

Report on the International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond



Brussels
21-23 June 2006

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Cover art credit:

The artist is Scolastique Tshiapota. The painting is entitled “Emotion,” and was painted in 2005 as part of the “Promise of Equality” art competition in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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Note: In the electronic version of this report (available on CD and online at www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06), underlined items are hyper-linked to full presentations and reports.

ACRONYMS

AMIS – African Union Mission in Sudan

ARVs – Antiretroviral medications

AU – African Union

BCPR – Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP

BiH – Bosnia and Herzegovina

CAP – Consolidated Appeals Process

CAR – Central African Republic

CPA – Comprehensive Peace Agreement (Sudan)

CSW – Commission on the Status of Women

DCAF – Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

DDR – Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

DRC – Democratic Republic of the Congo

EC – European Commission

EDF – European Development Fund

EU – European Union

FGM – Female genital mutilation

GBV – Gender-based violence

HIV – Human immunodeficiency virus

HIV/AIDS – Human immunodeficiency virus / Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

IASC – Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs

IAWG – Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations

ICC – International Criminal Court

ICMH – International Centre for Migration and Health

ICPD – International Conference on Population and Development

IDP – Internally-displaced person

IRC – International Rescue Committee

IRIN – United Nations Integrated Regional Information Networks

LRA – Lord’s Resistance Army (Uganda)

MDGs – Millennium Development Goals

MIFTAH – The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy

MONUC – United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

MSF – Médecins Sans Frontières

NGO – Non-governmental organization

NPGVB – National Platform against Gender-Based Violence

OCHA – The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OCTs – Overseas Countries and Territories

OPT – Occupied Palestinian Territories

PEP – Post-Exposure (HIV) Prophylaxis

PLWHA – People living with HIV/AIDS

PMTCT – Prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

RELEX – European Commission External Relations Directorate-General

RH – Reproductive health

SGBV – Sexual and gender-based violence

SRSG – Special Representative of the Secretary-General

STI – Sexually-transmitted infection

UN – United Nations

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN Refugee Agency)

UNICEF – United Nations Children’s Fund

UNIFEM – United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNMIL – United Nations Mission in Liberia

UNMIS – United Nations Mission in Sudan

USAID – United States Agency for International Development

WHO – World Health Organization

Brussels Call to Action to Address Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond

We, the representatives of governments, the European Commission, civil society and the United Nations, met in Brussels from 21 to 23 June 2006 to strengthen our shared commitment and action to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

We, the participants of the *International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond*, express our appreciation to the Government of Belgium, the European Commission and the United Nations Population Fund for organizing this symposium and bringing increased attention to this issue, which is fundamental to development, human rights, and peace and security. In addition to the delegations from conflict-affected countries, our ranks included heads of United Nations agencies and European Institutions, non-governmental organizations, human rights activists, researchers, ministers and other government officials, field-based humanitarian workers, parliamentarians, representatives from the International Criminal Court, military and police officers, war correspondents and other members of the media.

We take note of the obligations and commitments articulated in numerous international and regional instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, Security Council resolutions 1308 and 1325, European Council conclusions, the European Consensus on Development, the European Union Africa Strategy, the resolutions of the European Parliament on the role of women in the peaceful resolution of conflict, and the European Parliament report on the situation of women in armed conflict and their role in reconstruction and democratic processes in countries after a conflict.

We have heard during the past three days from representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Indonesia, Liberia, Palestine, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uganda about the immediate and long-term impact of sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence during conflict, as well as conflict-based violence resulting from occupation. We were presented with evidence from these delegations of the widespread prevalence of this violence and its devastating effects on survivors, families and communities, and entire nations attempting to build and maintain peace and engage in recovery and reconstruction.

We are deeply concerned that the response to sexual violence in conflict and beyond is grossly inadequate when compared to the scope of the phenomenon and agree with the report of the independent experts on women, war and peace “that the standards of protection for women affected by conflict are glaring in their inadequacy, as is the international response.”

We recognize the urgency of addressing sexual and gender-based violence as a priority. We also recognize that effective prevention and response require long-term, holistic and coordinated efforts by multiple stakeholders that address the health, education, economic, legal, psychosocial and security concerns of affected populations.

We acknowledge that the lack of consistent political action and reliable funding to address sexual violence in conflict and recovery is hindering efforts to protect and effectively respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.

This symposium comes at a time when sexual violence is increasingly recognized as a human rights violation and development issue in countries affected by conflict. The United Nations has taken up the issue in the Security Council, in high-level reports on issues ranging from peacebuilding to United Nations reform, and in new frameworks and guidelines for humanitarian action. The International Criminal Court has recognized rape in conflict situations as a war crime and/or crime against humanity, and a growing number of post-conflict countries are taking steps to address in their legal and policy frameworks the provisions outlined in United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, war and peace.

This Call to Action is for governments, European Institutions, the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, and civil society to prioritize the issue of sexual violence against women and girls, in particular, and also against men and boys, in all humanitarian, peacebuilding and development frameworks and programming in countries affected by conflict. This Call to Action builds on existing agreements and recognizes that these efforts should address not only sexual violence but all forms of gender-based violence that endanger civilians in conflict as well as in peacetime. This Call to Action builds on existing agreements and calls for their immediate and urgent implementation. There must be zero tolerance for acts of sexual and gender-based violence, and zero tolerance for complacency by governments and other institutions responsible for the safety and well-being of women, men and children affected by conflict.

Brussels Call to Action¹

We, the delegates to the *International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond*, call for urgent and long-term action to:

1. Prevent sexual and gender-based violence by promoting gender equity and equality and the economic, social and political empowerment of women.
2. Enhance mechanisms for regional and sub-regional collaboration of governments, donors, international organizations and civil society to address sexual and gender-based violence, with special attention to highly volatile areas.
3. Incorporate sexual violence prevention and protection into all aspects of humanitarian assistance including food, fuel, water and sanitation, and shelter as prescribed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) *Guidelines for Gender-Based Interventions in Humanitarian Settings*.
4. Prevent and respond to sexual violence in all planning and funding frameworks for humanitarian response, peace-building, recovery, development and political dialogue, and link relief and development funding to ensure the continuity of sexual violence prevention and response.
5. Strengthen accountability frameworks and systematic monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and relevant resolutions adopted by the European Council.

¹ The Brussels Call to Action can be found in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and German at: www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06

6. Intensify international, regional and national efforts to end impunity for perpetrators by strengthening the legal and judicial systems and by enacting and enforcing legislation, and provide national justice systems with the necessary resources to prosecute cases of sexual and gender-based violence.
7. Recognize the right and ensure access to material and symbolic reparation, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition for all survivors.
8. Develop National Action Plans to address sexual and gender-based violence that identify comprehensive programmes and opportunities for action across sectors, including sexual and reproductive health and the prevention, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS; education and life skills; human rights; justice; security sector reform; and socioeconomic recovery and livelihood support.
9. Ensure the full and active participation of youth, women and other vulnerable populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons, in the development of comprehensive National Action Plans to address sexual and gender-based violence.
10. Include in national plans the prevention of gender-based violence as an indicator of good governance to be used as an element in determining access to funding, including incentive tranches.
11. Build and strengthen ownership of all national frameworks and develop the capacity of country partners, governmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, and the United Nations system to ensure the centrality of sexual and gender-based violence in poverty reduction strategy papers, sector-wide approaches, country and regional strategy papers, consolidated appeals processes, post-conflict needs assessments and national transitional strategies, and common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.
12. Ensure specific protection mechanisms for especially vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied and separated children and persons with disabilities.
13. Strengthen behaviour change communication and other measures to preserve and restore positive social values and change harmful beliefs and practices to protect against sexual and gender-based violence and strengthen the protective capacities of families and communities.
14. Incorporate strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and in security sector reform processes, and ensure the full engagement of the security sector, including police and army, to prevent and respond to sexual violence in a sensitive and effective manner.
15. Urge all nations providing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
16. Develop awareness of humanitarian laws, human rights and gender equality for humanitarian workers and peacekeepers and enforce the United Nations code of conduct on zero tolerance for sexual abuse and exploitation.

17. Develop comprehensive awareness-raising strategies on the nature, scope and seriousness of sexual and gender-based violence at all levels to ensure the protection of survivors from discrimination and stigmatization, and engage men and boys, as well as government officials, community and religious leaders, the media, women's groups and other opinion makers in promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of women and children.
18. Develop a comprehensive methodology and tools to assess the scope and nature of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected countries and specify budgetary and cost implications.
19. Undertake comprehensive, ethically and methodologically sound, qualitative and quantitative research on the nature, scope, impact, root causes and contributing factors of sexual and gender-based violence, and develop ongoing data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting systems, including gender budgeting.
20. Invest in the capacity-building of all stakeholders involved in the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and beyond.
21. Empower the media to educate and advocate against sexual and gender-based violence.

Background

Sexual violence in conflict is not new. Employing widespread acts of sexual violence to terrorize and demoralize the enemy is a practice as old as war itself. However, it is only over the past decade that public awareness of the scourge of sexual violence in conflict settings has steadily increased. Numerous voices have called for immediate steps to quell a human rights abuse that traumatizes and often physically damages women, undermines their psychophysical health, breaks down communities and retards or reverses societal development.

In 2000, the United Nations (UN) Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which brought attention to the need for comprehensive response to conflict-driven sexual violence against women beyond simply providing psychosocial and health support for survivors. Since the adoption of Resolution 1325, the Security Council as well as the international community has given greater attention to this issue. The *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment*² (2002), sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), investigated the impact of conflict on women and girls and their role in peacebuilding and recovery, and made recommendations for legal, social, medical, and psychological interventions to prevent sexual abuse and exploitations.

Several international agreements, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (2000), have shed light on the devastating effects of violence on women, their families and communities. Numerous humanitarian organizations have developed standards and programmes for protection and care for survivors of sexual violence. International justice institutions and processes are increasingly

² The document *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment* can be found at: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=17

giving attention to this issue. But despite growing attention to the issue, the response to date has been severely inadequate when compared to the seriousness and prevalence of the problem: conflict-related sexual violence continues to plague countless communities around the globe, undermining security, devastating families and communities, and jeopardizing post-conflict recovery and development.

Objectives and Goals of the Symposium

The International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations and Beyond was sponsored by the Government of Belgium and the European Commission (EC), and convened by UNFPA to raise awareness among key international actors about the enormous impact of war-related sexual violence on survivors, families, communities and nations. The Symposium highlighted the social, cultural and developmental costs of sexual violence, and focused on the benefits of investing in preventive measures and care for victims. Through knowledge sharing, mobilization of political and financial support, and the development of comprehensive National Action Plans, the Symposium sought to ensure that measures to address and prevent sexual violence are integrated into all humanitarian response and recovery efforts as well as into development programming. The Symposium also provided a venue for donors to support specific National Action Plans and field-based programmes, and for national actors to consult with potential new partners and donors about their humanitarian and recovery strategies.

In summary, the objectives of the Symposium were to:

- Raise awareness among policy makers and opinion leaders about the scale and impact of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict situations;
- Share knowledge and experience on effective responses to such violence, including prevention, protection and care;
- Mobilize political and financial support for prevention and response programmes; and
- Initiate and support the development of consensus-based, comprehensive National Action Plans for ending sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Symposium Content Summary

The Symposium, which consisted of nine sessions, covered a broad range of topics to provide a current picture of the dynamics and consequences of sexual violence, and provided a forum for learning about existing programmes designed to address the problem in a selection of conflict-affected countries.

The opening session featured distinguished guest Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium, and included welcome addresses from the Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation Armand De Decker, UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid and Lieve Fransen of the European Commission's Directorate General for Development. A written message from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was read and distributed to participants. Finally, a video address was given by Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

The balance of the Symposium's first day included sessions introducing conceptual issues relating to sexual violence in conflict, as well as programmatic and funding frameworks for

responding to and preventing sexual violence in conflict and beyond, with particular emphasis on an innovative programme from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the evening, participants viewed the UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) photo exhibit, Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams: Violence against Women Exposed³.

Concurrent sessions on the second day of the Symposium covered a range of topics, including:

- Presentations on National Action Plans for addressing conflict-related sexual violence and recovery;
- Examples of sexual violence prevention and response in conflict situations and beyond;
- Strategies for protection and prevention;
- The rule of law and the end of impunity;
- Different ways to meet the health and psychosocial needs of survivors;
- Data collection needs and challenges;
- Collaborative strategies for action; and
- Key elements for establishing a comprehensive plan of action, including funding frameworks, advocacy needs and national policy formulation.

The second day ended with the launch of the book Women in an Insecure World: Violence Against Women - Facts, Figures and Analysis⁴, by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

The third and final day of the Symposium included sessions on protection and the security sector and joint action for prevention of, and response to, sexual violence in conflict situations and beyond. The final session of the Symposium was dedicated to the reading and revision, in plenary, of the Brussels Call to Action.

³ Links to selected photos from this exhibit may be found at: <http://www.irinnews.org/broken-bodies/gallery.asp>

⁴ An Executive Summary of *Women in an Insecure World: Violence Against Women - Facts, Figures and Analysis* can be found in English and French at: http://www.dcaf.ch/women/bk_vlachova_biason_women.cfm

THE SESSIONS

Day One

Journalist Seminar: Covering Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations

On the morning of June 21, some 30 war correspondents, news editors and producers, and other international journalists from three continents participated in a special seminar on how to cover conflict-related sexual violence. The half-day workshop was organized by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma (www.dartcenter.org), a global network of journalists and mental health professionals dedicated to effective and informed news reporting on violence, and was designed to enhance journalists' ability to effectively report on the impact of sexual violence on individuals, communities and nations, both on the frontlines in war-affected countries and in policy debates in donor capitals.

The workshop was chaired by journalists with extensive experience reporting on issues related to conflict: Judith Matloff, a professor at the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, and Annabel McGoldrick, who runs the journalism think tank Reporting the World. The seminar included expert briefings on rape and trauma and frank discussion and sharing of experiences among participants regarding reporting techniques, challenges and ethical issues. Issues covered included:

- How to interview victims sensitively;
- Raising awareness about the impact of trauma;
- The social repercussions of rape; and
- Finding solutions to reporting challenges: logistics, gathering data, journalist safety, protecting anonymity, cultural and gender sensitivities, and minimizing stigmatization and physical threats to survivors.

The conclusions of the workshop have been compiled in a set of guidelines now available on the DART Center website (www.dartcenter.org).

Opening Session: Welcome addresses and introductions

H.E. Armand De Decker⁵, Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation, opened his remarks by offering special thanks to Her Royal Highness Princess Mathilde of Belgium, who has worked to help improve the quality of life of vulnerable women and children in Africa and Asia. Mr. De Decker then turned to the topic of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, noting that traditional wars between states have largely been replaced by internal conflicts in which government forces oppose guerrillas groups. In these conflicts, sexual violence is often used as an

⁵ Mr. De Decker's speech may be found online in English at:

http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/adecker-sexualviolence_eng.doc

His speech may be found online in French at:

http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/adecker-sexualviolence_fre.doc

His speech may be found online in Spanish at:

http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/adecker-sexualviolence_spa.doc

His speech may be found online in Dutch at:

http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/adecker-sexualviolence_dut.doc

instrument of policy to terrorize, subjugate and humiliate women and children in defiance of the Geneva Conventions and other international laws.

Mr. De Decker said that even in times of peace, women rarely have the same political rights, material means, power, and control over their lives that men have. These inequalities are magnified during conflict: sexual assaults increase dramatically in wartime and survivors of sexual violence are victimized again through community stigmatization and lack of access to medical and psychosocial care. Mr. De Decker emphasized the importance of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and the critical role the International Criminal Court can and must play in persuading national tribunals to prosecute the perpetrators of sexual violence. He concluded his remarks by calling on donors to fund projects such as the multi-sectoral, joint agency initiative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

UNFPA Executive Director **Thoraya Obaid**⁶ spoke of the common goal of the Symposium's participants to strengthen prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict and beyond and to promote zero tolerance of all forms of gender-based violence. Such violence, she said, is occurring on a massive global scale and the worldwide response must be commensurate with the magnitude of the problem. The relative capacities of each concerned organization and government must be tapped in order to provide the necessary resources to respond effectively and comprehensively to the problem. Ms. Obaid said that individuals must work together to help create the political will needed to effect change.

Ms. Obaid cited Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's attention to and prioritization of the issue in Liberia as an important and positive example of leadership in this area. Ms. Obaid spoke of the importance of the guidelines published by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs for addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in all its manifestations, and called for further multi-sectoral response and joint programming to address gender-based violence.

Dr. Lieve Franssen⁷, Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development, spoke about the sensitivity of the issue and the extraordinary vulnerability of its victims, who are predominantly girls and women. She pointed out that sexual violence greatly increases during times of conflict, when public order and justice give way to anarchy. During conflicts, there are few if any mechanisms to prevent sexual assaults and survivors usually do not have access to appropriate medical resources. In many areas, institutionalized gender-based violence is also very common in peacetime and includes human trafficking, forced prostitution, and sexual harassment.

Dr. Franssen said the European Union (EU), which supports human rights and gender equality across the globe, is working to combat discrimination against women. Specifically, the EU supports equal human rights, equal access to resources, and equal access to political power.

In a written statement, United Nations Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**⁸ noted that the Symposium reflects a growing international consensus to end sexual violence, which is a violation of human

⁶ Ms. Obaid's speech may be found online at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/news/news.cfm?ID=814&LANGUAGE=1>

⁷ Dr. Franssen's speech may be found online at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/dayoneopeningssessionlievefranssen.doc>

⁸ Mr. Annan's speech may be found online at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/kannan-conflictsexualviolence-1.doc>

rights, a global public health problem and an impediment to recovery, development and peace. He cited international resolutions and framework resolutions designed to respond to the problem of sexual exploitation and abuses, and urged donors to live up to their commitments in this area.

Liberian President **Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf**⁹, in a video address, said that Liberia is now on the path to recovery after 14 years of civil war in which more than half the country's women suffered some form of sexual or gender-based violence. She noted that the Liberian legislature enacted a tough national rape law in 2005, and that her Government has formulated a National Response Plan of Action for the prevention and case management of sexual and gender-based violence. This action plan encompasses a variety of strategic interventions using different multi-cultural and multi-dimensional approaches. These interventions include:

1. Strengthening the health sector for effective and efficient response through case management, diagnosis, and reporting and documentation of clinical evidence of rape;
2. Reforming the legal system to strengthen national capacity to deal more efficiently and expeditiously with violence, and to promote the protection and security of women and girls in general;
3. Establishing systems and outreach services for psycho-social support, and "safe homes" for survivors of violence, as well as providing specialized training to social and health professionals who will manage such cases;
4. Ensuring that all planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation processes are supported by gender-sensitive data and analysis;
5. Intensified, comprehensive awareness-raising about the scope and prevalence of sexual abuse and exploitation, and programmes to help prevent such abuse and to contribute to the abolition of traditional and cultural practices that perpetuate violence against women and girls;
6. Support for the economic and social empowerment of women and girls; and
7. Strengthening the institutional framework for the coordinated implementation of the national response Plan of Action for the prevention, and case management of sexual violence.

The Liberian Plan of Action presented by President Johnson-Sirleaf is to be implemented in close collaboration and partnership with sectoral ministers, development partners, UN agencies, civil society organizations, community leaders and the media.

Session Two, "Conceptualizing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond," a panel discussion, provided an overview of the dynamics and implications of sexual violence in conflict, post-conflict and development situations. It illustrated not only the magnitude and scope of the problem but also its historical roots, patterns and effects. The session also reviewed strategies for prevention and response during all phases of humanitarian crisis and recovery (emergency preparedness, conflict, post-conflict, transition and development). The

⁹ President Johnson-Sirleaf's video address may be found in text at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/dayoneopeningssessionjohnsonsirleaf.doc>

session was chaired by Florence Tercier, the Women and War Advisor of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Presenters were Véronique De Keyser, a member of the European Parliament, Françoise Duroch, Research Coordinator on the Project Violence at Médecins Sans Frontières – Switzerland and Dr. Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki, Human Rights and Protection/Women’s Rights Advisor to the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Véronique de Keyser discussed the report, unanimously adopted by the European Parliament, entitled *On the Situation of Women in Armed Conflict and Their Role in the Reconstruction and the Democratic Process in Post-conflict Situations*¹⁰. She described three different aspects of women in armed conflict: as victims of war, as forces of peace, and as vectors of war.

As the EU prepares its new strategy relating to women in conflict, Ms. de Keyser urged that the following gender issues be considered:

- Addressing the need for gender-sensitive training of armed forces about the treatment of women;
- Ensuring that women are involved in training troops and other activities related to conflict;
- Attaching gender advisers to military units;
- Ensuring the absolute priority of reproductive health (RH) issues;
- Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV;
- Enforcing zero tolerance for violence against women in conflict and beyond; and
- Educating communities and populations on gender equality.

Françoise Duroch¹¹ discussed four critical components necessary to respond to sexual violence in conflict:

1. Access to care, and knowledge about what care is available;
2. Management of the health consequences of sexual violence;
3. Monitoring and evaluation of the care of, and response to, survivors of conflict-related sexual violence; and
4. Follow-up care, including adherence to prescribed treatment, and protection, legal and security aspects.

Ms. Duroch observed that providing access to care is difficult because of the enormous taboos surrounding such violence and the security risks posed to women and girls seeking care. Medical

¹⁰ Further information about the report *On the Situation of Women in Armed Conflict and Their Role in the Reconstruction and the Democratic Process in Post-conflict Situations* may be found online at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/file.jsp?id=5288682>

¹¹ Ms. Duroch’s powerpoint presentation may be found online at: <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/dayonesessiontwoduroch.ppt>

services are often lacking and, when available, tend to be centralized, making access difficult for many victims. Other problems include the high cost of antiretroviral medications, limited availability of fistula treatment, and a lack of confidentiality when a survivor seeks care. Case definition is also a challenge as many communities find it difficult to agree about what constitutes rape.

Ms. Duroch recommended that:

1. States be urged to put national protocols into place for responding to conflict-related gender-based violence, including sexual violence;
2. Post-exposure HIV prevention, emergency contraception and options to terminate forced pregnancy be made available;
3. Appropriate medical treatments, including fistula repair, be made widely available; and
4. Physical protection and safe havens for survivors be made widely available.

Dr. Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki discussed instances of sexual exploitation and abuse that occurred during the civil war in Liberia, and the passage and enforcement in that country of what are currently believed to be the most stringent laws against rape in the African region.

He recommended that:

1. In post-conflict situations, donors should be obligated to make good on their pledges. Donor funds should be appropriately distributed to all key actors – national as well as those providing local services;
2. Empowerment of women and alleviation of poverty be paramount;
3. Children return to school as soon as possible after conflict ceases; and
4. Local capacity to prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based violence should be strengthened by educating individuals and communities about the negative consequences of such violence.

Session Three, “Frameworks for Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond,” reviewed evolving opportunities for combating sexual violence in conflict, transition, and recovery contexts, focusing in particular on new coordination and funding mechanisms and different strategies for using these mechanisms to ensure that prevention and response are always a priority. The panel was chaired by Pascal Grégoire, the Councillor of the Cabinet of the Minister for Development Cooperation within the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs at the Belgian Foreign Trade and Development Organization. The presenters were Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director of UNIFEM, and Lena Sund, Deputy Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development. The discussant was Manuel Carballo, Executive Director of the International Centre for Migration and Health.

Pascal Grégoire declared that sexual violence should be regarded as a critical emergency, a crime, and a human rights violation. Violence against women is used as a deliberate weapon of

war precisely because it destroys the fabric of communities. Mr. Grégoire cited the study on the impact of war on women conducted by Elisabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (*Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment*¹²) which found that the nature of such violence has changed in modern times and that in many conflict situations, rape has become more prevalent, more cruel, and an institutionalized aspect of conflict. He noted that such violence must be understood as occurring along a continuum of violence and social disintegration, and that its root causes must be addressed.

Noleen Heyzer¹³ referred to the UNIFEM–managed Trust Fund for Ending Violence Against Women, which has spent US \$30 million combating gender-based violence, and noted that this amount has not been nearly sufficient to adequately respond to the problem of sexual violence and exploitation in conflict settings. The UN community has recently included programmes in the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and some donors have begun to support such programmes, but the needs greatly outweigh the resources available. Ms. Heyzer noted that sexual violence cannot be treated as a minor crime as it is a grave issue dealing with the violation of human rights and justice. Political will to deal with the problem must be built and converted into action, and women's rights must be addressed via legislative reform, among other means. Ms. Heyzer also said that women must be included in peace-building and decision-making processes in order to truly consolidate peace and recovery. Violence against women must never be rewarded with state power. Any society that violates women will never have a secure base, and therefore will spiral back into violence and instability. Ms. Heyzer advocated for a solid collaboration across UN agencies and others to combat such violence and to bring justice for survivors and called on the international community to scale up action against sexual violence in conflict.

Ms. Heyzer stressed that ending violence against women is not just a women's problem: men, the military and traditional leaders must be full participants as well. She noted that UNIFEM has supported 45 countries in the development of National Action Plans to end violence against women, and that it was important that programmes fighting gender violence also enable women to gain their rights. Achieving full equality and protection for women will be an important marker on the road to world peace.

Lena Sund¹⁴ discussed funding modalities and aid mechanisms for combating violence against women. Women, she observed, play a key role in achieving sustainable peace; they should not be perceived as perpetual victims but rather as advocates capable of productive action. To this end, women must have equal rights, equal access to resources, and equal access to decision-making positions.

Ms. Sund presented a brief outline of the European Commission (EC) framework for responding to gender violence and for a coherent approach to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325.¹⁵ The framework stresses the role of women as actors in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. According to Ms. Sund, it has become clear that gender-based violence programming is essential both during and after war. The EU is funding public

¹² The document *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment* can be found at: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=17

¹³ Ms. Heyzer's speech may be found online at: <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/nheyser-presentation.doc>

¹⁴ Ms. Sund's speech may be found online at: <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/dayonesessionthreelenasund.doc>

¹⁵ Further information about Security Council Resolution 1325 may be found at: <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html>

sensitization in the Congo, Burundi, Guatemala and Bosnia and Herzegovina and there is a plan to target adolescent behavior and to strengthen the role of boys and men in achieving gender equality. Data collection remains a priority area: the creation of national research centers and initiatives to document the impact and socioeconomic costs of sexual violence are essential.

Manuel Carballo, serving as discussant, emphasized the importance of recognizing that boys and men also suffer from sexual assault in conflict situations. As a former public health advisor for the World Health Organization (WHO) during the siege of Sarajevo, he recalled the profound physical and psychological trauma associated with rape and his dismay over those who committed suicide as a result of this trauma. Dr. Carballo said that one of the purposes of the Symposium was to look for solutions and to propose actions based on empirical evidence about what sorts of interventions work. He noted that donors and implementing partners must publicly recognize the nature and magnitude of the problem and funding must go to programmes that have clear, systematic provisions for combating sexual violence and abuse in any and all humanitarian interventions.

No humanitarian agency today should go into the field without being prepared to address the issue of such violence, Dr. Carballo declared. Sexual assault and abuse does not stop with a peace agreement and if action against such violence is not sustained, it is likely to continue, undermining community security and recovery. Better data, better statistics, and more effective reporting mechanisms are needed. Such data must be widely publicized in order to sensitize and educate communities about the problems of all sorts of gender-based violence. He said that unless such violence is tackled in an urgent manner, the quest for universal human rights will surely fail.

Discussion

- In the fight against sexual or gender-based violence in conflict situations, solid analysis of the patterns of the conflict itself are required in order to design effective prevention and response interventions. For example, in Palestine, the restriction of movement of civilians is contributing to gender-based violence, and this specific problem must be addressed. In some other situations, the lack of safe transport to nearby market villages increases risk.
- National Action Plans must provide frameworks for moving forward and must include support from a broad array of government and civil society actors. But in planning effective, practical action against sexual violence, it is important to “localize” the concepts, frameworks and issues involved in order to accommodate local circumstances.
- The role of military leadership – or its absence – in the occurrence of conflict-related sexual violence and abuse has not been given sufficient attention. This is a serious omission as the military often provides the means for perpetration of such violence yet could also play a positive role in providing security for the community.
- Punishment for perpetrators by establishing and enforcing a policy of zero tolerance for such offenses is essential but is not enough; victims of such crimes should be entitled to some form of reparations as well.
- During the past two years, the UN has created specialized programmes for prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN staff (and peacekeepers) and training is being provided for all staff. There is now a standing board of enquiry focusing on sexual

exploitation and abuse, and the UN Office of Internal Oversight oversees the implementation of the zero tolerance policy operating for peacekeeping operations.

- Senior leaders, both military and civilian, need to understand the importance of addressing and preventing sexual abuse and violence. In response to accusations of sexual exploitation apparently committed by UN peacekeepers in Cambodia, one senior UN official is said to have remarked that “boys will be boys.” Of all people, peacekeepers must be exemplary in their conduct and steps should be taken to end immunity for peacekeepers who commit sexual crimes.

Session Four, “Prevention and Response: Focus on the Democratic Republic of the Congo,”

covered efforts to develop a comprehensive, multi-sectoral programme integrating health care, psycho-social support, security and legal redress in programmes to combat sexual and other forms of gender-based violence in the DRC. The session was chaired by Kris Panneels, Director, Multilateral Cooperation Directorate, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium. A panel of Congolese experts included: Marie-Madeleine Kalala, Minister of Human Rights; Fabiola Faïda Mwangilwa, Minister of Women and the Family; Toussaint Muntazini, Colonel Attorney General; Dr. Jean-Pascal Manga Okenge, Professeur, Clinique Maternité sans Risque; Marie Mossi, President, Réseau Action Femme (RAF); and Justine Masike Buhamba, Synergie des femmes pour les victimes des violence sexuelles. The Discussant was Rory Keane, Desk Officer for West and Central Africa, the Caribbean and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), European Commission Directorate General for Development.

Presenters from the DRC government and civil society discussed the prevalence of sexual violence as a result of the 1996-2002 civil war. Both during and after the conflict, violence against women has been widespread, and often used as a deliberate weapon of war. A dysfunctional justice system and inadequate social and health infrastructures have left women disenfranchised and highly vulnerable to sexual violence and exploitation.

To provide victims with much-needed medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic and legal support, a four-year comprehensive programme for the prevention and treatment of sexual and gender-based violence commenced in 2005. The programme is funded by the Government of Belgium and is being implemented jointly by UNFPA, UNICEF, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The project has received the support and participation of the Congolese Ministries of Social Affairs, Health, Justice and Women’s Affairs; nine UN agencies including WHO, UNDP and UNIFEM; uniformed personnel including the Congolese military and police; and local NGOs with expertise in addressing sexual violence. Some 25,000 survivors of sexual violence are being served by the project.

The 7.8 million Euro (US \$9.7 million) project seeks to improve the situation of vulnerable women and children through the following activities:

- Collecting and updating data on sexual violence among women, young people and children, and creating information systems to facilitate better data collection and analysis procedures;
- Enlisting political, military and religious leaders to join the fight against sexual violence through community mobilization, sensitization, and strengthening of the negotiating position of vulnerable groups;

- Strengthening medical infrastructure across all three target provinces by providing drugs, supplies and equipment, and by training health workers in psychosocial counseling and the treatment of the medical consequences of rape, including fistula, sexually transmitted infections, and post-exposure HIV prevention;
- Building the technical and logistical capabilities of rehabilitation centers for survivors of rape;
- Strengthening outreach networks in 150 communities to enable them to better identify and serve survivors and to help build the capacity of families, community members and other actors to support victims;
- Establishing legal support by drafting strong laws to punish assailants and providing legal assistance to victims and their families; and
- Facilitating the reintegration of survivors into their communities through literacy and skills training.

The panel reviewed a number of challenges to programme implementation, citing specific constraints such as:

- The difficulty of coordinating activities by so many different partners;
- Insufficient financial and human resources;
- Inaccessibility due to insecurity in some high-prevalence areas;
- Difficulty in collecting quantitative and qualitative data; and
- Limited and inadequate service coverage in some geographic areas needing assistance.

The panel reviewed plans for strengthening the programme, including:

- Improving joint programming and reinforcing coordination among the Government, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society and development partners;
- Ensuring that gender-based violence prevention and response are a political priority in all sectors; and
- Reinforcing the intervention capacities of additional community-based organizations.

Discussion

- In the DRC, sexual violence is now increasingly perpetrated by civilians, including by children against other children.
- Sexual violence should be a cross-cutting issue in all emergency clusters, as well as in recovery and development efforts.
- Working with indirect victims of sexual violence (e.g. husband and family members of a rape victim) and the community at large is critical in order to prevent the stigmatization of victims.

- Preventing sexual violence in non-emergency settings is crucial, as sexual violence happening in crisis situations is the amplification of a widespread phenomenon occurring everyday, everywhere. The judiciary system cannot be the only one involved: it is particularly important to understand and change the psychological driving forces that lead men to rape women. Traditional beliefs (i.e. having sex with a virgin will cure HIV/AIDS) can also be harmful. All UN agencies should work on preventing sexual violence through advocacy and awareness-raising efforts, the development of legal tools and the development of integrated educational (including sexual education) and health tools.
- The geographic distribution of donor-funded programmes is usually unequal at the national level. Stronger coordination between the national Government, the international agencies and the NGOs is necessary to ensure that whole regions are not forgotten.
- Humanitarian and development funding can overlap – in the DRC for example, some geographic zones are still facing emergency situations whereas others are receiving development assistance.
- Building partnership for the DRC National Plan of Action was a difficult task for the UN system. The role of Belgium was particularly helpful in that process.

Evening of the first day:

A photo exhibit featuring pictures from the 2005 joint OCHA and Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) publication, “Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams: Violence against Women Exposed”¹⁶, was on display in the Palais d’Egmont, and was officially launched to participants by UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Obaid. This publication, and its accompanying photos, gives voice to the different types of gender-based violence experienced by women and girls worldwide throughout their lives through testimonial stories and graphic photographs.

Dinner speakers included: Elisabeth Rehn, co-author of *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts’ Assessment*¹⁷, former Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Bosnia and the former Minister of Defence of Finland; Mark Bowden, Head of the Policy Development and Studies Branch at the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, speaking on behalf of UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland; Dr Lieve Franssen, European Commission; and Dr. Marleen Temmermans, Director of the International Centre for Reproductive Health at the University of Ghent.

¹⁶ Links to selected photos from this exhibit may be found at: <http://www.irinnews.org/broken-bodies/gallery.asp>

¹⁷ The document *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts’ Assessment* can be found at: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=17

Dr. Lieve Franssen thanked participants for sharing their personal stories, and suggested that those men and women leading the way to change be celebrated. She expressed hope that the Call to Action would generate increased commitment and resources to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

Elizabeth Rehn declared that women play the most important role of all in conflict resolution and reconstruction. Ms. Rehn reviewed her experiences and discussions with women in numerous war zones during the preparation of the groundbreaking report *Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment*.¹⁸ She pointed out that in today's world, there are many who profit from war and reconstruction, such as arms manufacturers and foreign businesses, but that local civilians always lose. It is often women and girls who lose the most. Yet it is the strength and resilience of women and girls which can also ensure that peace is consolidated and economies and human dignity restored. Ms. Rehn highlighted the importance of sustained international support for peacebuilding and national recovery, and deplored the negative impact of premature withdrawal of the international peacekeeping forces without due consideration of the economic impact on the communities.

Ms. Rehn noted that there are encouraging signs of a strengthened resolve to protect women and improve their status. A significant reflection of this is seen in the fact that the African Union (AU) has decided to require gender parity in the membership of its Commission. But in order to make real progress on any of these issues, women need bargaining and decision-making power during all peace negotiations. It is impossible to forge peace when half the population is excluded from the peace process. It is important to recognize and capitalize on the critical role women can play in peace-building. There is so much that can be accomplished through the special communication channels employed by women, which are different from, and often far more effective, than the formal channels traditionally used by men.

Mark Bowden¹⁹, speaking on behalf of Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland, emphasized the importance of addressing sexual violence and abuse in the context of protecting civilians during conflict. The issue, he noted, is finally beginning to find its proper place on the UN agenda: in 2006, the Security Council passed Resolution 1674²⁰, which condemns all sexual violence committed against women and children and marks a major step forward in the fight against conflict-related sexual violence.

Mr. Bowden discussed places where rape and sexual assault are at their worst, including parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo where a culture of violence has made rape endemic. In a positive new development, he said, peacekeepers now strive to provide real protection to women and children at risk. However, this effort is limited by the fact that peacekeepers must simultaneously address many other urgent issues. He said that sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and UN personnel themselves is a shameful reality which, over the years, has not been sufficiently addressed. The fact that its existence is now beginning to be acknowledged within the UN is a major step forward: it will not be possible to talk about "boys being boys" much longer.

Marleen Temmermans noted the devastating impact of conflict on women's health, including maternal mortality, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and sexual violence. She pointed

¹⁸ The document *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment* can be found at: http://www.unifem.org/resources/item_detail.php?ProductID=17

¹⁹ Mr. Bowden's speech can be found at: <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/dayonedinnerbowden.doc>

²⁰ Further information about Security Council Resolution 1674 can be found at: <http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/features/465?theme=alt5>

out that although sexual and gender-based violence is being discussed in the Symposium primarily as a problem affecting refugees and displaced women, it is also a universal problem affecting all countries. She cited the need for appropriate training of medical personnel, police and lawyers, and civil society organizations to effectively combat sexual violence. She provided information about a new training initiative being developed at the University of Ghent in partnership with other academic institutions, which will incorporate the latest knowledge on effective prevention and management of such violence.

Day Two

Session 5A, “Designing and Implementing National Action Plans for Addressing Sexual Violence for Conflict and Recovery: Examples from the Field,” focused on how National Action Plans addressing sexual and gender-based violence can be integrated into national development and recovery plans. The session was chaired by Ambassador Patricia Brister, U.S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Presenters were: Mrs. Adeline Chancy, Minister of Women’s Affairs, Haiti; Mrs. Myriam Merlet, Representative of the National Platform Against Gender-Based Violence, Haiti; Mrs. Varbah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia; Mrs. Annie Jones Demen, Deputy Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia; Dr. Vivian Cherue, Deputy Minister of Health, Liberia; Dr. Lois Bruthus, Chair, Association of Women Lawyers of Liberia; and Mrs. Rosana Dennis Schaack, Director, Touching Humanity in Need of Kindness (THINK).

Adeline Chancy²¹ presented an overview of violence in Haiti, a country that has suffered serious political and socioeconomic crisis for over a decade. Sexual violence and abuse is on the rise, especially collective rape and violence targeting young girls. Haiti is responding with a national plan of action against gender-based violence that was launched in November 2005 by the Haitian Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Ministry of Health. Despite insufficient funding, the government of Haiti has succeeded in establishing a tripartite coordination entity, the National Platform against Gender-Based Violence (NPGBV), composed of various Haitian ministries, Haitian civil society organizations and international agencies. The National Platform functions with a Coordination Committee and three working committees, one of which focuses on prevention, another on care (medical, psychosocial and legal), and the third on data collection. The Coordination Committee employs several tools to back up the process of developing the national plan, including a national medical protocol, communications and prevention methods, training material and a data collection form.

Varbah Gayflor²² discussed the nature and consequences of violence against women and girls in Liberia, noting that such violence is the source of many problems, including teenage pregnancies, school dropouts and an increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, survivors are also subject to social stigmatization; they are shamed and often abandoned by relatives, including their husbands, even as they must deal with matters such as HIV infection and bearing children as a result of rape. Although Liberia’s civil war has ended, many forms of sexual violence and abuse, including intra-community rape and early/forced marriage, continue to be prevalent in the country.

²¹ Ms. Chancy’s powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfiveeachancyhaiti.ppt>

²² Ms. Gayflor’s powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfiveagayfor.ppt>

In Liberia, a major challenge in combating such violence is to design appropriate interventions that require and receive active community participation. The new national intervention strategy is multi-sectoral and includes strengthening the health sector and judicial system and improving the protection and security of women and girls. It also involves constructing outreach services that provide psychosocial support and safe homes for survivors. The strategy calls for: the collection and analysis of data; comprehensive awareness-raising about preventing violence against women and girls; social empowerment programmes for survivors; and a framework for implementing a national plan of action. This plan is budgeted at an estimated US \$15 million.

Discussion

- The participants discussed how best to achieve widespread community participation in combating violence against women and girls. Because entire communities, and not just survivors, are affected by such violence, it is essential to address cultural and traditional practices at the community level. Sensitization programmes can be very effective in doing this, but for meaningful response and prevention of gender-based violence, communities themselves must own the intervention processes. Individuals need to be educated about their own roles in perpetuating or preventing such violence. Perpetrators, as well as community members at large, are responsible for their attitudes toward survivors, and these attitudes can have a huge positive or negative impact on survivor recovery.
- All participants agreed that building political will is essential to ensure the sustainable, efficient implementation of national plans to fight violence against women. Without this, not much is likely to happen. In Liberia, the new President strongly supports effective implementation of the action plan. But for success, political engagement must extend far beyond the President. In Liberia, the Ministry of Justice and Director of Police, both key actors, are also strongly supportive of the action plan to respond to and prevent sexual violence.
- In Haiti, the transition government installed in 2004 mustered sufficient political will to enable the development of the coordinated anti-violence activities demanded by community-based groups. The Haitian national plan bodes well for sustainable actions on the issue because it is owned by all actors and facilitated by the government. The long-term success of the National Action Plans of both Liberia and Haiti depends on continued strong political will within both the government and civil society.
- The critical importance of reliable, systematic collection of data about sexual violence and other forms of violence against women was discussed.
- The role of religious institutions in responding to violence against women and girls was acknowledged by the participants. Places of worship and faith-based health care facilities and personnel fill an important social role, and as such they can serve as useful communication channels in anti-violence efforts.

Session 5B, “Meeting Protection Needs,” emphasized that effective prevention of sexual violence must involve coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions, including those that ensure the continuous analysis of risk factors for, and consequences of, sexual violence in different settings. This session highlighted innovative strategies for preventing sexual violence and the protection of

vulnerable populations in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. The session was chaired by Thierry Morel, Chief of Section, Community Development, Gender Equality and Children, UNHCR. Presenters were: Donatilla Mukabalisa, Vice-President, Political Committee, Rwandan Parliament; Judith Namirembe, Christian Children's Fund, Uganda; and Sandra Krause, Director, Reproductive Health Program, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children.

Thierry Morel, session chairperson, identified three critical components necessary for effectively meeting women's protection needs: a holistic approach, a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach and a community-based approach.

Donatilla Mukabalisa²³ said that high levels of domestic and community violence still pervade Rwandan society. According to Ms. Mukabalisa, 74 per cent of women in Rwanda under 18 years of age are exploited for sexual purposes. Several social safety nets support gender-based violence survivors without charge. Community gender-based violence prevention clubs help raise awareness about the problem. However, there are not enough protective legal measures in place to effectively prevent and respond to the array of forms of gender-based violence in Rwanda.

Judith Namirembe²⁴ discussed the serious problem of sexual violence and exploitations in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Uganda. The 20-year war between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army has internally displaced 90 per cent of northern Uganda's population (more than 1.5 million people). Communities of the displaced in the north are plagued by an array of gender-based violence-related problems, including domestic violence, abductions, rape, HIV/AIDS infections, abortion complications and transactional sex. The perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse are not only LRA members but men in the communities, spouses, and members of the Ugandan military.

The importance of responding to and preventing gender-based violence in Uganda is recognized in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan, the Reproductive Health policy and the IDP policy. Challenges to implementing the plan and policies include inadequate human resources, weak referral pathways and insufficient international pressure on the Ugandan government, Ms. Namirembe said. In addition, there are not enough civilian police, and physicians must sign documents before victims of sexual violence can take their cases to court.

Sandra Krause discussed a recent study by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children on the relationship between the collection of firewood (which obliges women to leave protected camp areas) and violence against women and girls, entitled *Beyond Firewood: Fuel Alternatives and Protection Strategies for Displaced Women and Girls*²⁵. She noted that the humanitarian agenda has not yet addressed the fuel issue and that this is an important problem that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs should take up, designating one agency to coordinate fuel-related issues and partner with other agencies on specific tasks.

Discussion

²³ Ms. Mukabalisa's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivebmukabalisa.ppt>

²⁴ Ms. Namirembe's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivebnamirimbe.ppt>

²⁵ Further information about the study, *Beyond Firewood: Fuel Alternatives and Protection Strategies for Displaced Women and Girls*, can be found at:
<http://www.womenscommission.org/projects/rh/firewood.shtml>

- It appears that Rwanda has the legal arsenal needed to effectively combat many aspects of violence against women, but it is not clear that these legal instruments are actually available to survivors who live in rural areas. How can victims seek justice if they live far away from the courts?
- Several participants said that, in fact, anti-GBV laws *are* enforced even in rural areas of Rwanda. A joint project of UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP provides resources for survivors of sexual violence. There is a free phone number for households to call the police when someone has been subjected to sexual violence. The police send the survivor to the hospital and open a file. There are counseling projects, including trauma counseling and other types of care for survivors.
- Several participants asked whether a rape survivor who goes to the authorities can truly be socially and economically reintegrated into her community afterward given the traditional prejudice against such women. The judicial system so far has focused mainly on punishing the perpetrators (albeit moderately), but little effort has been made to develop procedures for reintegrating survivors. Is there a fund to support rape victims? Are there prisons that will actually contain convicted perpetrators? Can counseling be effective in persuading them not to rape again?

Session 5C, “National Action Plans to Address Sexual Violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Central African Republic,” was chaired by Marijke Van Hemeldonck, an expert on gender-based violence for the EC DAPHNE Programme to Combat Violence against Women, Children and Youth. Presenters were: Mme Marie-Solange Pagonendji Ndakala, Minister of Family and Social Affairs and National Solidarity, Central African Republic; Ms. Nada Ler Sofronic, Director, Women and Society, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and Ms. Sana Asi, Coordinator, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Marleen Bosmans, a researcher at the International Centre for Reproductive Health at the University of Ghent, was the discussant.

Marie-Solange Pagonendji-Ndakala²⁶ reviewed the issues of sexual violence in the Central African Republic (CAR). The first challenge, she said, is recognizing that such violence occurs since it is a crime that frequently goes unreported. Sexual violence can be identified via the medical approach, the psycho-social approach and police registers. A video shown by Ms. Pagonendji-Ndakala attested to the severity of the situation in the Central African Republic. In order to help develop an effective strategy for dealing with sexual violence, an analysis began in May 2006 to identify the victims of such violence during the 2002-2004 conflict. Preliminary results show that although most victims are women, various types of sexual violence and abuse have been perpetrated against both sexes and across all age and socioeconomic groups. Ms. Pagonendji-Ndakala said that with the right approaches and methods, it is usually possible to identify the victims of sexual violence, even after an extended period of time.

Sana Asi²⁷ discussed MIFTAH’s experience in consensus building around the need for interventions to prevent gender-based violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Inspired

²⁶ Ms. Pagonendji-Ndakala’s powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/centralafricanrepublicdaytwosessionfivec.ppt>

²⁷ Ms. Asi’s powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivecyasin.ppt>

by UN Resolution 1325 and the UN Resolution on the Protection of Palestinian Women in Conflict Conditions, a training programme was launched in 2004 to enhance the skills and knowledge of governmental institutions, NGOs and individuals in dealing with survivors of gender-based violence. In addition, she said, the “Gender Peace and Security Project 2005-2006” was established to build consensus about a national agenda for NGOs combating sexual and gender-based violence. Activities and outputs of these programmes include a case study report, the creation of a lexicon of reproductive health terminology, articulation of concepts and best practices, media events and networking with national and international partners.

Nada Ler Sofronic²⁸ presented on future steps for the National Action Plan against SGBV in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Elements of the action plan will be developed into strategies and activities with concrete tasks, deadlines, responsible actors and the budget;
- Institutions and special bodies for implementation and M&E will be constructed;
- A budget will be worked out, including financial support for the NGO work in the field;
- Multi-sectoral cooperation (police, health social services, education, judiciary and NGOs) with signed protocol will be put into place;
- A review will be undertaken of mandatory school curricula at all levels, including university and SGBV issues;
- Pre-service and in-service training programmes for all law enforcement professional will be introduced;
- Existing media laws will be revised and SGBV perspective incorporated (sexist terminology and stereotypes about women will be taken out); and
- A statistics system will be developed to monitor SGBV occurrences; to this end, common indicators and denominators will be defined. Systematic data collection will begin and registration of cases methodology will be adopted by all law enforcement professionals.

Session 5D, “Addressing the Rule of Law,” analyzed the human rights implications of sexual violence in conflict situations and discussed humanitarian approaches to building the rule of law, increasing access to justice and promoting development, recovery, peace and security at the individual, family, community and national levels. The session was chaired by Ilaria Carnevali, Programme Specialist within the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) at UNDP. Presenters included: Lois Bruthus, President of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia; Ruth Rubio Marin, University of Seville, Spain and the International Center of Transitional Justice; Toussaint Muntazini, Colonel, Attorney General, DRC; and Morris Muligo, Criminal Investigation Department, Rwanda National Police.

Lois Bruthus²⁹ spoke of the challenges involved in establishing full rule of law in Liberia. Liberian courts are not functioning at full capacity, she said, and qualified lawyers are wary of

²⁸ Ms. Sofronic’s powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivecsofronic.ppt>

taking assignments in rural areas. Barriers to justice for survivors of violence are rife, as most of them cannot afford the cost of prosecution. Furthermore, stigmatization arising from rape prevents victims from seeking justice or even revealing what has happened to them.

Ms. Bruthus explained that Liberia's new rape law redefines rape to include penetration by foreign objects other than just the male sexual organ. The legal age of consent has been increased from 16 to 18 years old. The penalty for second-degree rape – rape of those over 18 years of age – has been increased from 7 years to 10 years imprisonment. The penalty for gang rape and rape of a person under the age of 18 is now life imprisonment. However, the new rape law still has gaps, he said, as it does not cover compensation for survivors, nor has a provision for free legal services for gender-based violence cases been incorporated into the law.

In order to restore the rule of law in Liberia, Ms. Bruthus noted the need for:

- Reestablishment of community values and moral sensibilities;
- Creation of fast-track courts to hear cases of sexual violence, which would help to restore public trust and confidence in the judicial system;
- Institutionalization of systematic community sensitization to gender-based violence response and prevention needs;
- Systematic and careful training of judicial staff, police and other organizations to recognize, respond to and prevent gender-based violence;
- Skills-training and income-generating activities for war-affected women; and
- Creation of a data bank to track the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence.

Ruth Rubio Marin³⁰ discussed the types of reparations that might be offered to survivors of sexual and other forms of violence, such as restitution for lost property, monetary compensation, rehabilitation, and guarantees of non-repetition. The reparations issue is complex, she said, starting with the determination of to whom they should go (such as the survivor, the survivor's family, or others). Ms. Rubio Marin said there is also the parallel difficulty of defining the nature of benefits (material versus symbolic, individual versus collective, etc.).

Toussaint Muntazini³¹, a military lawyer, discussed specific efforts being taken to respond to and prevent sexual violence by members of the Congolese military: provincial action plans are being implemented to deal with prevention of sexual violence and abuse, sensitization programmes are being developed for the military, potential new soldiers are now being investigated for criminal history prior to recruitment, and soldiers are not permitted to carry their weapons when off-duty. A new military protection unit for women is intended to ensure the protection of survivors.

²⁹ Ms. Bruthus's powerpoint presentation can be found at:

<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfiveabruthus.ppt>

³⁰ Ms. Rubio Marin's powerpoint presentation can be found at:

<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivedrubiomarin.ppt>

³¹ Mr. Muntazini's powerpoint presentation can be found at:

<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivedmuntazini.ppt>

As a result of the joint programme (summarized above) involving UN agencies, NGOs, and the government, the Congolese parliament has enacted a stricter response to gender-based violence which incorporates the standard international definition of violence against women, said Mr. Muntazini. The refined definition includes paedophilia, forced marriages, female genital mutilation (FGM), and penetration by foreign objects. It is an encouraging sign for the future that the Congolese legal system is able to apply international standards in the law.

Because the session ran out of time, there was not time for the presentation of Mr. Morris Muligo.

Session 5E, “**National Action Plans to Combat Sexual Violence in Sudan**,” was chaired by Cécile Charot, Deputy Adviser, UN Service, Multilateral Cooperation Directorate Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium. Presenters were: Jeanne Ward, Inter-Agency Working Group, South Sudan; Lona Elia, UNDP, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Working Group, Southern Sudan; Dr. Attiat Moustafa Abdelhalim, Head, Unit Combating Violence Against Women and Children, Ministry of Justice, Government of National Unity; Bedria Abdel Rahman Yousif, West Darfur State Government; Mahboubha Abdel Rahman Ali Hamza, Head Officer of the Women’s Empowerment Organization in Darfur; and Roselidah Ondeko, UNFPA, on behalf of the Inter-Agency Working Group in Sudan.

Lona Elia discussed the processes being undertaken to address violence against women and girls in south Sudan and related these to lessons learned from other countries’ experiences. The recent peace agreement between north and south Sudan, after almost four decades of conflict, entails the establishment of new governance systems and policies in the south Sudan which present an opportunity for the advancement of gender equality. The long conflict resulted in complete loss of basic services and security for most of the population and resulted in appalling levels of disease and illiteracy. The challenges of economic and social recovery are made even greater by the cultural attitudes toward women and girls, who are considered to be inferior to men. In many communities, girls marry between the ages of 7 and 12 and few are permitted to go to school, resulting in an 88 per cent illiteracy rate for women in south Sudan.

Although south Sudan is rich in oil, a majority of the population earns less than the equivalent of US \$1 per day. Given this appalling socioeconomic environment and the legacy of armed conflict, said Ms. Elia, it is not surprising that the occurrence of violence against women is very high. It is manifested in rape, often at the end of a gun, and in sexual exploitation, harassment and abduction, and forced early marriages designed to bring wealth to poor families through the payment of dowries. Female genital mutilation prevails in some states, and wife inheritance is widespread.

Although the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) stipulates that 25 per cent of parliamentary representatives should be women, traditional customs that perpetuate their subservient position make it difficult for women to participate. Policy reform cannot occur until citizens understand that freedom from gender-based violence is a fundamental human right, an idea that is still unfamiliar in south Sudan.

The process of creating the south Sudan National Action Plan, supported by an Inter-Agency Working Group on GBV, involved intensified meetings held with key stakeholders in Waw, Malakal and Juba in June 2006. Future consultations are planned in other states. The outcomes will be presented to the Ministry of Justice and other relevant government officials for further action.

Dr. Attiat Moustafa³² discussed the especially dismaying occurrence of rape during armed attacks on villages in South Darfur. Over time, she said, steps to prevent and respond to sexual violence and abuse can be strengthened by the government with the support of UNMIS (UN Mission in Sudan), UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA. As a result of the work of these organizations, the government has already terminated the requirement that a police report be filed following a rape. Information about this and other changes is trickling down to the state level. A National Action Plan to address violence against women was recently approved by the Council of Ministries, and provides for objectives to be met and activities to be carried out with support from the UN. The Sudan National Action Plan has yet to be adopted at the state and community levels, although some community groups, such as the El Fasher (North Darfur) Committee of Internally Displaced Women were involved in the strategizing process.

Some progress has been made in preventing and responding to sexual violence in Sudan, Dr. Moustafa declared. In South Darfur, the local authorities and the UN are jointly monitoring incidents of sexual violence. Thirty newly-appointed female police officers in both North and South Darfur increase women's security by accompanying firewood patrols with the AMIS and this has resulted in a decrease in attacks on women. State actors (police, lawyers, judges and health care providers) have been trained about prevention and response, she said. UNFPA has supported awareness-raising and training sessions about the need to respond to incidents without mandatory police report requirements and similar obstacles. A unit in the Ministry of Justice has been established to combat violence against women and children and more such units will be established across the states. Recently, and for the first time, three state gender-based violence committees were brought together to draft a unified policy defining the gender-based violence roles and responsibilities of the Ministry of Justice.

In spite of these positive steps, state committees still face challenges, said Dr. Moustafa. State Action Plans were developed without reference to the National Action Plan. State funds to combat gender-based violence must still be allocated for North and West Darfur. The National Action Plan needs to be made more multi-sectoral, and mechanisms for information-sharing and follow-up activities must be planned and implemented. Civil society must have greater involvement in this process.

Discussion

- In South Sudan, there is need for greater awareness at the local level about the deeply negative, deeply destructive aspects of many types of violence against women and girls as many people regard these sexual practices as normal. It is necessary to educate and engage the ministries, the IAWG and civil society to support educating women and others about their rights. However, due to decades of strife, civil society in southern Sudan is weak and needs a lot of capacity-building.
- Female genital mutilation and wife inheritance related to war are traditional practices ingrained in South Sudanese society. The destabilizing affects of conflict make people want to cling to their traditions, even those that are harmful, and since many men are killed in wars, it is not surprising that wife inheritance should flourish. It is not clear that FGM is really related to conflict, but it does remain a major human rights issue in many places, including areas where there is no conflict.

³² Dr. Moustafa's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfiveattiat.ppt>

Session 5F, “Meeting Health and Psychosocial Needs,” focused on formal and informal services, including medical and psychological care for survivors. These services are critical to the welfare of sexual violence survivors and may range from supportive counselling and/or case management to promoting policies that ensure access by women and girls to literacy and reintegration programmes. The session was chaired by Claudia Garcia-Moreno, Department of Women’s Health at WHO. Presenters were: Feryal Thabet, El Bureij Women’s Health Centre, Gaza; Juliana Konteh, Women in Crisis Movement (WICM), Sierra Leone; Dr. Jean-Pascal Manga Okenge, Clinique Maternité sans Risque, DRC; and Duska Andric-Ruzicic, Medica Zenica, BiH.

Juliana Konteh discussed the work of the Women in Crisis Movement, a faith-based organization in Sierra Leone that was established to assist survival sex workers and other vulnerable populations, including single mothers, survivors of sexual violence and people with HIV/AIDS living in the Freetown area. Ms. Konteh summarized the services provided by WICM, including health education and services, counselling, literacy and vocational training, and psychosocial care. She summarized the incremental approach to the programme, emphasized the importance of a sense of community for traumatized young women, and raised the issue of challenges in getting sustained financial support.

Dr. Jean-Pascal Manga Okenge reviewed the work of the Clinique Maternité sans Risque in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He described the destructive impact of the conflict on the country as a whole, on the health of its people (including the increase in HIV and other sexually transmitted infections) and on the country’s health services and other infrastructure. Medical workers in the country are faced with new situations they are not trained to address, such as how to treat very young rape victims, including infants.

Dr. Manga emphasized the importance of international exchanges with others working in the same field in order to improve medical treatment, including:

- Surgery for traumatic fistula, which often fails due to a lack of proper equipment and surgical expertise as well as a lack of food for patients who are usually nutritionally compromised; and
- Providing assistance to young victims of sexual violence, with special attention to the lack of adequate information about post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) dosing for children and the lack of sufficient antiretrovirals.

Duska Andric-Ruzicic, who has worked on issues of violence against women for over a decade, expressed her frustration that the same issues keep coming up and yet their root causes are rarely addressed. Without this happening, it is difficult to prevent sexual violence, she said. For example, policing combatants, who are the principal offenders, can be an important preventative measure: simply policing civilians is not enough. She said she was pleased to learn that UN agencies use holistic approaches in helping survivors, recognising that survivors have human needs and may seek romantic involvements as a part of the healing process. Ms. Andric-Ruzicic prefers the term “sexualized violence” rather than sexual violence, as this defines the problem being chiefly violence-related as opposed to being primarily sex-related.

Feryal Thabet³³ described the work of the El Bureij Women's Health Centre in Gaza and reviewed some of the health needs the centre serves. There is a nearly 40 per cent prevalence of anaemia among the centre's patients and more than 40 per cent of pregnancies are considered high risk, she said. The centre is staffed primarily by women. Women come to the centre for a range of physical, psychosocial and legal services, and many use the facility as a safe haven for gathering together. Using a holistic approach, the centre strives to improve the standard of women's reproductive health, while at the same time working to empower its patients. The centre promotes community education and offers home-based services.

Ms. Thabet said that the insecurity and instability resulting from military occupation and continuing unrest and conflict have negatively impacted the health of the centre's constituency. The need, she noted, exceeds the capacity of the health services available. She said that antenatal visits to the centre were decreasing and that a majority of women do not receive any post-natal care. Because of the difficulty of getting through them, many women actually give birth at Israeli checkpoints, unattended by medical staff. As a consequence of the security situation and the resulting unemployment and poverty, women are at increased risk for unsafe sex: in any case, they do not have access to care and protective materials.

Session 6A, "Data Collection on Sexual Violence in Conflict-Affected Situations," explored methodological challenges to assessment and monitoring the problem of sexual violence through surveys and routine data collection. The evaluation of interventions in different conflict-affected contexts was also discussed. The session was chaired by Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters in Brussels. Presenters were: Desta Mechecha of UNFPA office in Central African Republic; Shabaneh Luay, Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics; and Rizvina De Alwis, Programme Coordinator, UNFPA, Sri Lanka. The discussant was Michelle Hynes, U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Shabaneh Luay³⁴ discussed the limitations of official statistics and the boundaries of methodologies used to obtain national statistics. He outlined the methods and findings of a national Domestic Violence Survey conducted in Palestine in which the nature and forms of acts of violence were recorded. The survey was undertaken in order to develop a socioeconomic profile of those exposed to violence, and to document the methods Palestinian women use to counter domestic violence. He cited the need to develop research capacity to analyze statistics related to such violence, the need to support civil society dialogue on data utilization, and the need for funding to strengthen statistical gathering capacities.

Rizvina De Alwis³⁵ pointed out that without national data, the true scope of violence against women remains hidden. In Sri Lanka, UNFPA has adopted a multi-pronged strategy focusing on strengthening state and community capacities to respond to gender-based violence; this includes filling the gap in GBV-related data. This will be achieved by mainstreaming gender and gender-based violence concerns into existing national data collection mechanisms, and by collecting data through women's centres. Ms. De Alwis discussed an innovative programme for gathering

³³ Ms. Thabet's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionfivefthabet.ppt>

³⁴ Ms. Luay's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionsixaluay.ppt>

³⁵ Ms. De Alwis's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/srilankadaytwosessionsixappt>

qualitative data through listening to women's discussions in "story circles" which facilitate both information sharing and psychological support.

Desta Mechecha³⁶ spoke about the situation of sexual violence particular to the Central African Republic (CAR), and what should be done to respond to and help survivors. The CAR was in a military and political crisis from 2002-03; since 2003, the country has been unstable with pockets of areas in crisis. To date, approximately 32.2% of women ages 15-49 have been victims of sexual violence; 25.5% of survivors live in urban areas while 37.4% of survivors live in rural areas. Ms. Mechecha explained possible ways to respond to survivors of sexual violence: medical and therapeutic response, psychosocial response and legal redress. She also discussed the benefits and limitations of these response mechanisms in the CAR. For example, it is difficult to reach and treat survivors in conflict areas, and survivors may also have limited access to the police to attempt legal redress. Finally, she talked about methods of gathering national information on the prevalence of sexual violence, and lessons learned as a result of gathering data and interviewing survivors.

Session 6B, "Collaborative Strategies for Action," emphasized that implementation of effective multi-sectoral strategies for protection, prevention, care for survivors, and ending impunity for perpetrators requires well-coordinated partnerships of all kinds at all levels. The session was chaired by Mukesh Kapila of the World Health Organization. Presenters were: Dr. Wilma Doedens, UNFPA, Geneva; Angela O'Neill, Irish Joint Consortium on GBV; Samantha Guy, Senior Advisor for Reproductive Health for Refugees at Marie Stopes International; Sara Norton-Staal, Regional Child Protection Officer, Children Affected by Armed Conflict, UNICEF East and Southern Africa Regional Office; and Machteld Gheysen, Program Manager of the International Rescue Committee in Burundi.

Dr. Wilma Doedens explained how the IASC *Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings* were developed. The IASC Gender Task Force, which meets four times a year within the overall IASC Working Group, was given the task of providing the international community with guidance on gender-based violence in order to meet the urgent need for adequate and appropriate response to the problem. Academic institutions, NGOs, and the UN convened to put the document together.

The guidelines give special weight to the importance of taking action at the very start of emergencies, Dr. Doedens said. The guidelines take a multi-sectoral approach, assigning mutual responsibility within all sectors. The document underwent intensive peer review in the field, ultimately producing guidelines that are owned by all partners. They consist of a series of action sheets, each focusing on a specific area (e.g., health, education, shelter, coordination, human resources), that are intended to be used in coordination with one another. They will be field-tested during the next six months in six conflict regions in Asia, Africa and South America.

Angela O'Neill summarized the work of Irish NGOs in Darfur and noted that the Darfur situation had been a catalyst for the organization of a stakeholder workshop with a wide range of Irish agencies who sought to work together on issues of gender-based violence. As a result of a study of violence in Darfur and the work of Irish NGOs there, Ms. O'Neill noted that the Irish Government has decided to make attention to gender-based violence an integral component of all humanitarian project support.

³⁶ Ms. Mechecha's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daytwosessionsixadestamechecha.ppt>

Samantha Guy spoke about the work of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health during Crises. The IAWG, which is open to all, is presently comprised of representatives from UN agencies, NGOs and various academic institutions. In the mid-1990s, the group produced the Inter-Agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health and developed a related Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), which also includes attention to prevention of sexual violence and care for survivors. UNFPA has taken the lead on the revision of the emergency reproductive health kits used to meet the basic needs of the MISP, including those designed for the care of rape survivors.

Sarah Norton-Staal gave an update of regional cooperation on issues of gender-based violence in East Africa. In Nairobi, a steering committee consisting of UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and UNFPA meets on a regular basis. Within the steering committee, each member has been assigned specific thematic areas. UNFPA's assigned theme requires that it field-test the IASC *Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings*. An advocacy framework has been created to encourage expanded partnerships.

Machteld Gheysen³⁷ observed that violence against women and girls usually persists and sometimes even increases after conflict ends. For example, although Burundi has a well-publicized national programme for the clinical management of rape and a multi-sectoral emergency response plan is in place, a particular problem affects secondary school female students who have to leave their homes and board with host families located near schools. The girls are expected to "pay" for this hospitality, and this, combined with being away from their own families, makes them targets for sexual exploitation from many quarters. Many of these girls become pregnant and are stigmatized and forced to leave school. The girls are also more vulnerable to forced and early marriages.

In Burundi, the International Rescue Committee seeks to compel school systems to provide for the protection of students. In order to address the many dimensions of gender-based violence in Burundi, a partnership approach between students, school systems and ministries has been adopted. Students are getting involved in school management.

Sexual violence against women committed by family members, neighbors and others in the community is underreported in Burundi and elsewhere, Ms. Gheysen noted. The problem is made worse by the fact that there is generally an increase in female-headed households following conflict. Ms. Gheysen emphasized the importance of community involvement and community-generated strategies in working to prevent gender-based violence. Gender-based violence affects all aspects of life, from the health of victims to their livelihoods, she said, and as long as it runs rampant, it can only weaken the overall development of a country.

Discussion

- The UN is taking action to combat violence against women and girls in Darfur but not as much as it should. There are several response mechanisms that tend to be effective, such as training medical service units, building skills, creating literacy groups, and training peacekeepers. It was suggested that it would help if the UN were to cover *all* costs

³⁷ Ms. Gheysen's powerpoint presentation can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/burundidaytwosessionfiveb.ppt>

associated with combating gender-based violence, not just the direct costs of programmes.

- The UK has taken the lead in trying to improve funding coordination in emergencies, and within the UN system, increased authority has been given to Humanitarian Coordinators to allocate pooled donor funds. But humanitarian funding seems still to be short-term and very vertical, whereas programmes addressing sexual and gender-based violence must be across sectors and have sustained funding in order to be effective. It was suggested that donors should focus on longer term support and that partnership agreements with NGOs should be for a three- to five- year period.

Session 7, Round Table I, Discussion on “Key Elements for a Comprehensive Plan of Action,” provided a forum on how best to integrate the continuum of mechanisms required to address and respond to sexual violence in all funding frameworks. For emergency funding, this would include the Consolidated Appeals Process, the Central Emergency Response Fund, Humanitarian Donor Funds and Integrated Transition Funding. Development funding would include the UN Development Action Framework, the Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers based on the MDGs, and Country Strategy Papers. This roundtable was chaired by Jennifer Klot, Senior Advisor, Social Science Research Council, and Pamela Shifman, from the Child Protection Unit of UNICEF.

Jennifer Klot opened the discussion by noting that it is important to precisely define terminologies and distinguish between gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual violence (SV) generally and to decide how best to include them within dedicated funding frameworks. Ms Klot noted that the construction of the donor funding mechanisms is not conducive to the types of sustained and multisectoral funding required to deal effectively with the prevention of sexual violence, the care for survivors, and the establishment of justice for survivors. While some needs may be covered in health sector funding, for instance, sexual violence is also a crime, so the adequate funding of criminal courts and the provision of legal assistance to both victims and those accused are critical. Support for livelihoods or psychosocial support for survivors comes from yet a different pot of money, she observed. Donors need to understand exactly what they are funding and into what niche they fit: it is not enough to seek or designate funds for the catch-all of “combating gender-based violence.”

Ms. Klot said what is needed are larger projects with more stakeholders. She said that while faith-based organizations can deliver needed services in many cases, awareness of potential ethical conflicts of interest is required. For instance, if an organization is unable or unwilling on religious grounds to provide services requested by survivors, such as emergency contraception or termination of pregnancy due to rape, then survivors’ rights are not being respected.

Ms. Klot pointed to three key sectors in which issues of sexual violence deserve more attention:

- Security sector reform: there is little or no attention to sexual and gender-based violence in planning and implementation of security sector reform, despite the fact that the security sector must actually protect women and girls and has a clear mandate to do so. This involves apprehending and prosecuting offenders, policing communities and enacting effective, enforceable security laws.
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes (DDR): there are numerous opportunities in DDR programmes both for identifying survivors who need care and for

engaging in prevention and protection programming. Although there has been some progress in incorporating gender concerns overall in DDR programmes, there is a long way to go to ensure that issues of gender-based violence are considered in all stages of demobilization and reintegration into the community.

- Women's health: the needs of survivors and the impact of sexual violence on women's health, including reproductive and psychosocial health, have been clearly identified over the years. There are guidelines and clear standards of care, yet there are still huge gaps in terms of access to basic health and psychosocial care for survivors, largely due to lack of funding.

Pamela Shifman encouraged the Symposium participants to issue a call to action which would be as concrete and specific as possible so that it could be used to help respond to the myriad of needs identified in the symposium thus far.

The Round Table Discussion touched on the following topics:

- Prevention is a weak link in combating sexual and gender-based violence. Proven, effective approaches to prevention remain to be devised and/or documented.
- How can the use of rape as a weapon of war be reduced? Rebel groups do not respect UN resolutions or international conventions. Working to sensitize men takes too long: short-term interventions to protect women who are at risk are needed right now.
- It is important to know exactly what initiatives designed to prevent gender-based violence in conflict situations have shown results. If these initiatives are to be funded and employed, a clear idea is needed of what, precisely, they have to offer women, girls, and communities. Little is known about the relative effectiveness of different programmes and techniques designed to prevent and respond to sexual violence or about which approaches actually reduce the incidence of such violence, especially in emergencies. But there is no time to wait for statistical data about effectiveness to test out different interventions.
- If they are to assume societal leadership positions, women (and women's groups) need the support of donors. Those who are concerned about gender-based violence must act now on Resolution 1325 and move beyond rhetoric.
- Agencies need to implement programmes based on demonstrated needs in the field rather than on international expectations. International and global frameworks do not always fit well into national or local situations.
- It cannot be said with certainty what effect sexual violence will have on future development in the countries where it occurs. But it can be predicted that this effect will be negative and will include the perpetuation of conflict, difficult reintegration of male child soldiers and men who have been forced to rape members of their communities, increased HIV transmission, and trafficking and prostitution in refugee camps.
- Anti-GBV programming must be multi-sectoral because this is how the violence itself is embedded in communities. Gender-based violence is not limited to the streets or to

conflict. There must be programming in schools, among households, among community leaders. Solutions must be community-based. Men must be a major part of the solution, and programmes must target men as agents of change.

- Those individuals, groups and agencies who are working to address sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian and recovery situations need to better understand all the available funding mechanisms. A small working group could be commissioned to make recommendations on how to better access such funding.

Session 7, Round Table II, Discussion on Advocacy, provided a platform for discussion about the need to raise awareness about the complex, multi-dimensional aspects of addressing sexual violence in conflict situations. The roundtable was co-chaired by Jane Mpagi, Director of Gender and Community Development within the Ministry of Gender and Community Development, Uganda, and Dr. Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki, UNMIL.

The Round Table Discussion touched on the following topics:

- There is a lack of awareness about the high prevalence and seriousness of sexual violence in conflict-affected environments. Moreover, even when services exist, survivors are often not aware of which services are available to support them.
- There is a need to identify all of the different aspects of sexual and gender-based violence which require advocacy interventions. There is also a need to develop advocacy implementation strategies and to identify committed advocates.
- How can we best identify effective methods at the field level in order to sensitize people and change their behavior? Such methods should be participatory, utilizing, among other things, workshops and role-playing and live drama. Networks of trainers need to be established to conduct workshops. The workshops themselves must be directed toward the goals that the participants wish to meet and build on whatever knowledge and understanding they already possess.
- It is important to create advocacy strategies that target root causes such as attitudes, traditional norms and sanctioned behavior. It is also important to understand cultural factors that have given rise to these root causes.
- We must look at women as more than just victims and survivors, but also as peace-builders and, sometimes, combatants themselves.
- In the DRC, the media has been used to raise awareness and sensitize communities about preventing and responding to sexual violence. The goal has been to inform the public about sexual violence; this has been done by defining targets and developing appropriate messages for each one, and by improving the skill of journalists.
- How can we best engage men about the issue? Multimedia approaches such as live drama and comic strips appear to be effective in reaching both men and women.

- Advocacy alone is not enough: it must be linked to other services. Advocacy must also include the quest for more resources and for free legal services that are readily available to survivors.
- It is important to highlight success stories. It is also important to highlight stories that show that perpetrators of sexual violence against women are being punished. This both discourages potential perpetrators and also builds confidence in the community security and justice systems.
- In undertaking advocacy, messages must be shaped to the particular people and environments involved.
- The importance of including anti-GBV advocacy in school curricula cannot be overstated. If young people understand the negative impact sex crimes have on individuals, families and society, this can help to prevent these crimes in several ways. First, young people will bring the message about gender-based violence home and educate their parents and family members. Second, these young people themselves will be far less likely to commit sex crimes, and, in the case of girls, to allow themselves to become victims of such crimes.
- An open commitment by religious and political leaders to prevent and respond to sexual violence is critically important. Religion can effectively be used to transmit messages about the evils of sexual violence.
- Women should not be victimized twice – once by the act of sexual violence itself and then by the negative response of family and community. Advocacy must also educate the community to provide continuing help and support to the survivors.

Session 7, Round Table III, Discussion on “National Policy Formulation,” focused on the need to address sexual violence and related rule-of-law and gender-justice issues in conflict, post-conflict and development frameworks. The round table was chaired by Katariina Leinonen, Gender Expert, Unit Human Rights and Democratisation, European Commission External Relations Directorate (RELEX).

The Round Table Discussion covered the following issues:

- It is important to ensure that relevant ministries work with government administrations to formulate national policies to prevent and respond to all forms of sexual violence and gender-based violence.
- In each affected country, it is important to conduct a solid national situation analysis on patterns and prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence as background information to be used in creating a national policy.
- Sex-disaggregated data can be used as an important indicator to explain the national situation, and should be documented within the national policy.
- National Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers should include and integrate information about gender-based violence.
- National tribunals must be created to punish perpetrators of sexual violence and to ensure that survivors have legal protections against possible negative responses in their own communities.

Evening presentation:

The publication by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), *Women in an Insecure World: Violence Against Women - Facts, Figures and Analysis*³⁸, was launched in plenary at the end of the day. The book was launched by Ambassador Theodor Winkler, Director of DCAF, who stated that the number of women killed because of gender-based violence is equal to the number of deaths in 20th century conflicts. WHO reports that 1 in 5 women are victims of violence. Ambassador Winkler said that this new DCAF publication provides comprehensive figures and statistics on violence against women for policy makers and activists. A short film was then shown, illustrating stories and facts from the publication about populations in which violence against women is particularly prevalent.

A discussion then ensued, featuring panelists Jeremy Stickings, Senior Social Development Adviser at the Department of Conflict, Humanitarian & Security within the Department for International Development; Pamela DeLargy, Chief of the Humanitarian Response Unit, UNFPA; Anja Ebnöther, Assistant Director of DCAF; and Varbah Gayflor, Minister of Gender & Development and Head of Delegation, Government of Liberia.

Mr. Stickings pointed out that the international community has a long way to go in understanding men's behavior to effectively seek to reduce violence against women. In conflict, gender roles change, and following conflict, women must return to their previous social/gender roles. When conflict upsets social equilibrium by altering gender roles, violence against women becomes more prevalent than it is during peacetime.

Ms. Gayflor described the prevalence of sexual violence in Liberia, a country recovering from war, and the plan of action her government is taking to respond to and prevent sexual and gender-based violence. The Government of Liberia is:

- Strengthening health services and capacities of persons offering services (i.e. medical staff, psychosocial counselors);
- Raising awareness on sexual and gender-based violence (prevalence, response and prevention);
- Increasing representation of women in the current government;
- Taking special measures regarding gender in recruitment, and the training of police and security forces; and
- Enabling peacekeepers to ensure security while peace foundations are being built.

Panelists agreed that women are victims of all forms of violence, and that women must become actors within the security sector.

Day Three

Session 8, "Protection and the Security Sector," was chaired by Ambassador Theodor Winkler, Director of the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). Presenters were: Colonel J. Massengue, Department of Peacekeeping Operations Officer, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

³⁸ An Executive Summary of *Women in an Insecure World: Violence Against Women - Facts, Figures and Analysis* can be found at: http://www.dcaf.ch/women/pb_women_ex_sum.pdf

(MONUC); Jamie Alberto Parra Cifuentes, Vice-Admiral, National Navy, Colombia; and Benjamin Alongaboni, General, Joint Inspection Division, DRC. The discussant was Mamadou Diallo, UNFPA Representative, Mali.

Colonel J. Massengue spoke about the necessity of having a zero-tolerance policy for sexual violence perpetrators, to harmonize systems nationally and within the UN and to emphasize the numerous devastating effects of sexual violence. Col. Massengue also discussed the importance of integrating the Rome Statute governing the International Criminal Court into the legislation of all countries and of ensuring that all countries enforce the Statute once they ratify it.

Jamie Alberto Parra Cifuentes discussed Colombia's long conflict and the country's experience in strengthening the security sector in order not only to respond to survivors of rape but also to prevent sexual and gender-based violence in the first place. He stressed the importance of mainstreaming the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence into national policy instruments.

Benjamin Alongaboni discussed the DRC's experience in attempting to improve prevention of such violence. He explained that the DRC is working within the security sector to better respond to the needs of survivors. He also spoke about the importance of creating a compensation mechanism for victims and recommended that the UN Peacebuilding Commission establish a fund for this purpose. Everyone, he said, should have access to justice as required under UN Security Council Resolution 1325. He also urged that all 40 national plans to prevent and respond to gender-based violence should incorporate mechanisms to enforce the provisions and spirit of Resolution 1325.

Session 9, "Moving Forward: Joint Action for the Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations and Beyond," included reports from the roundtable discussions about ways to move forward after the Symposium. The session was chaired by Agnès Hubert, Adviser for Gender Issues, Fundamental Rights, Employment and Social Policies, Internal/external Coherence, Bureau of European Policy Advisers, European Commission. Presenters were Brigitte Holzner, Gender and Development Department, Ministry of Development Cooperation, Austria; and Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF.

Brigitte Holzner³⁹ discussed the commitments the European Union has made regarding the fight against sexual violence in situations of conflict and beyond. The Austrian Presidency of the EU has taken up violence against women as an important theme, and is supporting three main areas: (1) building a European Network against Harmful Traditions such as FGM, forced marriages, and honor killings; (2) supporting peace-building, especially initiatives arising from Resolution 1325; and (3) upholding the rights of women and children. The EU is also committed to supporting women defenders of human rights: these are the women who put their freedom, safety and sometimes their lives on the line to advance the cause of human rights, rebuild their communities after conflict, and stand up for the most vulnerable in their societies.

Ms. Holzner also pointed to some of the conclusions coming out of the Symposium:

- If we cannot achieve better status for women in peacetime, we cannot possibly do so in wartime;

³⁹ Ms. Holzner's speech can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daythreesessionnineholzner.doc>

- After conflict, the prevention of sexual violence and similar criminal activity is as important as peacebuilding;
- *All* human rights violations must be recognized and punished;
- The boundaries differentiating victims from perpetrators from protectors are often blurred;
- Resolution 1325 is a door-opener, but it is not widely known, not widely respected, and, in general, weakly implemented; and
- Support for the media as disseminators of peace messages is essential.

Rima Salah⁴⁰ described what she has witnessed in places where women have been uprooted from homes and communities and are reeling from brutal violence targeted at them just because they are women. These women have the overwhelming challenge of not only caring for themselves but of being the sole protectors of children in appallingly harsh environments.

Ms. Salah left the Symposium participants with the following thoughts:

- Violence against women does not start and end in conflict. Women live with violence in peacetime, as well. The underlying causes of such violence must be addressed and the inequalities that give rise to these human rights abuses must be eliminated.
- It must be recognized that girls need special attention. Adolescent girls, in particular, are highly vulnerable: at least half of all survivors of sexual violence are under the age of 18.
- In October of this year, the UN Secretary-General will release the first UN Study on Violence against Children, which highlights the threat of violence that girls confront globally, along with strategies to respond to it. The study will call for more prevention strategies, including enhancing girls' access to education and strengthening legal frameworks on violence against children.
- Violence against women and girls in war cannot be accepted as normal and inevitable. It surely is possible to envision a world free of sexual violence, and this vision must be realized, in part, by implementing Security Council Resolution 1325.
- There is not a single agency, organization or government that is doing enough to respond to the crisis of violence against women and girls in armed conflict. We must work together in partnership to do better.

⁴⁰ Ms. Salah's speech can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daythreeclosingsessionrimasalah.doc>

The last half hour of the Symposium consisted of **Conclusions, Closing Addresses, and the Brussels Call to Action**.

Closing Addresses

Dr. Lieve Fransen⁴¹, Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development, emphasized the need for concrete action that goes beyond mere words. She cited the success in establishing a legal framework to accomplish this based on UN and EU Resolutions already in place. However, she said, action and accountability frameworks must now be developed. She urged that the recommendations of the Symposium be presented during the African Union's upcoming meeting commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration. She noted that at the policy and programme level, the EC is preparing a Communication on Gender Equality in Development Cooperation. It will provide a strong message to partners that equality of women and men and women's empowerment are high priorities on the EU agenda.

Dr. Fransen noted that various relevant budget instruments are being discussed and finalized in the European Institutions, including the Stability Instrument, the Development Cooperation and Economic Cooperation Instrument, the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument and the Instrument on Human Rights and Democracy. These instruments will incorporate sections on gender equality and sexual violence, she said. A Communication on the rights of the child will be adopted soon by the EU. It will include a strong commitment to stop sexual violence against boys and girls both in conflict and in peacetime.

UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Obaid then presented a draft **Brussels Call to Action**⁴², based on the discussions and recommendations in the previous Symposium sessions. The participants reviewed the draft, suggested revisions and additions, and expressed their commitment to move forward in adopting the Call to Action and carrying out its recommendations.

Evening following the closing of the Symposium:

Following the closing of the Symposium, participants from national delegations were invited to show and view films depicting the effects of sexual violence and the impact of programmes to address it.

That evening, the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo hosted a gala dinner with poetry readings, music and an art exhibit featuring paintings and sculptures by artists in DRC. Some 27 pieces of artwork brought from Kinshasa to the Embassy to commemorate the Symposium provided testimony to the grief survivors endured during and after the war. Many of these paintings and sculptures depicted scenes of rape, torture and violence against women in conflict scenes, while other pieces conveyed messages of community uprising against gender-based violence, awareness-raising and hope. The artwork on the cover of this report was painted by a survivor of sexual violence in the DRC. (*Scolastique Tshiapota, "Emotion," Democratic Republic of Congo 2005*)

⁴¹ Dr. Fransen's closing remarks can be found at:
<http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/daythreeclosingsessioneeuropeancommissionfransen.doc>

⁴² The Brussels Call to Action can be found on the following website in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and German: www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06

Follow-up to the Symposium

In the weeks following the Symposium, the Call to Action was translated into numerous languages and distributed at the national and global levels. UNFPA, the Belgian Government and the European Commission continue to collaborate on joint GBV-related field initiatives, including the support for development and implementation of National Action Plans in seven conflict-affected countries. A series of smaller biannual follow-up events will chart the progress of individual countries in implementing their National Action Plans.

In September, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board endorsed a new institutional strategy of UNFPA for emergency preparedness, humanitarian response and transition and recovery programming. Paramount within this strategy is capacity-building within the UN system as a whole as well as within UNFPA and among specific national and local partners, including addressing sexual violence in humanitarian and recovery situations.

Inter-agency discussions continue within the United Nations system with the goal to improve collaboration and joint programming for response to and prevention of sexual violence in conflict.

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Taskforce on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance draft *Guidelines on Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings* are being field-tested in a set of six countries, with the goal of final revisions by early 2007. The primary purpose of these guidelines is to enable communities, governments and humanitarian organizations, including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and community groups, to establish and coordinate a set of minimum multi-sectoral interventions to prevent and respond to sexual violence during the early phase of an emergency.

Above all else, the Symposium served to further raise awareness to the need to continue stepping up response and prevention to sexual and gender-based violence, not only in conflict-torn countries but during all stages of crisis, transition, recovery and development.

Annex I: Symposium Agenda

International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond

Palais d'Egmont, Brussels

Day One – 21 June 2006

12:00 Registration

13:00 Opening session: **Welcome addresses and Overview of Meeting Goals**

Armand De Decker, Minister of Development Cooperation,
Belgium

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA

Lieve Fransen, Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion
& employment, European Commission Directorate General for
Development

Message from Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, United Nations

Video address by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia

14:00-15:00 Session Two: **Conceptualizing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond:**

PLENARY

Sexual violence in conflict situations is increasingly recognized as a fundamental human rights violation, a global public health problem and a development issue. A growing body of research confirms that sexual violence has grave consequences for women's physical, sexual, and mental health, as well as implications for the health and well-being of families and communities. While the*

* While the Symposium organizing committee recognizes that certain types of gender-based violence can and do affect men and young boys, the consequences and characteristics of this type of violence remain largely unknown and should be the focus of future study. For the purpose of this Symposium the focus is on sexual violence as it is experienced by women and girls as an entry point to comprehensively addressing gender-based violence.

responses of local and international organizations and institutions have been effective in some cases, they remain grossly inadequate to the magnitude of the problem. This session will provide an overview of sexual violence in conflict, post-conflict and development situations, illustrating the degree of the problem, including magnitude, historical trends, patterns and effects. This session will also include a brief review of strategies for prevention and response throughout all humanitarian and recovery situations (emergency preparedness, conflict, post-conflict, transition, and development).

Chair: Florence Tercier, Women and War Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross

Presenters: Veronique De Keyser, Member of the European Parliament
Francoise Duroch, Research Coordinator, Medecins sans Frontieres

15:00-15:30

Coffee Break

21 June

15:30-16:30 Session Three: Frameworks for Responding to Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond

PLENARY

This session will discuss opportunities for combating sexual violence in conflict, transition, and development recovery contexts, including the implications of new coordination and funding modalities. The session will highlight different strategies for using these coordination and aid mechanisms to ensure that gender-based violence is always considered.

Chair: Pascal Grégoire, Councillor, Cabinet of the Minister for Development Cooperation, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium

Presenters: Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM

Lena Sund, Deputy Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development,

Discussant: Manuel Carballo, Executive Director, International Centre for Migration and Health

16:30-17:30 Session Four: Prevention and Response: Focus on Democratic Republic of the Congo

PLENARY

In this session a panel of speakers will present the efforts in DRC to develop a comprehensive multi-sectoral national action plan that integrates health care, social support, security and legal redress in an effort to combat sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence. They will discuss how multiple forms of gender-based violence are addressed in the current national recovery and development planning.

Chair: Kris Panneels, Director, Multilateral Cooperation Directorate, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

Presenters: Fabiola Faïda Mwangilwa, Minister of Women and the Family, Democratic Republic of Congo

Marie-Madeleine Kalala, Minister of Human Rights, DRC

Toussaint Muntazini, Colonel, Attorney General, DRC

Dr. Jean-Pascal Manga Okenge, Clinique Maternite sans Risque, DRC

Marie Mossi, RAF, DRC

Justine Masika Buhamba, Synergie des femmes pour les victimes des violence sexuelles, DRC

Discussant: Rory Keane, Desk Officer for West and Central Africa, the Caribbean and the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), European Commission Directorate General for Development

17:30-18:30

Viewing of IRIN Photo Exhibit: *Broken Bodies, Broken Dreams: Violence against Women Exposed*

18:30-19:30

Cocktails

19:30-22:00

Seated Dinner

Participants are invited to dine together and listen to comments from a panel of distinguished speakers:

Elisabeth Rehn, Independent Expert on Women, War, and Peace, ex- SRSG for Bosnia, and ex-Minister of Defense of Finland

Mark Bowden, Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, speaking on behalf of Mr. Jan Egeland, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator

Lieve Franssen, Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development

Dr. Marleen Temmermans, Director, ICRH, University of Ghent

<p>Session Five: CONCURRENT SESSIONS</p>	<p><u>Designing and Implementing National Action Plans for Addressing Sexual Violence for Conflict and Recovery: Examples from the Field</u></p> <p><i>Presentations on the development of national action plans in Sudan(GNU and South Sudan), Haiti, Liberia, Central African Republic, Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The presentations will consider how national action plans to address gender-based violence can be integrated into national development and recovery plans.</i></p>	<p><u>Prevention of and response to sexual violence in conflict situations and beyond</u></p> <p><i>Programming experiences from the field have revealed that no single sector or agency can adequately address gender-based violence prevention and response. Services to address sexual violence must include health and social services, and legal/justice and security sectors. The multi-sectoral model for prevention of and response to gender-based violence calls for holistic inter-organizational and inter-agency efforts, across the health, social services, legal and security sectors.</i></p>
<p>9:00 – 10:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5-A AND 5-B</p>	<p>National Action Plans from Haiti and Liberia:</p> <p>Chair: Ambassador Patricia Brister, US Representative to the CSW</p> <p>Presenters: Country delegation members from Haiti and Liberia, including:</p> <p>Adeline Chancy, Minister of Women’s Affairs, Haiti</p> <p>Myriam Merlet, National Platform Against Gender-Based Violence, Haiti</p> <p>Varbah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia</p> <p>Annie Demen, Deputy Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia</p>	<p>Meeting Protection Needs:</p> <p><i>Effective prevention of sexual violence must involve coordinated multi-sectoral actions that ensure the continuous analysis of risk factors and consequences for sexual violence in different settings. This session will highlight innovative strategies for preventing sexual violence and protection of vulnerable populations, and it will include a range of innovative strategies from Sudan (GNU), Uganda and Burundi.</i></p> <p>Chair: Thierry Morel, Chief of Section, Community Development, Gender Equality, and Children, UNHCR</p>

<p>10:00-11:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5-C AND 5-D</p> <p>11:00-11:30</p> <p>11:30-12:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5-E AND 5-F</p>	<p>Dr. Vivian Cherue, Deputy Minister of Health, Liberia</p> <p>Dr. Lois Bruthus, Chair, Association of Women Lawyers of Liberia</p> <p>Rosana Schaack, Director, THINK</p> <p>National Action Plans : Occupied Palestinian Territories, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Central African Republic:</p> <p>Chair: Marijke Van Hemeldonck, Expert, EC programme to combat violence against women, children and youth</p> <p>Dicussant: Marleen Bosmans, Ghent University</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Mme. Marie-Solange Pagonendji-Ndakala, Minister of Family and Social Affairs and National Solidarity, Central African Republic</p> <p>Nada Ler Sofronic, Director, “Women and Society,” Bosnia- Herzegovina</p> <p>Sana Asi, Coordinator, MIFTAH, OPT</p> <p>Coffee Break</p> <p>National Action Plans – Sudan</p> <p><i>This session will include presentations from the Government of National Unity and the Government of South Sudan .</i></p> <p>Chair: Cécile Charot, Deputy Adviser, UN Service, Multilateral Directorate Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign</p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <p>Donatilla Mukabalisa, Rwanda</p> <p>Judith Namirembe, Christian Children’s Fund, Uganda</p> <p>Sandra Krause, Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children</p> <p>Addressing the rule of law</p> <p><i>This session will analyze the human rights implications of sexual violence and humanitarian approaches to building the rule of law, increasing access to justice and promoting development and recovery and peace and security at individual, family, community and national levels. This session will also include a review of reparations experiences.</i></p> <p>Chair: Ilaria Carnevali, Programme Specialist, BCPR, UNDP</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Lois Bruthus, Chair, Association of Women Lawyers of Liberia</p> <p>Ruth Rubio Marin, University of Seville, Spain, and the International Center of Transitional Justice.</p> <p>Toussaint Muntazini, Colonel Advocat General, DRC</p> <p>Morris Muligo, Criminal Investigation Department, Rwanda National Police</p> <p>Meeting health and psychosocial needs:</p> <p><i>In many contexts reproductive health care services provide an entry point for survivors of sexual violence accessing care. While medical treatment must be</i></p>
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	<p>Trade and Development Cooperation, Belgium</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Jeanne Ward, Interagency Working Group, South Sudan</p> <p>Lona Elia, (UNDP) for Interagency Working Group, South Sudan</p> <p>Dr. Attiat Moustafa, Ministry of Justice, GNU</p> <p>Bedria Abdel Rahman Yousif, West Darfur State Government</p> <p>Mahbouba Abdel Rahman Ali Hamza</p> <p>Roselidah Odenko (UNFPA) for Interagency Working Group</p>	<p><i>available for immediate assistance to survivors to minimize the harmful consequences of physical trauma, other formal and informal services to support the emotional needs of survivors are critical to ensuring the welfare of the survivor. Strategies might range from supportive counseling and/or case management, to promoting policies to ensure women's and girls' access to literacy and reintegration programs. This session will include programming efforts to meet the health and psychosocial needs of women and girls.</i></p> <p>Chair: Claudia Garcia-Moreno, Department of Women's Health, WHO</p> <p>Feryal Thabet, Bureij Women's Health Center, Gaza</p> <p>Juliana Konteh, Women in Crisis Movement, Sierra Leone</p> <p>Dr. Jean-Pascal Manga Okenge, Clinique Maternite sans Risque, DRC</p> <p>Duska Ruzicic, « Medica », Bosnia-Herzegovina</p>
<p><u>13:00-14:30</u></p>	<p>Seated lunch</p>	
<p><u>14:30-15:30</u> CONCURRENT SESSIONS 6-A AND 6-B</p>	<p>Data Collection on Sexual Violence in Conflict-affected Situations:</p> <p><i>Even in more stable contexts efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence are confounded by data limitations, by immediate and long-term health-and stigma-related consequences, by entrenched cultural traditions, and by the global culture of silence. This session will look at the methodological challenges for assessing and monitoring the problem through surveys as well as routine data collection strategies, and for evaluating interventions</i></p>	<p>Collaborative Strategies for Action (English only)</p> <p><i>Implementation of effective multi-sectoral strategies for protection, prevention, care for survivors and ending impunity require well coordinated partnerships of all types – at the global, regional, national, and local levels. This session will highlight some existing partnerships for advocacy, policy change, capacity development, and service collaboration.</i></p>

<p><u>15:30-16:00</u></p>	<p><i>in different conflict-affected contexts.</i></p> <p>Chair: Debarati Guha-Sapir, Director, Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Desta Mechecha, Central African Republic</p> <p>Shabaneh Luay, Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics</p> <p>Rizvina De Alwis, UNFPA Programme Coordinator, Gender, Sri Lanka</p> <p>Discussant: Michelle Hynes, U.S. Centers for Disease Control</p> <p>Coffee Break</p>	<p>Chair: Mukesh Kapila, WHO</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Wilma Doedens, UNFPA Humanitarian Response Unit, for IASC GBV Task Force</p> <p>Angela O’Neil, Irish Joint Consortium on GBV</p> <p>Machteld Gheysen, IRC Burundi</p>
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Day Two – 22 June 2006

16:00-17:30 Session Seven: Round-tables on Key Elements for a Comprehensive Plan of Action

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROUND-TABLE I

A discussion about integrating the continuum of needs for addressing and responding to sexual violence into all funding frameworks Emergency Funding (Consolidated Appeal Process, Central Emergency Response Fund, Humanitarian Donorship, Integrated Transition Funding) and Development funding (UN Development Action Framework, Poverty Reduction Strategies Papers based on the MDGs, and Country Strategy Papers) to prevent and respond to sexual violence and to promote gender justice and peace processes.

Chair: Jennifer Klot, Social Science Research Council and Pamela Shifman, UNICEF

ROUND-TABLE II

A discussion about the need for advocacy to raise awareness of multi-dimensional aspects of addressing sexual violence in conflict situations.

Chair: Jane Mpagi, Director of Gender and Community Development within the Ministry of Gender and Community Development, Uganda, and Dr. Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki, UNMIL

ROUND-TABLE III

A discussion about national policy formulation to address sexual violence, including rule of law and gender justice in conflict, post-conflict, and development frameworks.

Chair: Katariina Leinonen, Gender Expert, Unit Human Rights and Democratisation, European Commission External Relations Directorate (RELEX)

18:00

Book Launch: Women in an Insecure World: Violence against Women Facts, Figures and Analysis

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Panel:

Ambassador Theodor Winkler, Director DCAF
Jeremy Stickings, Senior Social Development Adviser at the Department of Conflict, Humanitarian & Security within the Department for International Development DFID
Pamela DeLargy, UNFPA Chief Humanitarian Response Unit
Varbah Gayflor, Minister of Gender & Development and Head of Delegation, Government of Liberia
Anja Ebnöther, Assistant Director of DCAF

19:00-20:00

Cocktails

Day Three – 23 June 2006

09:00-10:30 Session Eight: Protection and the Security Sector

Chair: Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Presenters: Colonel J. Massengue, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, MONUC

Jamie Alberto Parra Cifuentes-Vicealmirante, National Army, Colombia

Benjamín Alongaboni, General – Joint Inspection Division, DRC

Discussant: Mamadou Diallo, UNFPA Representative, Mali

10:30 – 11:00 COFFEE BREAK

11:00-12:00 Session Nine Moving Forward: Joint Action for Prevention and Response of Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations and Beyond

PLENARY *This session will include reports from the round-table discussions (building a comprehensive plan of action) and will include statements on ways forward from a panel of UN, government, and NGO speakers*

Chair: Agnes Hubert, Adviser, Bureau of European Policy Advisers, European Commission

Panel of speakers includes: Brigitte Holzner, Ministry of Development Cooperation, Austria

Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

Delegation representatives

12:00-12:30 Conclusions of the Symposium and Closing Addresses

This session will conclude a summary of the symposium and priority recommendations for follow-up action

Chair:

Armand De Decker, Belgian Minister of Development Cooperation

Closing Statements by Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director UNFPA and Lieve Franssen, Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development

13:00

Closing Lunch Reception

Afternoon

Optional: Networking and information sharing session “Market Place”

This session will provide a space for the country delegations – including EC officials – to learn from one another and brainstorm on advocacy efforts to garner local and international attention, and to change behavior and attitudes towards sexual violence.

Film Festival

A selection of documentary films from Colombia, CAR, DRC, Sudan and other countries will be screened.

Evening

Gala dinner hosted by the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo, featuring poetry readings, music and an art exhibit comprised of paintings and sculptures by artists in DRC

Annex II: Symposium Participants list

<p>Attiat Mustafa Abdelhalim Director Ministry of Justice Unit For Combating Violence Against Women Nile Avenue 11111 Khartoum SUDAN Phone: + 249 912 30 84 26 E-mail: dr_attiat@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Sahir Abdul-Hadi Technical Adviser, Women, Peace, and Security UNFPA 220 East 42nd Street 10017 New-York UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 51 47 - Fax: + 1 212 297 49 15 E-mail: abdulhadi@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Anicet Ahowanou Agbessi Directeur Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme Secretariat general de l'ONU Immeuble Losonia, Boulevard du 30 Juin 7248 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 880 18 26 - Fax: + 243 81 555 33 05 E-mail: ahowanou.agbessi@undp.org</p>	<p>Jocelyne Ahouadan Conseiller Ambassade de Côte-d'Ivoire Avenue Franklin Roosevelt n 234 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 322 672 95 77 - Fax: + 322 672 04 91 E-mail: mailbox@ambacibnl.be</p>
<p>Mahbouba Abdel Rahman Ali Hamza Head Officer Women's Empowerment Organization South Darfur Nyala SUDAN Phone: + 229 911 342 157</p>	<p>Danijela Alijagic National Programme Officer UNFPA Bosnia and Herzegovina Marsala Tita 48 71000 Sarajevo BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Phone: + 387 33 563 852 - Fax: + 387 33 552 330 E-mail: dalijagic@unfpa.ba</p>
<p>Benjamin Alongaboni General, Inspecteur Divisionnaire Adjoint Charge des Operations Kinshasa Democratic Republic of Congo Phone: - Fax: E-mail: alben61@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Duska Andric-Ruzicic Manager Medica Zenica Infoteka Mokusnice 10 72000 Zenic BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Phone: + 387 32 441 540 - Fax: + 387 32 441 540 E-mail: duska@medica.org.ba</p>
<p>Maria Augusta Angelucci Senior Gender Advisor UNDP DRC Bid du 30 Juin BP 7248 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 700 95 02 - Fax: E-mail: augusta.angelucci@undp.org</p>	<p>Laura Antonelli Attachée Swiss Mission to the European Union Place du Luxembourg 1 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 286 13 11 - Fax: + 32 2 230 45 09 E-mail: laura.antonelli@eda.admin.ch</p>
<p>Maud Arnould Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Louis Michel European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Development Rue de la Loi, 200 - Berlemont 10/204 1049 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 296 65 21 - Fax: + 32 2 298 08 99 E-mail: maud.arnould@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>Adriana Venny Aryani Executive Director Yayasan Jurnal Perempuan (Woman's Journal Foundation) Jl. Tebet Barat VIII No. 27 12810 Jakarta INDONESIA Phone: + 622 183 702 005 - Fax: + 622 183 02 434 E-mail: a.venny@jurnalperempuan.com</p>

<p>Sana Sae'd Asi Project Coordinator The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy - .MIFTAH Democracy and Good Governance Program Al-Massayef St. Rimawi Bldg, 4th Floor P.O. BOX 79647 Jerusalem 95908 Ramallah PALESTINE Phone: + 970 2 298 9490/1 - Fax: + 970 2 298 94 92 E-mail: sana@miftah.org</p>	<p>Gloria Catherine Atiba-Davies Victims expert International Criminal Court Gender and Children Unit, Investigations Division, Office of the Prosecutor Maanweg, 174 2516 AB The Hague THE THE NETHERLANDS Phone: + 31 70 515 86 99 - Fax: + 31 70 515 83 95 E-mail: gloria.atibadavies@icc-cpi.int</p>
<p>Paul J. Avonstroodt Head of Department Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs United Nations & International Organisations Karmelietenstraat, 2 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 5190 543 - Fax: + 32 2 5190 575 E-mail: paul.avonstroodt@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Fama Ba Director, Africa Division UNFPA 220 E. 42nd Street 10017 New York UNITED STATES E-mail: ba@unfpa.org Phone: 212-297-5151 Fax: 212-297-4951</p>
<p>Pascale Baeriswyl 1st Secretary Swiss Mission to the European Union Place du Luxembourg 1 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 286 13 11 - Fax: + 32 2 230 45 09 E-mail: pascale.baeriswyl@eda.admin.ch</p>	<p>Laila Baker Assistant Representative UNFPA Palestine 1 Mousa Feidy Street 91517 Jerusalem PALESTINE Phone: + 972 2 581 72 92 - Fax: + 972 2 581 73 82 E-mail: lbaker@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Megan Louise Bastick Special Programmes Coordinator Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces Rue de Chantepoulet, 11 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 741 77 34 - Fax: + 41 22 741 77 05 E-mail: m.bastick@dcaf.ch</p>	<p>Marta Estevao Bata Mozambique Embassy Boulevard Saint-Michel 97 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 497 780 452 - Fax: + 32 2 732 06 64 E-mail: ambamoz@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Sjaak Bavelaar Special Adviser, Humanitarian Response UNFPA 220 E 42 Street 10017 New-York UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 53 83 E-mail: bavelaar@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Masika Justine Buhamba Coordonatrice Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes des Violences Sexuelles SPVS 20, avenue Butembo Goma DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 31 79 957 E-mail: synergie_sfvs@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Mariangela Bizzarri Programme Officer World Food Programme Gender, Mother and Child Service, Policy, Strategy and Programme Support Division Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70 - Parco de' Medici 00148 Rome ITALY Phone: + 39 06 65 13 25 41 E-mail: mariangela.bizzarri@wfp.org</p>	<p>Inger-Marie Bjønness Councillor The Mission of Norway to the European Union EU Delegation 17, rue Archimède 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 234 11 26 - Fax: + 32 2 234 11 61 E-mail: ibj@mfa.no</p>

<p>Stephanie Blair King's College London War Studies Department Rue Theresienne, 17 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 512 90 15 E-mail: steph_blair@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Anthony Paul Bloomberg Representative UNICEF Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 333 02 02 - Fax: + 243 88 03 006 E-mail: abloomberg@unicef.org</p>
<p>Isa J. Espadon Blyden Media Producer/Writer West Africa Broadcasting Company - AFRICA Radio & Television Productions Department of Radio & Film documentaries Broad Street 69 Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 77 581 708 E-mail: wabc/afrika@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Marleen Bosmans Researcher International Centre for Reproductive Health - University of Ghent De Pintelaan, 185 p3 9000 Ghent BELGIUM Phone: + 32 9 240 52 82 - Fax: + 32 9 240 38 67 E-mail: marleen.bosmans@ugent.be</p>
<p>Mark Bowden Policy Development & Studies Branch Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs UNITED NATIONS 10017 New York UNITED STATES E-mail: bowden@un.org Tel: 917-367-2241 Fax: 917-367-7002/5274</p>	<p>Patricia Brister U.S. Ambassador US Department of State 108 Audubon Lane 70471 Mandeville, LA UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 985 845 17 52 - Fax: + 1 985 845 01 83 E-mail: pbrister@charter.net</p>
<p>Eva-Maria Bruchhaus Board Member Medica Mondiale Huelchrather Street 4 50670 Koeln GERMANY Phone: + 49 221 931 89 80 - Fax: + 49 221 931 89 81 E-mail: info@medicamondiale.org</p>	<p>Lois Cheeche Bruthus President Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia Ashmun Street Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 6 553 178 E-mail: loisbruthus@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Patrice Budry Attaché pour la Coopération Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Français Représentation Permanente de la France auprès de L'Union Européenne 14, Place de Louvain 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 229 83 19 - Fax: + 32 2 229 84 70 E-mail: patrice.budry@diplomatie.gouv.fr</p>	<p>Damien Furungu Bungu Artiste Comedien Canacu 6267, Avenue Lomami, Commune de Limete Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 998 85 28 00 - Fax: E-mail: culturecanal@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Florent O Manga Six Bungu Artiste Comedien Canacu Lokinh n 19 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 45 225 40 - Fax: E-mail: culturecanal@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Alex Butchart Coordinator for Prevention of Violence Department of "Violence and Injury Prevention" World Health Organization 20 Avenue Appia 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 791 40 01 - Fax: + 41 22 791 43 32 E-mail: butcharta@who.int</p>

<p>Safiye Cagar Director, Division of External Relations UNFPA 220 E. 42cd Street 10017 New York UNITED STATES E-mail: cagar@unfpa.org Phone : 212-297-5011 Fax : 212-557-6416</p>	<p>Manuel Carballo Executive Director International Centre for Migration and Health Route du Nant d'Avril, 11 1214 Vernier SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 783 10 80 - Fax: + 41 22 783 10 87 E-mail: mcarballo@icmh.ch</p>
<p>Ilaria Carnevali Programme Specialist UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery 1 United Nations Plaza 10021 New-York UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 22 906 50 17 E-mail: ilaria.carnevali@undp.org</p>	<p>Adeline Chancy Ex-Minister of Women's Affairs Port au Prince HAITI, WI</p>
<p>Hafedh Chekir Representative UNFPA - Palestine 1 Mousa Feidy Street 91517 Jerusalem PALESTINE Phone: + 972 2 581 72 92 - Fax: + 972 2 581 73 82 E-mail: chekir@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Cécile Charot Deputy Adviser Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Multilateral Direction Rue Brederode 3 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 06 25 - Fax: + 32 2 519 05 70 E-mail: cecile.charot@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Eric Chevalier Medecins du Monde 62 Rue Marcadet 75018 Paris Tel : 01 44 92 1515 E-mail: chevalier@medecinsdumonde.net</p>	<p>Vivian Cherue Deputy Minister of Health, Liberia Ministry of Health & Social Welfare Capitol Bye Pass Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 6 518 306 E-mail: vcherue@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Marion Couldrey Co-Editor, Forced Migration Review Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford Mansfield Road, 3 OX1 3TB Oxford UNITED KINGDOM Phone: + 44 1865 280 700 - Fax: + 44 1865 280 700 E-mail: fmr@geh.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Beatrice Marie Clio European Commission DG Development - Unit B/3 Rue de la Science, 15 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 496 23 50 27 - Fax: + 32 229 63 697 E-mail: beatrice.clio@cec.eu.int</p>
<p>Tanya Cox EU Advocacy Coordinator Human Rights Watch Rue Van campenhout 15 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 732 20 09 E-mail: coxt@hrw.org</p>	<p>Sidiki Coulibaly Representative UNFPA - DRC Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 884 23 32 E-mail: sidiki@unfpa.org</p>

<p>Kisito S. Daoh Director, RH Programme Ministry of Health Freetown SIERRA LEONE</p>	<p>Henia Dakkak Technical Specialist, Reproductive Health UNFPA Humanitarian Response Unit 220 East 42nd Street 10017 New York UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 50 69 - Fax: + 1 212 297 49 46 E-mail: dakkak@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Rizvina De Alwis Programme Coordinator - Gender UNFPA 202-204, Baudhaloka Mawatha Colombo 7 SRI LANKA Phone: + 94 11 250 18 86 - Fax: + 94 11 250 19 05 E-mail: dealwis@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Aintzane Maria de Aguirre Senior Protection Assistant UNHCR Regional Representation in Brussels Protection Unit Rue Van Eyck 11B 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 649 01 53 - Fax: + 32 2 627 17 30 E-mail: belbr@unhcr.org</p>
<p>Veronique de Keyser Rapporteur on Women and War 2006 Member of European Parliament E-mail: vdekeyser@europarl.eu.int</p>	<p>Armand De Decker Minister of Development Cooperation, Ministry of Development Cooperation Brussels BELGIUM</p>
<p>Pam DeLargy Chief, Humanitarian Response Unit UNFPA 220 E 42nd Street New York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES E-mail: delargy@unfpa.org Phone: + 1 212 297-5254</p>	<p>Colette De Troy Co-ordinator European Women's Lobby Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women Rue Hydraulique, 18 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 217 90 20</p>
<p>David Del Vecchio Information Officer, Humanitarian Response UNFPA 220 E. 42nd Street New York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES E-mail: delvecchio@unfpa.org Phone: +1 212 297 4975</p>	<p>Therese Delvaux Research Fellow-Lecturer Institute of Tropical Medicine - Belgian Platform on Population and Development STD/HIV Research and Intervention Unit Nationalestraat, 155 2000 Antwerp BELGIUM Phone: + 32 3 247 62 95 - Fax: + 32 3 247 65 32 E-mail: tdelvaux@itg.be</p>
<p>Pasqualina Di Sirio Deputy Director World Food Programme of United Nations WFP-UN Brussels Avenue des Arts 41 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 500 09 10 - Fax: + 32 2 502 77 90 E-mail: pasqualina.disirio@wfp.org</p>	<p>Annie Jones Demen Deputy Minister, Liberia Ministry of Gender and Development Research & Technical Services Corner of Gurley Street and United Nations Drive 10-1000 Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 06 571 375 E-mail: anniedemen@yahoo.com</p>

<p>Wilma Doedens Technical Officer, Humanitarian Response UNFPA 11, Chemin des Anémones 1219 Châtelaine SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 917 85 73 - Fax: + 41 22 917 80 16 E-mail: doedens@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Aline Dewaele Project Officer ISIS Europe Rue Archimède, 50 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 230 74 46 - Fax: + 32 2 230 61 13 E-mail: adewaele@isis-europe.org</p>
<p>Claire Dumon Attaché CFO SPF Affaires Etrangères - DGD Rue des Petites Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 08 43 - Fax: + 32 2 519 08 43 E-mail: claire.dumon@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Mamadou P. Diallo Representative UNFPA Mali Badala Est, Rue 39 Porte 73 - BP 120 Bamako MALI Phone: + 223 222 01 81 - Fax: + 223 222 07 50 E-mail: mdiallo@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Anja Ebnöther Assistant Director Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces Special Programmes Rue de Chantepoulet, 11 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 741 77 17 - Fax: + 41 22 741 77 05 E-mail: a.ebnoether@dcaf.ch</p>	<p>Stephanie Lin Donley Consultant, Gender-Based Violence UNFPA Humanitarian Response Unit 220 East 42nd Street - Office 2023 New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 49 81 E-mail: donley@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Françoise Duroch Coordinatrice de Recherche – Project Violence UREPH Medecins Sans Frontières – Suisse 78 rue de Lausanne Case postale 116 CH-1211 Geneve 21 – Switzerland Phone : 41 22 849 84 98 E-Mail : francoise.duroch@geneva.msf.org</p>	<p>Silvia Eiriz Foreign Service Officer United States Department of State Population, Refugees & Migration 3830 9th Street North apt. 308W Arlington, VA 22203 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 202 663 30 69 - Fax: + 1 202 663 30 94 E-mail: eirizs@state.gov</p>
<p>Lona James Elia Project manager UNDP Good Governance and Equity in Political Participation / UNDP United Nations Development Programme Compound. Juba Sudan P.O. BOX 30218, 00100 Nairobi KENYA Phone: + 249 811 820 146 - Fax: + 254 20 624 833 E-mail: lona.elia@undp.org</p>	<p>Ann Erb Leoncavallo Speechwriter UNFPA Office of Executive Director 220 East 42nd Street New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 50 23 - Fax: + 1 212 297 49 11 E-mail: leoncavallo@unfpa.org</p>

<p>Simone Filippini Head of Division of Emancipation of Women and Reproductive Rights Division of Emancipation of Women and Reproductive Rights Postbus 20061 2500 EB Den Haag THE NETHERLANDS Phone : 070 348 4160 Fax : 070-348-5010 E-Mail : sljm.filippini@minbuza.nl</p>	<p>Lieve Fransen Head of Unit Human development, social cohesion & employment, European Commission Directorate General for Development European Commission DG Development Rue de la Science, 15 1049 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 296 36 98 - Fax: + 32 2 296 36 97 E-mail: lieve.fransen@ec.europa.eu</p>
<p>Rose Gakuba Representative UNFPA Liberia Mamba Point Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 64 35 159 - Fax: E-mail: gakuba@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Lise M. Gagné Population, Refugee and Migration Assistant US Mission to the European Union Rue Zinner, 13 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 508 27 93 - Fax: + 32 2 512 74 81 E-mail: gagnelm@state.gov</p>
<p>Johanna Gardmark National Expert General Secretariat, Council of the European Union DGEVIII Rue de la Loi, 175 1150 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 281 37 06 - Fax: + 32 2 281 78 23 E-mail: johanna.gardmark@consilium.europa.eu</p>	<p>Claudia Garcia-Moreno Coordinator, Gender, Violence and Hiv WHO Department of Gender and Women's Health 20 Avenue Appia 1207 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 4122 791 43 53 - Fax: + 4122 791 15 86 E-mail: garciamorenoc@who.int</p>
<p>Machteld Gheysen IRC Burundi Program Manager Burundi</p>	<p>Varbah Gayflor Minister of Gender & Development and Head of Delegation, Liberia Government of Liberia Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 651 64 34 E-mail: vabgayflor@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Anne-Marie Goetz Advisor UNIFEM Governance Peace and Security 304 East 45th Street New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 906 64 54 - Fax: + 1 212 906 62 65 E-mail: Anne-Marie.Goetz@unifem.org</p>	<p>Marie Godin Researcher in refugee studies Refugee Studies Centre University of Oxford St Cross College OX1 3LZ Oxford UNITED KINGDOM E-mail: godinmarie@gmail.com</p>
<p>Pascal Grégoire Conseiller Cabinet du Ministre de la Coopération au Développement Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 501 89 70 - Fax: + 32 2 501 35 79 E-mail: pascal.gregoire@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Samantha Guy Senior Advisor - Reproductive Health for Refugees Marie Stopes International External Relations 153-157 Cleveland Street W1T 6 QW London UNITED KINGDOM Phone: + 44 207 574 73 46 - Fax: + 44 207 574 74 18 E-mail: sam.guy@mariestopes.org.uk</p>

<p>Debarati Guha-Sapir Professor - Director Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters Department of Public Health Clos Chapelle-aux-Champs 30.94 1200 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 764 33 27 - Fax: + 32 2 764 34 41 E-mail: sapir@esp.ucl.ac.be</p>	<p>Jane Elizabeth Hailé Director Genderworks sprl 48, rue Emile Bouilliot 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 742 09 03 - Fax: + 32 2 742 09 03 E-mail: janehaile@genderworks.be</p>
<p>Giji Gya Consultant Search for Common Ground and Vice-Chair, EPLG gender Peace and Security Working Group 205, Rue Belliard 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 473 594 260 E-mail: giji@sapereaude.org</p>	<p>Denis Haveaux Liaison Officer to the EU UNAIDS UN House, Rue Montoyer, 14 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 50 29 825 E-mail: haveauxd@unids.org</p>
<p>Elfride Harth European Representative Catholics for a Free Choice 1436 U Street, NW, Suite 301 20009 Washington DC UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 202 986 60 93 E-mail: mringuette@catholicsforchoice.org</p>	<p>Karin Heisecke Programme Coordination Officer UNFPA Rue Montoyer, 14 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 550 18 32 - Fax: + 32 2 550 18 33 E-mail: karin.heisecke@unfpa.be</p>
<p>Edith Heines Programme Advisor World Food Programme Gender, Mother-Child Health and Nutrition Service Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70 - Parco de' Medici 00148 Rome ITALY Phone: + 39 06 65 13 26 97 - Fax: + 39 06 65 13 28 73 E-mail: edith.heines@wfp.org</p>	<p>Noeleen Heyzer Executive Director of UNIFEM United Nations Development Fund for Women 304 East 45th Street, 15th Floor New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 906 64 35 - Fax: + 1 212 906 67 05 E-mail: noeleen.heyzer@unifem.org</p>
<p>Sarah Herasme Dominican Republic Mission to the European Union Ave Bel Air 12 1180 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 234 64 Q269935 - Fax: + 32 2 346 51 52 E-mail: Embajada@dominicana.be</p>	<p>Brigitte Holzner Gender and Development Austrian Development Agency The Operational Unit of the Austrian Development Cooperation Zelinkagasse 2, A-1010 Wien Tel.: +43 (0)1 90 3 99 - 541 Fax: +43 (0)1 90 3 99 - 1400 GSM: +43 (0) 699 122 80 973 E-mail: brigitte.holzner@ada.gv.at net: www.ada.gv.at</p>
<p>Hans E.J. Hoebeke Research Fellow Royal Institute for International Relations IRRI-KIIB Central Africa Department Naamsestraat, 69 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 475 52 37 66 E-mail: hans.hoebeke@gmail.com</p>	<p>Agnes Hubert Adviser European Commission Bureau of European Policy Advisors Berlaymont - 200, rue de la Loi 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 295 88 89 - Fax: + 32 2 299 22 23 E-mail: agnes.hubert@cec.europa.eu</p>

<p>Michelle Elizabeth Hynes Health Scientist U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Refugee Reproductive Health Group, Division of Reproductive Health 4770 Buford Highway NE, Mail Stop K-22 Atlanta GA, 30341 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 770 488 64 06 - Fax: + 1 770 488 62 91 E-mail: mhynes@cdc.gov</p>	<p>Elese Isekemanga Conseiller Ministere de la Defense Nationale de la Republique Démocratique du Congo Cabinet du Ministre de la Defense 1, avenue Poto-Galo Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 815 126 112 - Fax: E-mail: elei05@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Arto Juhani Immonen Resource Mobilization / Partnership Advisor UNFPA Liberia Mamba Point 1000 Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 6 828 482 - Fax: + 31 20 540 72 84 E-mail: immonen@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Hedi Jemiai Representative to the European Union and Director of UNFPA Office in Brussels UNFPA Rue Montoyer, 14 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 550 18 30 - Fax: + 32 2 550 18 33 E-mail: hedi.jemiai@unfpa.be</p>
<p>Miriam Jato Senior Program Adviser UNFPA Africa Division 220 East 42nd Street, 18th Floor New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 51 56 - Fax: + 1 212 297 49 51 E-mail: jato@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Lut Joris Coordinator Sensoa International Sensoa Meersstraat, 138D 9000 Ghent BELGIUM Phone: + 32 9 221 07 22 - Fax: + 32 9 220 84 06 E-mail: lut.joris@sensoa.be</p>
<p>Kathleen Joppen Attaché SPF Affaires Etrangères Human Rights Direction Rue des Petites Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 501 37 58 - Fax: + 32 2 501 38 23 E-mail: kathleen.joppen@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Mona Kaidbey Representative UNFPA Colombia Avenida 82 No 10-62, piso 3 Bogotá COLOMBIA Phone: + 571 488 90 29 - Fax: + 571 488 90 10 E-mail: kaidbey@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Nicole Mangaza Kabali Secrétaire Particulière Gouvernement de la République Démocratique du Congo Ministère de la Condition Féminine et Famille 54, Colonel Ebeya, 3ème Niveau - Immeuble Ex. Sozabanque Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 998 625 504 E-mail: nicoleget@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Monique Kander Secretariat of IC/GLR</p>
<p>Marie-Madeleine Kalala Minister of Human Rights, Democratic Republic of Congo Ministry of Human Rights Immeuble Le Royal, Apt. 28D, Bld du 30 Juin Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 813 330 172 E-mail: makineco@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Simon Kankolongo Realisateur-Cameraman Radio Television Nationale Congolaise Television Kabinda Linguala 00243 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 98 12 11 79 E-mail: simkanko@yahoo.fr</p>

<p>Idrissa Oumar Kane Fonctionnaire des Droits de L'Homme Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme Secretariat General de l'ONU Immeuble Losonia, Boulevard du 30 Juin 7248 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 880 38 46 - Fax: + 243 81 555 33 05 E-mail: idrissa.kane@undp.org</p>	<p>Mukesh Kapila Room C203, World Health Organization, 20 Avenue Appis 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 79 467 11 55 - Fax: + 41 22 791 48 44 E-mail: kapilam@who.int</p>
<p>Linda Karvinen Senior Manager Security & Defence Agenda (SDA) Bibliotheque Solvay, Rue Belliard, 137 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 738 75 94 - Fax: + 32 2 736 32 16 E-mail: linda.karvinen@securitydefenceagenda.org;lind a.karvinen@gmail.com</p>	<p>Marie-Therese Kenge Mgomba Tshilombayi Conseillere Ministere des Droits Humains 32, avenue Kimpese Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 99 85 30 584 E-mail: minikenge@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Rory Keane Desk Officer, West and Central Africa, the Caribbean and the OCTs European Commission DG Development Rue de la Science, 15 1049 Brussels BELGIUM E-mail: rory.keane@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>Frances Kissling President Catholics for a Free Choice 1436 U Street, NW, Suite 301 Washington DC, 20009 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 202 986 60 93 E-mail: fkisslingcatholicsforchoice.org</p>
<p>Ines R.E. Keygnaert International Centre for Reproductive Health - University of Ghent Department of ICRH De Pintelaan, 185 p3 9000 Ghent BELGIUM Phone: + 32 9 240 35 64 - Fax: + 32 9 240 38 67 E-mail: ines.keygnaert@ugent.be</p>	<p>Jennifer Klot Senior Adviser Social Science Research Council HIV/AIDS and Gender and Security 810 Seventh Avenue, RM 810 New York UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 377 27 00 - Fax: + 1 212 377 27 27 E-mail: klot@ssrc.org</p>
<p>Orla Anna Maria King Assistant Policy Advisor The THE NETHERLANDS Ministry of Foreign Affairs Peacebuilding and Good Governance Division Bezuidenhoutseweg 67 2500 EB The Hague THE NETHERLANDS Phone: + 31 70 348 61 27 - Fax: + 31 703 486 198 E-mail: orla.king@minbuza.nl</p>	<p>Juliana Konteh Director – Women in Crisis Movement Freetown SIERRA LEONE</p>

<p>Alain Kiuka Secrétaire Général du Réseau des Journalistes Antennea Télévision 51 Avenue du Livre, Gombe Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 815 18 23 27 E-mail: akimisrael@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Sandra Krause Director, Reproductive Health Program Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children Reproductive Health Program 122 East 42nd Street, 12th Floor New York, NY 10168-1289 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 551 30 89 - Fax: + 1 212 551 31 80 E-mail: sandra@womenscommission.org</p>
<p>Sarah Ann Koch-Schulte Institutional Relations Coordinator Americans for UNFPA Development 370 Lexington Avenue, Suite 702 New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 646 649 91 08 - Fax: + 1 646 649 91 39 E-mail: skoch-schulte@americansforunfpa.org</p>	<p>Melanie Jane Sara Kotsopoulos European Peacebuilding Liaison Office Rue Belliard, 205 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 282 94 21 - Fax: + 32 2 282 94 24 E-mail: melanie@eplo.org</p>
<p>Rudy Lagnaux Attaché Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM E-mail: rudy.lagnaux@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Stine Nynne Larsen Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN LOBR, Liaison office with the European Union and Belgium Bd. Simon Bolivar 30 (2nd Floor) 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 204 07 44 - Fax: + 32 2 203 85 89 E-mail: loibr-library@fao.org</p>
<p>Karine Lalieux Belgian Parliament Working Group on Population and Development co-chair Belgian Federal Parliament Chamber of Representatives 1008 Brussels BELGIUM E-mail: klalieux@pslachambre.be</p>	<p>Barbara Laurenceau JPO UNFPA P O Box 557 Port au Prince HAITI Phone : 509- 511 1424 ; 244 8856 E-mail: laurenceau@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Satu Lassila Adviser Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland Department of Development Policy Katajanokanlaituri, 3 00161 Helsinki FINLAND Phone: + 358 9 160 56 105 - Fax: + 358 9 160 56 470 E-mail: satu.lassila@formin.fi</p>	<p>Heidi Lehman Senior Technical Advisor International Rescue Committee Gender-based Violence 122 East 42nd Street New-York, NY 11608 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 551 30 59 - Fax: + 1 212 551 31 85 E-mail: heidil@theirrc.org</p>
<p>Christine Lebrun MSF-Belgium BELGIUM E-mail: Christine.LEBRUN@brussels.msf.org</p>	<p>Els M.M. Leye Senior Researcher International Centre for Reproductive Health - University of Ghent De Pintelaan, 185 P3 9000 Ghent BELGIUM Phone: + 32 9 240 35 64 - Fax: + 32 9 240 38 67 E-mail: els.leye@ugent.be</p>

<p>Katariina Leinonen Gender Expert, Unit Human Rights and Democratisation External Relations Directorate (RELEX) European Commission Rue de la Loi 170, BE-1040 Brussels BELGIUM E-mail: katariina.leinonen@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>Thomas Linde Protection Section United Nations Mission to Sudan 305 E 47th Street 3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza New York, N Y 10017 Tel: 212-986-7040 Fax: 212-986-1838</p>
<p>Eugenie Lifesse Journaliste Agence Congolaise de Presse Presse Ecrite Avenue Tombalbaye, 44-48 Gombe 00243 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 983 163 96 E-mail: lifesseeugenie@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Hervé Lisoir Programme Officer Fondation Roi Baudoin Department of Health Rue Brederode 21 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 549 02 23 - Fax: + 32 2 500 54 23 E-mail: lisoir.h@kbs-frb.be</p>
<p>Marianna Lipponen Programme Manager European Commission AIDCO 04 Rue de la Loi 41 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 29 55 119 - Fax: + 32 2 29 614 30 E-mail: marrianna.lipponen@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>Jean-Pierre Loir Conseiller Général Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation DGD Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 06 14 - Fax: + 32 2 519 08 86 E-mail: jean-pierre.loir@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Thérèse Loncke Attachée DGCD - SPF Affaires Etrangères Programmes de sensibilisation - D5.1 Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 05 47</p>	<p>David Maenaut Representative of the Flemish Government Department of Foreign Affairs Policy Division Boudewijnlaan 30 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 25 53 51 50 - Fax: + 32 25 53 51 01 E-mail: david.maenaut@iv.vlaanderen.be</p>
<p>Shabaneh Luay Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics Occupied Palestinian Territories</p>	<p>Carine Malardeau Monitoring and Evaluation Officer CARE Tchad Abeche TCHAD Phone: + 235 38 94 48 - Fax: E-mail: carinecaretchad@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Maria Manuela Lucas Ambassador of Mozambique, Brussels Mozambique Embassy Boulevard Saint-Michel 97 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 736 00 96 - Fax: + 32 2 732 06 64 E-mail: ambamoz@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Jean-Pascal Manga Okenge Professeur, Clinique Maternite Sans Risque Democratic Republic of the Congo E-mail: profpascal manga@yahoo.fr</p>

<p>Michael Makuei Luetti Minister of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development, South Sudan Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development - South Soudan SUDAN</p>	<p>Irene Marr Foreign Affair Office U.S. Department of State Office of the Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues 1800 G St. NW RM 2135 Washington DC 20009 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 202 312 96 69 - Fax: + 1 202 312 96 63 E-mail: marrif@state.gov</p>
<p>Brenda Malinga National Programme Officer UNFPA Uganda Kampala UGANDA Phone: + 256 712 882 587 - Fax: + 256 41 236 45 E-mail: malinga@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Marta Martinelli Senior Research Fellow ULB, Institute of European Studies Task Force GRAPAX Avenue F.D. Roosevelt, 39 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 650 34 17 - Fax: + 32 2 650 30 68 E-mail: marta.martinelli@ulb.ac.be</p>
<p>S�raphine Manirambona GBV Focal Point UNFPA Burundi manirambona@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Freddy Matundu Mata Artiste Comedien Canacu Vemba n 13, Commune de Lemba Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 19 72 872 - Fax: E-mail: culturecanal@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Mendy Marsh Program Coordinator, GBV/RH/HIV/AIDS Christian Children's Fund Monrovia LIBERIA E-mail: marsh@ssrc.org</p>	<p>Jacqueline Massengue Colonel - CIVPOL Officer MONUC HQ CIVIPOL Division 12, avenue des Aviateurs 8811 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 211 25 09 - Fax: + 1 212 963 02 05 E-mail: massengue@un.org</p>
<p>Nichole McGarry Coordinator, AllianceDARC AllianceDARC 11, Route du Nant d'Avril 1214 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 79 830 42 23 - Fax: E-mail: nmcgarry.alliancedarc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Elke Mayrhofer Programme Specialist UNFPA Africa Division 220 East 42nd Street, 18th Floor New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 51 54 - Fax: + 1 212 297 49 51 E-mail: mayrhofer@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Desta Mechecha International Consultant UNFPA/CAR Avenue B. Boganda P.O. BOX: 872 Bangui CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Phone: + 236 61 08 67 - Fax: + 236 61 17 32 E-mail: mechecha@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Elizabeth Frances McKay CEO Move a Mountain Productions International Limited 5 Ashchurch Park Villas W12 9SP London UNITED KINGDOM Phone: + 44 208 749 22 86 - Fax: + 44 208 749 81 99 E-mail: elizabeth@moveamountain.com</p>

<p>Charlotte Mertens Assistant Senator de Bethune Belgian Senate Paleis der Natie; Natieplein 1 1009 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 501 77 92 - Fax: E-mail: cme@senaat.cdenv.be</p>	<p>Myriam Merlet Representative, Platform of Women's Organizations, Coordination Committee of the National Platform against GBV Port au Prince HAITI</p>
<p>An Maria Michiels Consultant Psychologist Neustiftgasse 19/16 1070 Vienna AUSTRIA Phone: + 43 650 890 66 94</p>	<p>Marlène Michel PHC Coordinator ICRC Health 19, avenue de al Paix 1202 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 730 223 544 - Fax: + 41 22 733 96 74 E-mail: mmichel@icrc.org</p>
<p>Moseray Momoh Director of Finance & External Affairs Action Against Poverty-Liberia Department of Human Rights Kebbah Road, Barnersville Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 231 06 841 482 E-mail: semoh2003@yahoo.com;actionagainstpoverlyi b@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Jennifer Miquel Emergency Officer UNFPA Kenya UN Avenue, Gigiri 30218 Nairobi KENYA Phone: + 254 20 762 50 81 - Fax: + 254 20 762 44 22 E-mail: miquel@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Brigitte Mopane Coordonatrice du Reseau des Journalistes Radio Television Nationale Congolaise Kabinda Linguala 00243 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 99 99 232 48 - Fax: E-mail: brigmop@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>André Mollard E-mail: andre.mollard@ec.europa.eu</p>
<p>Suzanne Monkasa CCAEB Chaussée de Wavre, 78 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 473 39 73 82 - Fax: E-mail: suzanne.monkasa@skynet.be</p>	<p>Thierry Morel Chief of Section UNHCR Community Development, Gender Equality and Children 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 739 84 07 - Fax: + 41 22 739 73 74 E-mail: morel@unhcr.org</p>
<p>Timothy Morris Co-Editor, Forced Migration Review Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford Mansfield Road, 3 OX1 3TB Oxford UNITED KINGDOM Phone: + 44 1865 280 700 - Fax: + 44 1865 280 700 E-mail: fmr@geh.ox.ac.uk</p>	<p>Marie Mossi Presidente RAF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO E-mail: mossikal@yahoo.com</p>

<p>Anne-Francoise Moyson Journalist ELLE Belgique Chaussée de Waterloo 1455 1180 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: +32 2 3732990 E-mail: af.moyson@elle.be</p>	<p>Jane Mpagi Director Gender and Community Development Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development Plot 2 Lumumaba Avenue P.O. BOX: 7136 Kampala UGANDA Phone: + 256 41 347 854/5 - Fax: + 256 41 257 869 E-mail: sanyumpagi2@yahoo.co.uk</p>
<p>Zeljka Mudrovic Assistant Representative UNFPA Bosnia and Herzegovina Marsala Tita 48 7100 Sarajevo BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Phone: + 387 33 563 833 - Fax: + 387 33 552 330 E-mail: zmudrovic@unfpa.ba</p>	<p>Donatilla Mukabalisa Vice-President of Political Committee, Rwandan Parliament Forum of Rwandese Women Parliamentarian Kigali RWANDA</p>
<p>Morris Muligo Officer in Charge of Crime Investigation & Scientific Police (OIC/CISP) Rwanda National Police Criminal Investigation Department Kakiru 250 Kigali RWANDA Phone: + 250 083 11 34 - Fax: + 250 587 532 E-mail: mmuligo@yahoo.co.in</p>	<p>Maha Elaine Muna Emergency Coordinator UNFPA - Sudan Khartoum 6 Blk 5/T Street 2 (PO Box 913) Khartoum SUDAN Phone: + 249 9 123 04 074 E-mail: elmuna@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Toussaint Muntazini Avocat General FARDC (Armée Nationale Congolaise) Auditoriat Général Avenue General Morf n 364 - Camp Kokolu Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 0818 133 817 E-mail: muntatoussaint@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Nicoleta Muntean Associate Victims Expert International Criminal Court Gender and Children Unit, Investigations Division, Office of the Prosecutor Maanweg, 174 2516 AB The Hague THE THE NETHERLANDS Phone: + 31 70 515 90 40 - Fax: + 31 70 515 83 95 E-mail: nicoleta.muntean@icc-cpi.int</p>
<p>Katalay-Tiende Mutembo Conseiller Ministere de la Defense Nationale de la Republique Démocratique du Congo Cabinet du Ministre de la Defense Shiloango, 2 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 815 009 689 - Fax: E-mail: mutembokatalay@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>José Mutima Vela Assistant Droits de l'Homme Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies aux Droits de l'Homme Secretariat General de l'ONU Immeuble Losonia, Boulevard du 30 Juin 7248 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 899 81 09 E-mail: jose.mutima@undp.org</p>
<p>Fabiola Faïda Mwangilwa Ministre de la Condition Feminine et de la Famille, Democratic republic of Congo Ministère de la Condition Feminine et de la Famille 1, avenue de la Révolution 00243 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 815 14 55 23 - Fax: + 243 050 717 392 E-mail: faidamfr@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Eliane Najros Coordinator FAO FAO-SDWW Dimitra Rue Brederode, 21 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 549 03 10 E-mail: eliane.najros@fao.org</p>

<p>Judith Namirembe Field/Project Coordinator Christian Children's Fund Uganda Gender based Violence/Reproductive Health Namirembe Road Kampala UGANDA Phone: + 256 782 505 847 - Fax: + 2546 041 345 353 E-mail: jnmirembe@yahoo.co.uk</p>	<p>Lina Neeb Gender Advisor Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Directorate General for Development Cooperation Rue Brederode 6 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 08 41 - Fax: + 32 2 519 06 83 E-mail: lina.neeb@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Danny Fofolo Ngoy Artiste Comedien Canacu Botango 21 Com/ Lemba Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 45 225 40 E-mail: culturecanal@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Lyn Beth Neylon Legal & Gender Specialist Chemonics International, Inc. Women's legal Rights Initiative 1133 Twentieth Street, N. W. Washington DC, 20036 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 202 955 74 64 - Fax: + 1 202 955 34 00 E-mail: lneylon@chemonics.com</p>
<p>Sarah Jane Norton-Staal Regional Child Protection Officer, Children Affected by Armed Conflict UNICEF ESAR P.O. Box 44145 Nairobi KENYA Phone: + 254 734 600 841 E-mail: snortonstaal@unicef.org</p>	<p>Marijn Noordam Policy Advisor Peacebuilding Division The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Human Rights and Peacebuilding Department Bezuidenhoutseweg 67 2514KJ The Hague THE NETHERLANDS Phone: + 31 70 348 65 15 - Fax: + 31 70 348 44 86 E-mail: marijn.noordam@minbuza.nl</p>
<p>Maddalena Occhetta Representative - Coordinator Geneva Office Caritas International Global Issues Departement 1, rue Varembe 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 734 40 05 - Fax: + 41 227 344 006 E-mail: mocchetta@caritas-internationalis.com</p>	<p>Thoraya Ahmed Obaid Executive Director United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) 220 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 51 11 E-mail: obaid@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Roselidah Ondeko GBV Programme Coordinator UNFPA Humanitarian 613 Khartoum 2 Karthoum SUDAN Phone: + 249 183 545 793/94 - Fax: + 249 183 545 792 E-mail: ondeko@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Outi Ojala-Seppanen Central Management of Thematic Budget Lines- EIDHR European Commission EuropeAid Co-operation Office Office L-41 02/76 1049 Brussels Belgium Email: outi.ojala-seppanen@ec.europa.eu Tel: +32 2 267755 Fax: +32 2 2961430</p>

<p>Patti O'Neill Administrator OECD Network on Gender Equality Development Assistance Committee 2, rue Andre-Pascal 75775 Paris FRANCE Phone: + 33 1 45 24 18 87 - Fax: + 33 1 44 30 61 47 E-mail: Patti.ONEILL@oecd.org</p>	<p>Angela O'Neill Irish Joint Consortium on GBV Concern Worldwide 52 Camden Street Dublin 2 Ireland angela.oneill@concern.net</p>
<p>Kris Panneels Director Directorate of Multilateral Cooperation DGCD Karmelietenstraat, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 06 06 - Fax: + 32 2 519 05 70 E-mail: christian.panneels@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Marie-Solange Pagonendji Ndakala Minister of Family, Social Affairs and National Solidarity, Central African Republic Ministry of Family, Social Affairs and National Solidarity 00236 Bangui CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Phone: + 236 61 55 65 - Fax: + 236 61 73 89 E-mail: solange_pago1@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Annamie Paul Political Officer Mission of Canada to the European Union Avenue Tervuren, 2 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 741 06 69 - Fax: + 32 741 06 29 E-mail: annamie.paul@international.gc.ca</p>	<p>Jaime Alberto Parra Cifuentes Vice Admiral, Head, Human Development, Colombian Navy Ministry of Defense Avenida Eldorado CAN Carrera 52 Bogotá COLOMBIA Phone: + 571 266 05 01 - Fax: + 571 266 05 01 E-mail: secjedhu@armada.mil.co</p>
<p>Jean-Jacques Purusi Sadiki Human Rights and Protection/Women's Rights Advisor United Nations Mission in Liberia Human Rights and Protection Section Grand Central Station PO Box 4677 New-York UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 963 99 26 - Fax: + 1 212 963 99 24 E-mail: purusisadiki@un.org</p>	<p>Joergen Maersk Pedersen Director FAO - Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 203 88 52 - Fax: + 32 2 203 85 89 E-mail: joergenmaersk.pedersen@fao.org</p>
<p>Jarrett Graham Reckseidler Political & Economic Attaché Embassy of Canada Avenue Tervuren, 2 1040 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 741 06 04 - Fax: + 32 2 741 06 90 E-mail: jarrett.reckseidler@international.gc.ca</p>	<p>Sophie Read-Hamilton UNICEF - Uganda UGANDA</p>

<p>Chen Reis Technical Officer World Health Organization Gender, Women and Health Avenue Appia 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 791 46 96 - Fax: + 41 22 791 15 85 E-mail: reisc@who.int</p>	<p>Elisabeth Rehn Independent Expert on Women, War, and Peace, ex- SRSG for Bosnia, and ex-Minister of Defense of Finland elisabeth.rehn@kolombus.fi Phone: +35892952842</p>
<p>Tarja Helena Reponen Director Ministry of Foreign Affairs Global Departement, Unit for Economic and Social Development PL 167 161 Helsinki FINLAND Phone: + 358 9 160 563 20 - Fax: + 358 9 160 562 02 E-mail: tarja.reponen@formin.fi</p>	<p>Stéphane Renard Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM E-mail: stephane.renard@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Aurélie Royet-Gounin Conseillère Droits de l'Homme Représentation permanente de la France auprès de l'Union Européenne Place de Louvain, 4 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 229 82 84 - Fax: + 32 2 229 82 80 E-mail: aurelie.royet-gounin@diplomatie.gouv.fr</p>	<p>Michelle Ringuette Senior Program Officer Catholics for a Free Choice 1436 U Street, NW, Suite 301 Washington DC 20009 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 202 986 60 93 E-mail: mringuette@catholicsforchoice.org</p>
<p>Esmeralda Ruiz Advisor on Gender and Violence UNFPA Colombia Programme UNFPA Colombia Avenida 82 No 10-62, piso 3 Bogotá COLOMBIA Phone: + 571 488 90 200 - Fax: + 571 488 90 10 E-mail: ruiz@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Ruth Rubio Marin Prof. of Public Law and Human Rights Consultant International Center for Transitional Justice 240 Mercer St, apt. 1403 New York, NY 10012 UNITED STATES Phone: + 34 954 55 13 19 - Fax: + 34 95 455 13 21 E-mail: rrubio@ictj.org</p>
<p>Hélène Ryckmans Présidente Commission Femmes et Developement 18, rue de la Sablonnière 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 223 05 12 - Fax: + 32 2 223 05 12 E-mail: helene@mondefemmes.org</p>	<p>Wynne Elisabeth Russell Visiting Fellow The Australian National University Dept of International relations, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies 0200 Canberra AUSTRALIA Phone: + 423 663 073 782 - Fax: E-mail: wynneoz@yahoo.com.au</p>
<p>Rosana Dennis Schaack Executive Director Touching Humanity In Need Of Kindness ELWEA Community, Roberts Field Highway, Paynesville 1000 Monrovia LIBERIA Phone: + 23 165 58 492 - Fax: E-mail: thinkinc2003@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Rima Salah Deputy Executive Director UNICEF 3 United Nations Plaza New York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 326 7014 - Fax: + 1 212 326 77 58 E-mail: rsalah@unicef.org</p>

<p>Luay Abdul-Hafiz Shabana President Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics President Office Al-Ihsa 970 Ramallah PALESTINE Phone: + 972 224 06 340 - Fax: + 972 22 240 63 43 E-mail: loay@pcbs.gov.ps</p>	<p>Victoria Senior Minister Plenipotentiare Ambassade de Colombie Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 96A Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 649 56 79 - Fax: + 32 2 646 54 91 E-mail: victoria.senior@emcolbru.org</p>
<p>Archana Shah Epidemiologist World Health Organization Making Pregnancy Safer 20, avenue Appia 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 791 27 40 - Fax: + 41 22 791 41 89 E-mail: shaha@who.int</p>	<p>Nada Ler Sofronic Director Research, Policy and Advocacy Center "Woman & Society" Jadranska BB 387 33 Sarajevo BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA Phone: + 387 33 259 600 - Fax: + 387 33 259 601 E-mail: nadalsws@bih.net.ba</p>
<p>Sylvie Sona National Program Associate/Advocacy UNFPA CO/UNFPA/RDC 20, avenue Kalémie, C/Gombe Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 999 942 620 - Fax: E-mail: sylvie@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Pamela Shifman Project Officer UNICEF 3 UN Plaza New-York, NY 11215 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 326 71 98 - Fax: E-mail: pshifman@unicef.org</p>
<p>Marie-Therese Steendam Attache Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Brussels BELGIUM Phone: - Fax: E-mail: marie-therese.steendam@diplobel.fed.be</p>	<p>Lolita Mukundji Sombody Artiste Comedien Canacu 4, Avenue Lubudi, Commune de Lemba Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 997 648 224 - Fax: E-mail: culturecanal@yahoo.fr</p>
<p>Ndeye Sow Senior Adviser International Alert Africa / Great Lakes Program 346 Clapham Road SW9 9AP London UNITED KINGDOM Phone: + 44 20 7627 6831 - Fax: + 44 20 7627 69 00 E-mail: nsow@international-alert.org</p>	<p>Jeremy Stickings Senior Social Development Adviser Department for International Development Department of Conflict, Humanitarian & Security 1 Palace Street SW1E 5HE London UNITED KINGDOM Phone: + 44 20 7023 14 22 - Fax: + 44 20 7023 14 72 E-mail: j-stickings@dfid.gov.uk</p>
<p>Lena Sund Deputy Head of Unit B3 European Commission DG Development Rue de la Science, 15 1049 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 295 33 66 - Fax: + 32 2 296 36 97 E-mail: lena.sund@ec.europa.eu</p>	<p>Istvan Szilard Sr. Migration Health Adviser for Europe International Organization for Migration MRF Brussels, regional liaison office to EU/EC Rue Montoyer, 40 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 282 45 88 - Fax: + 32 2 230 07 63 E-mail: iszilard@iom.int</p>

<p>Miranda Tabifor Gender Advisor UNIFEM Avenue Kalemie 20 Gombe Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 810 363 996 - Fax: E-mail: miranda.tabifor@undp.org</p>	<p>Basile Oleko Tambashe Representative UNFPA – Central African Republic Africa Division, Central African Republic Avenue Barthélemy Boganda, Immeuble la Couronne BP 872 Bangui CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Phone: + 236 61 77 07 - Fax: + 236 61 17 32 E-mail: tambashe@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Marleen Temmermans Professor Director of the International Center for Reproductive Health University of Ghent International Centre for Reproductive Health marleen.temmerman@UGent.be</p>	<p>Florence Tercier Women & War Adviser International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Direction of Operations Avenue de la Paix, 19 1202 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 730 34 51 - Fax: E-mail: ftercierholstroness@icrc.org</p>
<p>Feryal Abed Al Rahmman Thabet Director of Bureij Women's Health Center in Gaza Culture And Free Thought Association Women Health Center El Bureij Camp, Block 12 Gaza Strip Der El Balah City PALESTINE Phone: + 970 825 548 88 - Fax: + 970 825 54888 E-mail: whc_cfa@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Marlène MC. Thomas Desk Officer Belgian Development Cooperation Rue Brederode, 6 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 07 89 - Fax: + 32 2 519 0570 E-mail: marleen.thomas@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Maddy Tiembe E-mail: maddytiembe@yahoo.fr</p>	<p>Luc Timmermans Head of Unit Ministry of Foreign Affairs Belgium Bilateral Cooperation with Central-Africa Karmelietenstraat, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 519 06 86 - Fax: + 32 2 519 0252 E-mail: luc.timmermans@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Carlos Holmes Trujillo Ambassador of Colombie in Brussels Embassy of Colombie in Brussels Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 96A 1050 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 649 56 79 - Fax: + 32 2 646 5491 E-mail: colombia@emcolbru.org</p>	<p>Pierre Vaesen Ambassador - Head of Staff Cabinet of Minister De Decker Brussels BELGIUM</p>
<p>Johanna Valenius MFA/Finland 00161 Helsinki FINLAND Phone: + 358 50 54 17 125 - Fax: E-mail: johanna.valenius@gmail.com</p>	<p>Françoise Van de Perre Secrétaire DGCD - SPF Affaires Etrangères Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 51 90 668 E-mail: francoise.vandepierre@diplobel.fed.be</p>

<p>Marijke J.H. Van Hemeldonck Honorary Member of the European Parliament Development Committee & ACP Joint Assembly 5 , rue Racine 30900 Nîmes FRANCE Phone: + 33 466 67 86 25 - Fax: + 33 466 450 963 E-mail: mvanheme@club-internet.fr</p>	<p>Marion Van Offelen Conseiller - Coopération indirecte Cellule stratégique du Ministre de la Coopération au Développement Rue des Petits Carmes, 15 (6ème étage) 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 501 83 11 - Fax: + 32 2 501 35 79 E-mail: marion.vanoffelen@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Elsa Van Woersen Emancipation of Women and Reproductive Rights THE NETHERLANDS</p>	<p>Stephane Vandam Medical liaison Officer, WHO, HAC WHO - Office at the European Union UN House, Rue Montoyer, 14 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 506 46 50 - Fax: + 32 2 506 46 66 E-mail: vandams@who-eu.be</p>
<p>Tamas Varnai Principal Administrator European Commission DG Development Rue de la Science 15, Office 04/109 1049 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 298 30 48 - Fax: + 32 2 296 36 97 E-mail: tamas.vamai@ec.europe.eu</p>	<p>Pieter Vermaeke Attaché Development Cooperation Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation DGCD Karmelietenstraat, 15 1000 Brussels BELGIUM Phone: + 32 2 438 98 97 15 E-mail: pieter.vermaerke@diplobel.fed.be</p>
<p>Angela Walker Regional Information Adviser UNFPA CST Dakar BP 21090 c/o UNFPA CST Dakar Dakar SENEGAL Phone: + 221 508 07 45 E-mail: awalker@unfpa.org</p>	<p>Kunio Waki Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA UNFPA Office of the Executive Director 220 East 42nd Street New-York, NY 10017 UNITED STATES Phone: + 1 212 297 51 14 - Fax: + 1 212 297 49 11 E-mail: waki@unfpa.org</p>
<p>Savithri Wijesekera Executive Director Women In Need 122 Cotta Road Colombo 8 SRI LANKA Phone: + 94 11 266 58 70 - Fax: + 94 11 267 14 11 E-mail: win@eureka.lk</p>	<p>Jeanne Louise Ward GBV Consultant 1,4b Kitisuru Nairobi KENYA Phone: + 254 734 916 145 E-mail: jeanne@swiftkenya.com</p>
<p>Fabiola Wizeye Ngeruka Programme Associate, Gender UNFPA Rwanda Kigali RWANDA</p>	<p>Theodor Winkler Assistant Director Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces Special Programmes Rue de Chantepoulet, 11 1211 Geneva SWITZERLAND Phone: + 41 22 741 77 10 - Fax: + 41 22 741 77 05 E-mail: t.winkler@dcaf.ch</p>

<p>Gwen Kathleen Young Humanitarian Affairs Advisor Medecins Sans Frontières Humanitarian Affairs Department Plantage Middenlaan 14 1001 EA Amsterdam THE NETHERLANDS Phone: + 31 20 520 87 61 - Fax: + 31 20 620 51 70 E-mail: gwen.young@amsterdam.msf.org</p>	<p>Bedria Abdel Rahman Yousif Advisor of the Wali on Women and Children West Darfur State Government Geneina SUDAN Phone: + 249 912 43 66 01</p>
<p>Therese Kobeane Zeba Programme Advisor, Focal Point of the Joint SGBV Project UNFPA, DRC Country Office 20, avenue de Kalemie, Gombe 7248 Kinshasa DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO Phone: + 243 81 994 72 92 - Fax: E-mail: zeba@unfpa.org</p>	



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