

MONTHLY ACTION POINTS

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL: DECEMBER 2012

NGO | WORKING GROUP
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY

PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR DECEMBER: MOROCCO

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

Morocco's stated priorities as an elected member of the Security Council include consensual dialogue and peaceful settlement of disputes, and efforts to establish stability, security and peace as a foundation for economic and social development.

Morocco's relevant international commitments include: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (*reservation on paragraph 1, article 29*) (*acceded 21 June 1993*); Rome Statute (*signed 8 September 2000*)

RECOMMENDED SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION POINTS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Women, Peace and Security

In its regular work, the Council should ensure that all country reports and mandate renewals evaluate the level of protection and promotion of women's human rights, as per SCRs 1325, 1820 (OP 9), 1888 (OP 11), 1889 (OP 5) and 1960 (OP 6, 13). Member States should inquire about any lack of such reporting.

Peacebuilding

The Council is expected to hold an **open debate** to discuss current developments in the peacebuilding agenda, including the recent Secretary-General's report (A/67/499 - S/2012/746). All Member States, including Council members, should ensure they substantively address the key gender-specific barriers the report identifies, including in conflict resolution process, governance, justice, and economic recovery. Member State commitments, and any Security Council outcome from the debate, should clearly identify concrete steps to remove these barriers and support women's participation in all aspects of peacebuilding, including through the provision of political and financial support.

Afghanistan

The Council is due to receive **reports** on the UN mission in Afghanistan and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). In the past year, there has been no evident progress in the proportion of women participating in political life, and women and defenders of their rights have continued to be targeted with impunity. Members of the Afghan government and insurgent groups must not be granted impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Council's discussion should include assessment of efforts to include Afghan women and their security concerns in reintegration and reconciliation discussions, and support to more women seeking to become High Peace Council members. The report should include gender-disaggregated data and analysis in its assessment of transition of security responsibility to national security forces, in sections on the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Program, rule of law, and efforts to strengthen Afghan-led governance.

Central African Republic

In its discussion of the **report** on the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), the Council should inquire into impunity for atrocities committed by the LRA, and what efforts are being made to ensure justice systems are established. The report should assess humanitarian coordination and efforts to apprehend LRA leaders, and recommend how to enhance civilian protection and humanitarian support. Vetting and gender training of armed forces is necessary, as is attention to the protection of women, men and children in eastern CAR. The Council should support recovery and relief for survivors of attacks and abductions, and should support civilian rehabilitation programs to sensitize national armed forces and local communities to the proper treatment of male and female returnees.

Côte d'Ivoire

In its discussion of the expected **report** on Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Council should ensure information is provided on ongoing impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, and barriers to women's full participation in justice and reconciliation processes. In addition, the report should cover the role of women in peacebuilding process, security sector reform, and DDR, including the socio-economic factors affecting female ex-combatants and associates of ex-combatants.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The human rights and humanitarian **crisis** in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has sharply worsened over recent weeks and months, as the civilian population has suffered at the hands of armed groups who have expanded their operations, first during the restructuring of the Congolese army (FARDC) in 2011 and then during recent fighting between the M23 armed group and the FARDC. The Council should:

- Ensure the DRC government deploys properly trained and fully vetted professional security forces in areas where the civilian population is faces particular threat, notably Masisi and Walikale territories of North Kivu province;
- Urgently review MONUSCO's resources to ensure that troops are deployed to ensure effective civilian protection;
- Ensure that MONUSCO forces take all practical measures to protect the civilian population against human rights abuses, including by offering human rights defenders at serious risk sanctuary in MONUSCO premises;
- Assist the DRC government in ensuring effective action is taken to end sexual violence, including necessary legal reforms;

- Support programmes to ensure that survivors of sexual and gender-based violence have full and equal access to justice, prompt and effective reparations, medical and psychological care, as well as legal and social services; and
- Exert pressure on the DRC government to ensure protection of civilians in IDP camps, in particular women and girls.

Golan Heights

The Council is expected to discuss a **report** of the Secretary-General and extend the **mandate** of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). This mandate renewal should include gender-specific language, *inter alia* in: support for civilian populations, including women, affected by the current crisis; engagement of women in political solutions to the violence; gender-specific humanitarian responses; and mandatory comprehensive gender training for troops.

Guinea-Bissau

Given the absence of women, peace and security elements in Council **discussions** regarding Guinea-Bissau, expected discussion of the situation should reflect the ongoing challenges to and give support for women's participation in conflict prevention, political processes, peacebuilding efforts, as well as women's role in security sector reform. The discussion should also detail gender-specific concerns regarding the current humanitarian situation.

Liberia

The **mandate** of the Group of Experts (GoE) on sanctions is expected to be renewed following consideration of the final report of the GoE. The Council should ensure that the mandate allows for the free flow of all relevant information between UNMIL and the GoE, particularly information on violations of women's human rights, and highlight the links between the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons and the occurrence of sexual and gender-based violence.

Mali

In its discussion of the **situation** in Mali, the Council should support key elements regarding women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution, and the cessation of human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, as per SCRs 2056 & 2071. Any **authorization** of a military force in Mali must be accompanied by the mandating of a UN human rights presence, including strong gender expertise, to independently monitor the adherence of all parties to the conflict to international humanitarian and human rights law. This mandate must include public and regular reporting to the Security Council on findings and recommendations. Any such military force must be subjected to strict vetting procedures, and pre-deployment training should reach best practice standards, particularly regarding sexual violence in conflict. In addition, Mali requires an urgent upscale in specialized gender-based violence (GBV) service delivery, with humanitarian organizations leading the GBV response requiring continuous support from the GBV Sub-Cluster leadership.

Somalia

The expected **report** providing options and recommendations for the UN presence in Somalia should prioritize the importance for all armed actors to protect civilians, including women and girls, in full compliance with international humanitarian law. In its review of the report, the Council should inquire into information and analysis regarding women's full participation in all efforts to find a political solution to the ongoing armed violence; how a future UN presence would support such activities; and should follow-up on the establishment of a gender unit within the Somali Police Force.

Syria

The **situation** in Syria continues to worsen as the civilian population continues to be killed, tortured, and their rights violated. Rape and sexual assault continues to be a significant element of the conflict, with women and girl survivors at increased risk of exploitation by forced marriage. Humanitarian aid is underfunded, and current support is not adequately addressing gender-specific concerns. As per the UN Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, UN humanitarian assistance providers should ensure that survivors have information about and access to these services. The Security Council should refer parties who have violated international law in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

Timor-Leste

As UN mission in Timor-Leste draws down, the Council should encourage Timor-Leste and UN entities to continue efforts to support the full and equal participation of women in political, economic, and social spheres; and further ensure that UN entities in the country maintain a strong human rights monitoring presence with gender expertise throughout 2012 and beyond any end to UNMIT's mandate. The Security Council should insist on accountability for crimes under international law committed in 1999 and during the Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste.