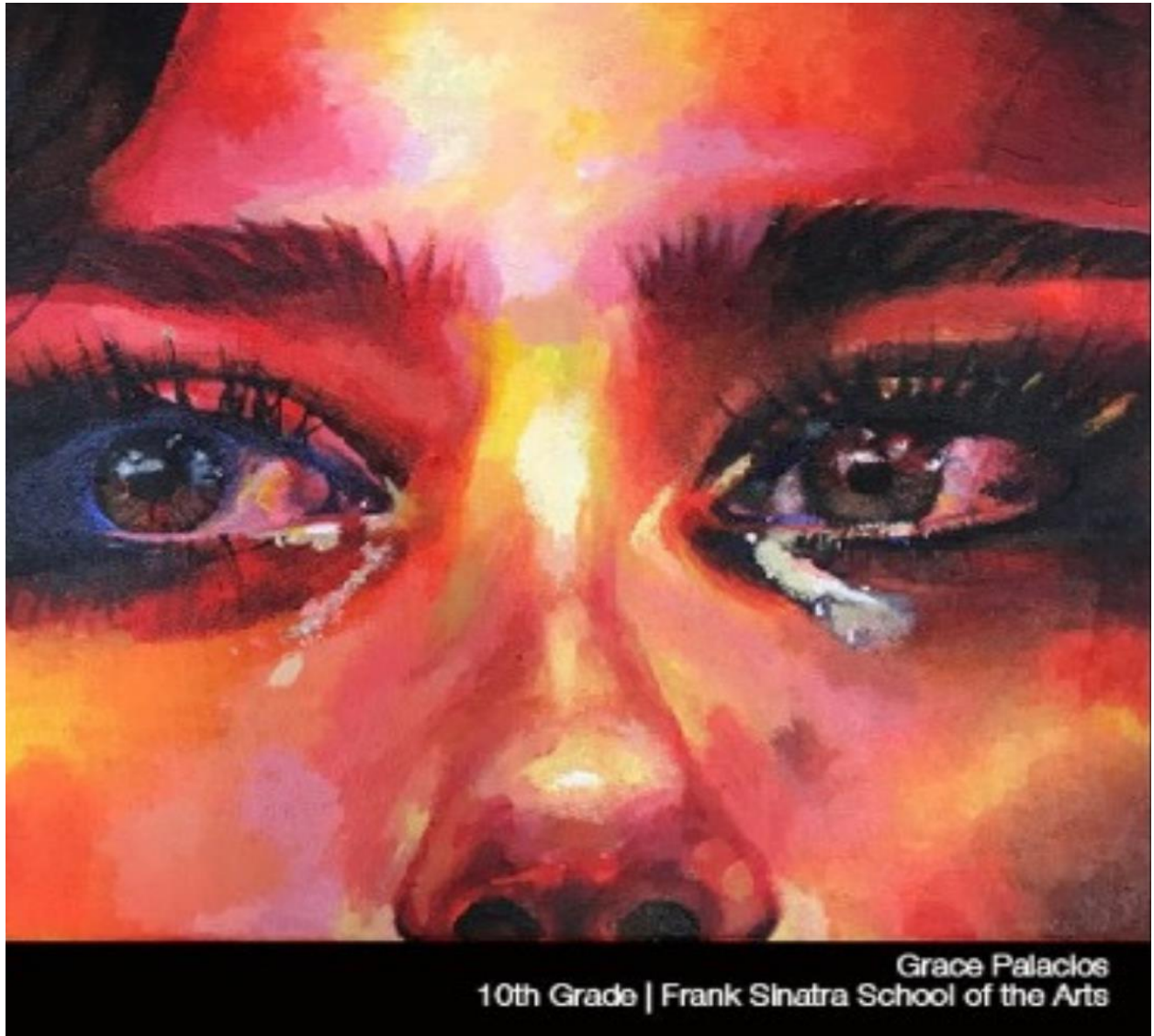


The Security Council initially envisaged my mandate as “a voice for the voiceless” – but as we have heard today, no one is voiceless. What survivors need is the encouragement and opportunity to use their voice, and a world that is ready to listen.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very little in human history is inevitable. It is often said that “history repeats itself”, but the truth is that people repeat history, or they make the choice to take a stand and say never again.

Thank you for standing with me today and helping to consign wartime rape to the annals of history, by saying ‘**never again**’.





Remarks by SRSRSG-SVC Pramila Patten at the launch of the Art Exhibit:

Sexual Violence in Conflict: Youth Speak Out through the Arts

Tuesday, 29 October 2019

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you here today for the opening of this exhibition titled ‘Sexual Violence in Conflict: Youth Speak Out through the Arts’. I would particularly like to welcome Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake. I am most grateful that you could be here on this occasion. But I wish to extend my particular thanks to the students from the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in Queens, New York, and the two Iraqi students for using their immense talents and themselves as social, political, and economic actors, and for demonstrating their capacity to help make social change.

As you tour around the art exhibition and discover more, you will be able to see that the idea behind is to cast a spotlight on the plight of victims and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, as seen from the perspective of young artists from New York, the host city of the United Nations, as well as a young artist from Iraq, a country torn by war.

Young people are our torchbearers, reservoirs of hope, and agents of change. Youth are key partners and actors for development and peace. The empowerment of young people as agents of change all over the world is integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The United Nations Charter promises to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war”, and yet around the world, young people continue to suffer the devastating effects of conflict, including its most enduring and intimate atrocity, the scourge of wartime rape. In failing to consign this brutality – once and for all – to the annals of history, the problem has been handed down to future generations to confront.



Throughout history, conflict-related sexual violence has been treated as an inevitable byproduct of war, the spoils of the victors, a mere collateral damage. To break the vicious cycle of violence and impunity, and to prevent future atrocities, it will be critical to harness and mobilize the innovative ideas and creative energy of youth in the search for lasting solutions.

Their work displayed here demonstrates the power of art in fostering empathy and deepening understanding of the emotional truth of war as experienced by the women and girls whose bodies have been part of the battlefield. As we mark ten years of progress and set the stage for a new decade of concerted endeavor, the work is fittingly poised between horror and hope. The paintings juxtapose vulnerability and defiance, rejection and resilience, solitude and solidarity, fear and fearlessness, illustrating the agonizing journey from victim to survivor, as well as the range and plurality of experiences. The paintings evoke the shattered self-image, psychological trauma, and unraveling of social ties that sexual violence leaves in its wake, providing a visual manifestation of inner turmoil and invisible scars. They also conjure the shifting power dynamics between victims who must stand up and perpetrators who must be brought down.

I would like to conclude by congratulating again the artists. May they inspire the United Nations family in its mission for peace and harmony. But I would like also to express my hope that many people will visit this exhibition and enjoy these exceptional examples of art. Today's exhibition can help us to get a better picture of the past. A past that can inspire us to work towards a better future where we can all say loud and clear: stop, enough, never again.

Thank you.