

MONTHLY ACTION POINTS

ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL: NOVEMBER 2009

NGO | WORKING GROUP
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY

PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR NOVEMBER: AUSTRIA

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

Austria's priorities for its 2009-2010 Security Council membership include: political solutions based on the rule of law; the protection of human rights; and conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In public statements in the Security Council since the adoption of SCR 1325 (2000), Austria has called for more women in high-level UN positions, and the inclusion of women in peace processes and decision-making. Austria has supported gender mainstreaming in the UN, and has suggested that a systematic approach to women, peace and security could include a permanent Council monitoring mechanism. Austria has suggested that the 10th anniversary of SCR 1325 be used to identify existing challenges to women, peace and security obligations and define future priorities.

Austria's relevant international commitments include: Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (*Ratified 28 December 2000*); National Action Plan on the Implementation of Resolution 1325 (*Launched August 2007*); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): (*Ratified 31 March 1982*)

RECOMMENDED SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION POINTS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Action Previously Requested by the Security Council

The Security Council and Member States should follow up on the recent recommendations in resolutions 1888 and 1889, including the appointment of an SRSG and the deployment of a team of experts regarding sexual violence in conflict; the Secretary-General's upcoming proposals to strengthen the UN response to sexual violence in conflict (1888 OP26); and the Secretary-General's forthcoming set of universal indicators to track implementation of 1325 (1889 OP17).

The Protection of Civilians (PoC) in Armed Conflict

After the 10th anniversary of the initial PoC SCR 1265 in September 2009, the Council is expected to hold an Open Debate on PoC in mid-November. Specific entry points for the Council on women, peace and security include:

- Systematically employing the Aide-Memoire on the protection of civilians into the work of the Council (PRST 2009/1). The Aide-Memoire highlights objectives for Council action specifically to protect women, and ensure their participation in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict.
- Where women and girls are reported to be at risk of widespread or systematic violence in countries not regularly on the Council's agenda, the Council should follow the situation closely, request relevant briefings and consider appropriate measures to protect.
- When establishing and renewing state-specific sanctions regimes, the Council should consider measures against parties to armed conflict who commit rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (1820 OP5)
- Meeting with women and women's organizations during field visits to help ensure that protection strategies are effective (1888 OP 14).

Counter-Terrorism

In any counter-terrorism efforts, the Security Council should ensure that the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force take explicit account in their work of the impact of the protection and promotion of women's human rights.

Country Situations

All mandate renewals and sections of country reports must address the protection and promotion of women's human rights in accordance in 1325, 1820 (OP 9), 1888 (OP 11), and 1889 (OP 5) and PRST 2009/1. The absence of specific reporting on women does not imply that there are no women peace and security concerns in the country. Member States should inquire as to any such lack of information.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Security Council should take action to ensure justice for survivors of sexual violence, in accordance with the resolutions on women, peace and security, and the UN's Basic Principles on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Despite the inclusion of protection in the MONUC mandate, the situation for women in the DRC remains dire. The Security Council should:

- Request the Security Council working group on children and armed conflict refer violations involving sexual violence against children in DRC to the sanctions committee for DRC;
- Strengthen the UN arms embargo and adopt other targeted measures against parties to armed conflict that fail to address acts of sexual violence against women or children committed by their members; and exclude individual commanders responsible for sexual violence from governance structures;
- Support the establishment of a special chamber with DRC and international judges and prosecutors within the DRC justice system to investigate serious violations of international humanitarian law, including sexual violence, and investigate and prosecute senior officials who are responsible for these violations.
- Establish an independent vetting mechanism to exclude suspected perpetrators of violence against women from the army, police and intelligence services, starting with the senior officer corps, pending judicial investigation (1888 OP3)

Guinea

The response to recent violence in Guinea, including targeted attacks on women, continues to develop rapidly. The Security Council, AU, ECOWAS and the Guinean authorities support an international Commission of Inquiry. It is vital that the COI should include expertise on violence against women, including sexual violence; and that any investigation and subsequent measures pay special attention to the gendered dimension of these acts of violence. All countries should cease military and police weapons transfers that could be used to commit crimes against women, and there must be no amnesty for crimes under international law, including sexual violence. Women should be substantially represented in power-sharing talks, which must also include women's rights and interests.

Somalia

The Secretary General's report on a potential mission to Somalia will likely be discussed in the Council in November. Despite the absence of specific gender expertise in the Technical Assessment Mission earlier this year, the mandate for such a mission must thoroughly address all aspects of women's rights in conflict, and should:

- Take immediate steps to protect civilians, particularly women, such as disarmament and small arms embargo enforcement
- Provide necessary measures to ensure the rights of women and women's rights defenders
- Provide well-resourced and politically-supported gender advice in the mission, to meet the needs of women in Somalia, and to engage with civil society members in the country, including supporting women's inclusion in all levels of decision making
- Ensure that all peacekeeping troops deployed to the region are trained regarding specific mandates on women, peace and security, and on protection.

NGOWG ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY RESOURCES

- *DRC: Open Letter to the UN Security Council on strengthening the arms embargo* Amnesty International. Amnesty International: December 2008, <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/AFR62/016/2008/en>
- *Guinea: Quel sort pour les civils et militaires dont on est sans nouvelles?* Amnesty International: 15 October 2009 www.amnesty.org/fr/library/info/AFR29/006/2009/fr
- *Bosnia-Herzegovina: Whose justice?: The women of BiH are still waiting*, Amnesty International: September 2009 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR63/006/2009/en/6330934f-d46e-4943-b32b-b3962095173a/eur630062009en.pdf>
- *Improving Civilian Protection in Sri Lanka: Recommendations for the Government and the LTTE*. Human Rights Watch: New York, 2006. <http://www.hrw.org>
- *DRC: Soldiers Who Rape, Commanders Who Condone*, Human Rights Watch: New York, <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/07/16/soldiers-who-rape-commanders-who-condone-0>
- *Protection of Civilians: Gender Considerations for Disarmament, Conflict Transformation and the Establishment of Human Security*. London: International Alert, 2001. <http://www.international-alert.org>
- *PeaceWomen Security Council 1325 Monitor*. http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325_Monitor/countryindex.htm