

MONTHLY ACTION POINTS

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL: JUNE 2010

NGO | WORKING GROUP
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY

PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR JUNE: MEXICO

MEXICO'S SUPPORT FOR WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Mexico's stated priorities for its 2010-2011 Security Council membership include its chairing of the Children and Armed Conflict Working Group; support for the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including support for the comprehensive set of indicators to measure implementation; and support for Rule of Law issues.

Mexico's relevant international commitments include: Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (*Ratified 28th October 2005*); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): (*Ratified 22nd June 1985*); Optional Protocol (*Ratified 15th March 2002*);

RECOMMENDED SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION POINTS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Action Previously Requested by the Security Council

In Presidential Statement PRST/2010/8, the Council indicated its intent to take action on the proposed indicators on SCR 1325 (as requested in OP17 of SCR 1889) on the 10th Anniversary of SCR 1325. The **final set of indicators must be comprehensive and meaningful**, and the Council must ensure it institutes an effective system of monitoring and accountability.

Country Situations

Preliminary analysis of the **NGOWG Monthly Action Points** project indicates that **country reporting** on women, peace and security matters is inconsistent and incomplete, and that information specifically requested by the Council in mission mandates is often absent from these reports. This absence of up-to-date information and analysis makes appropriate action by the Security Council and UN actors even more difficult. In addition to these mandate-specific calls for information, the Security Council has determined that all mandate renewals and country reports must address the protection and promotion of women's human rights (SCRs 1325; 1820, OP 9; 1888, OP 11; 1889, OP 5; and PRSTs 2009/1 and 2010/8). The absence of specific reporting on women does not necessarily signify that there are no women, peace and security concerns. Member States should inquire as to any such lack of information.

Children and Armed Conflict

As the Security Council prepares to discuss the most recent **report** on Children and Armed Conflict, monitoring and reporting efforts on the three thematic areas of Children and Armed Conflict, Protection of Civilians, and Women, Peace and Security should be complementary and should avoid duplication. This includes:

- Strengthening cooperation with and involvement of local and international NGOs at both field and HQ levels to ensure that reporting efforts on violations against children, women and civilians are complementary;
- Ensure that all gender advisors, HIV/AIDS advisors, child protection advisors and independent human rights monitors at the field level work closely with all monitoring and reporting structures;
- Request that the UN country teams and UN entities cooperate closely with national and international NGOs and women's groups at the local level on all protection areas. Greater involvement of NGOs will guarantee strengthened protection of children, women and civilians.

Global Open Day for Women and Peace

In June, DPKO, UNIFEM, DPA, UNDP are collaborating to support a **Global Open Day**, which will see most UN missions' leadership meeting with representatives from women's rights organizations, providing UN Special Representatives with the opportunity to hear directly from women, and to substantively incorporate women's rights and concerns in mission planning. Such meetings should be regularly held in all UN missions, and the recommendations from these consultations should be meaningfully incorporated in specific policy decisions.

Afghanistan

There are several key events regarding Afghanistan scheduled for June.

- The planned **Peace Jirga** has been once again postponed, and is now scheduled for early June. Concerns regarding representation persist: the Peace Jirga must reflect Afghan society, particularly the representation of women and minority groups, and the inclusion of their rights and concerns on the agenda.
- The Afghanistan UNAMA **country report** is due in the Security Council this month. Previous reports have not adequately reflected the serious barriers women face when attempting to assert their rights to participate in all aspects of economic and political life in Afghanistan, nor have these reports included sufficient recommendations for removing

these barriers. In particular, Council Members should inquire into any lack of information and analysis on violations of women's rights.

- The Security Council is scheduling a **mission** to Afghanistan in late June. As per the Security Council's stated intention in SCR 1325 OP15, this mission should include meeting with women's rights organizations. Specifically, both local and international women's rights defenders should be substantively consulted during the mission, and their concerns are reflected in the mission report and in future Security Council action in Afghanistan.

Burundi

Elections are being held in Burundi between May and September, and early reports of violence raise concerns that these elections will not further consolidate peace in the country. Any support given to Burundi and monitoring of the security situation surrounding the elections there should include specific information and analysis on the particular risks and dangers faced by women seeking to assert their electoral prerogatives. Special attention should be given to ensuring access to justice for victims of political violence, including women.

Guinea

Elections are planned for late June in Guinea, the next step in moving towards greater respect for the rule of law after decades of authoritarian and often oppressive rule. These elections must be fair and free, and once installed, the new administration must take concrete steps to ensure those responsible for the brutal September 2009 attacks on opposition supporters - in which more than 150 were killed and over 100 women raped by security forces - are held accountable.

Sudan

As the Council will hear from a range of actors regarding developments in Sudan, it is vital that Council members are apprised of and inquire into the meaningful engagement of women in all peace and stability efforts, notably the Comprehensive Peace Process. It is also vital that Council members address the lack of accountability for crimes against women in Sudan, including the failure to implement International Criminal Court arrest warrants.

NGOWG ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOURCES

- Human Rights Watch *Afghanistan: World Chapter Report*, January 2010, <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/87390>
- Human Rights Watch, *Afghanistan: "We Have the Promises of the World": Women's Rights in Afghanistan*, December 2009, <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/12/03/we-have-promises-world>
- Amnesty International, *Afghanistan: Human rights must be guaranteed during Taliban talks*, January 2010, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/human-rights-afghanistan-must-guaranteed-during-taliban-talks-20100126>
- Amnesty International, *Afghanistan: Attack on Afghan female politician highlights growing risk to women*, April 2010, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/attack-afghan-female-politician-highlights-growing-risk-women-2010-04-08>
- Human Rights Watch, *Burundi: "We'll Tie You Up and Shoot You,"* May 2010, <http://www.hrw.org/node/90456>
- IRC - *Central African Republic: A Deepening Crisis*, September 2009, <http://www.theirc.org/news/central-african-republic-a-deepening-crisis-6436>
- Amnesty International, *Guinea: Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review: Eighth session of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council*, May 2010, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR29/007/2009/en>
- Human Rights Watch, *Universal Periodic Review: Guinea - Submission to the 8th session of the UPR*, May 2010, <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/04/23/universal-periodic-review-guinea>
- Femmes Africa Solidarite, *PSC Open Session on Women and Children in Armed Conflicts*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, March 2010, http://fasngo.org/fasdatabase/whats_new/FAS_report-women_and_children_in_armed_conflicts-AU_PSC.pdf
- *PeaceWomen Security Council 1325 Monitor*. http://www.peacewomen.org/security_council_monitor/resolution-watch