

MULTI-DONOR TRUST FUND FOR UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT COVER PAGE

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FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT FORMAT

I. Purpose

A high-level colloquium organized by DPA, DPKO, OCHA, UNDP, and UNIFEM on behalf of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and in partnership with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, took place in New York (June 22nd-23rd, 2009) and convened eminent mediators, subject experts, and leaders of women's groups. The meeting was a response to OP 3 and OP 12 of Security Council Resolution 1820, and aimed at supporting the UN system and the wider international community to address conflict-related sexual violence in mediation and conflict resolution.

The meeting's objective was to further the development of written guidance material for mediators, negotiating teams, and the broader community of peacemaking stakeholders (SRSGs, other international security actors, peace activists). Draft guidance notes were prepared by technical working groups in advance of the meeting and are currently being revised in response to feedback received at the Colloquium. They highlighted key issues in the relationship between conflict resolution and sexual violence and identified the most promising methods of addressing these issues in peace processes. The finalized guidance material will be disseminated through, among other channels, the peacemaker website of the Department of Political Affairs. This meeting and follow-up activities advance the goals of UN Action's Strategic Framework for 2009 and 2010, as they advance implementation of Resolution 1820, in particular with regards to its advocacy objectives of promoting a more effective prevention and protection, bolstering women's participation and empowerment in sexual violence prevention and response efforts, raising internal awareness and UN-system accountability for addressing sexual violence, and, most importantly, strengthening efforts to make women's needs and responses to sexual violence integral to peace processes. With regards to knowledge building, just as last year's Wilton Park conference led to the development of guidance for peacekeeping, this year's colloquium is expected to deliver guidance notes for peace mediation.

Resources

Financial Resources:

The meeting was supported by grants from the Government of Norway and from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

In order to prepare for a more productive colloquium, and as the basis for the guidance material to be produced by UNIFEM and DPA, the participants were divided in five different working groups, which engaged in consultations prior to the event and began developing such guidance. These working groups corresponded with five different aspects of peace agreements:

- Pre-ceasefire humanitarian access and human rights agreements
- Ceasefires and ceasefire monitoring
- DDR and security arrangements, including SSR
- Justice
- · Reparations and economic recovery and development

In order to facilitate their consultations, a wiki site was created for participants, populated with a wide range of research on the topic. The list of participants had to change several times as the Steering Committee laboriously strove to secure confirmations of attendance from the right mix of actors with relevant experience. This required weekly meetings and constant input from the members of the Steering Committee.

Each working group's preliminary recommendations, which had been refined over the first day of the meeting, were shared at the event with mediators in plenary sessions, with an emphasis on discussing the feasibility of these proposals and the practical obstacles and challenges that could arise. These recommendations are being developed and expanded into Operational Guidance Notes, which will be posted with other guidance for mediators on the DPA's Peacemaker website and will form part of the DPA support package to mediators and their teams.

The event was well organized and allowed for rich and passionate debate. Discussions were conducted under the 'Chatham House rule' of non-attribution to encourage open reflection. One of the organizers' finest decisions was that of hiring a high-profile moderator, Lyse Doucet from the BBC World Service. The lively rhythm of the event was helped by the variety of formats and discussion topics from segment to segment. UNDP's Administrator Helen Clark opened the two-day affair, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon brought it to a close.

The main findings of the colloquium were presented to members of the Security Council in a very well-attended Arria Formula meeting hosted by the United Kingdom on June 24th, and at a follow-up event at the International Peace Institute, co-sponsored by the Norwegian Mission and UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict on September 14th. At this event, a draft of the summary report was disseminated, in anticipation of an upcoming Security Council Resolution that draws from several of the recommendations emerging from the colloquium. The higher-than-expected turnout demonstrated growing interest in the guidance materials and this issue in general. Informal feedback from the participants of the colloquium showed overall high satisfaction with the proceedings. Other advocacy initiatives included a press conference at the United Nations prior to the Arria Formula meeting and the drafting of Op-Ed pieces that, although not published in newspapers, did appear in online sites, such as open Democracy.

Results

The high-level colloquium convened approximately seventy-four participants comprising 9 mediators and SRSGs, 35 UN staff members, 24 representatives from civil society organizations (including technical experts and women's groups), 4 military commanders, 2 elected politicians and a moderator from the BBC World Service. A report summarizing the main findings and recommendations emerging from the colloquium has been drafted, and is expected to be tabled at the Security Council by the United Kingdom. These findings have been shared with member states at an Arria Formula meeting on June 24th and the IPI event on September 14th. Five separate guidance notes are being developed by UNIFEM in collaboration with the Department of Political Affairs, to be posted on the DPA's Peacemaker website and form part of the DPA support package to mediators and their teams.

But the most important outcome related to the colloquium is the unanimous passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1888, which strengthens the operational viability of UNSCR 1820's implementation. Drafted by the United States and sponsored by more than fifty member states, it was voted on at a Security Council session presided by the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. This

resolution powerfully affects the architecture of the UN-system's response to sexual violence in conflict, and several of its provisions are heavily influenced by the issues discussed at the colloquium and its recommendations. For example:

Paral 6. Urges the Secretary General, Member States and the heads of regional organizations to take measures to increase the representation of women in mediation processes and decision-making processes with regard to conflict resolution and peacebuilding; and Para 17. Urges that issues of sexual violence be included in all United Nations-sponsored peace negotiation agendas, and also urges inclusion of sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes in such situations, in particular in the areas of pre-ceaseafires, humanitarian access and human rights agreements, ceasefires and ceasefire monitoring.