



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
VÉRIFIER AU PRONONCÉ**

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR JOHN MCNEE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE
ON WOMEN AND PEACE AND SECURITY**

NEW YORK, 16 DECEMBER 2010

**DÉCLARATION DE
L'AMBASSADEUR JOHN MCNEE
REPRÉSENTANT PERMANENT DU CANADA AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES**

**AU DÉBAT DU CONSEIL DE SÉCURITÉ
INTITULÉ LES FEMMES ET LA PAIX ET LA SÉCURITÉ**

NEW YORK, LE 16 DÉCEMBRE 2010

Madam President, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I wish to thank the US Presidency for convening this open debate on conflict-related sexual violence.

Canada strongly supports the Security Council's recognition of the need to take effective measures to address conflict-related sexual violence and welcomes the Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to Security Council Resolutions 1820 and 1888, including the recommendations therein. The systematic acts of sexual violence recently perpetrated in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo starkly demonstrate the urgent need for serious action.

Canada welcomes SRSG Wallström's presentation to the Council today and strongly supports her efforts to provide strategic leadership and strengthen UN coordination mechanisms, in order to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. Addressing sexual violence demands a double focus: ensuring women's empowerment and participation, while also focusing on matters of accountability and justice. In this sense, preventing, addressing and eliminating sexual violence requires cultural, societal and institutional change. Canada calls on the UN system to ensure that Ms. Wallström's office is adequately resourced and capable of timely action to support such changes. Canada also calls on the Security Council to request regular briefings by the SRSG following her visits to countries on the Council's agenda.

Canada's longstanding support for the rights and well-being of women and girls in situations of conflict is reflected through our ongoing, active implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions, including through strong advocacy work, significant international programming addressing sexual violence, support for civil society and efforts to strengthen international criminal justice mechanisms. Our National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, adopted in October of this year, will help us focus and coordinate the implementation of our commitments and increase the effectiveness of our response.

Canada welcomes the jurisprudence of international courts and tribunals that confirms that rape and sexual violence can be war crimes and crimes against humanity. Individuals responsible for these crimes must be brought to justice. This includes those responsible by virtue of command responsibility. Canada calls on Member States to ensure that these crimes are investigated and that those responsible for committing serious crimes are held accountable.

Additionally, as recognized in Security Council Resolution 1820, we also strongly support the exclusion of crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of peace processes. Furthermore, Canada calls on all parties to conflict to make specific commitments to cease all acts of sexual violence and urges the Security Council to support efforts by UN officials to engage in dialogue with parties in order to elicit commitments to this effect.

In addition, Canada calls on the Security Council to increase pressure on States to hold perpetrators of sexual violence to account through the adoption of sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities who have perpetrated sexual violence. This must, of course, be done in accordance with standards of due process. We also support the Secretary-General's recommendation to make public, in the SRSG's annual reports, the names of parties who engage in patterns of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict.

Madam President,

Systematic data collection on grave violations of women's and girls' human rights, including on sexual violence, is of utmost importance to effective monitoring and response. In order to tailor the international response to specific contexts, it is also important that all relevant country reports to the Security Council include information on the situation as it pertains to all aspects of the women, peace and security resolutions, in addition to information on sexual violence. UN reporting on the movement and activities of armed groups for example, should systematically include information on the risk of sexual violence. With this in mind, Canada supports the recommendation to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence.

Prevention of and response to sexual violence should also be included in the mandates of all UN missions for peace operations. The Council should design and implement peace support mandates which better respond to all forms of violence against civilians, and ensure the integration of strategies to address conflict-related sexual violence in the work of UN country teams. Local women's organizations often assess the ongoing risks for sexual violence in their communities. Stronger networks between UN peacekeepers and local and international NGOs and women's networks are therefore necessary to establish early warning mechanisms on conflict-related sexual violence.

Consequently, we were pleased to see the UN's efforts this year, through the Open Days on Women, Peace and Security, to engage in dialogue with local communities and women's groups. We note that the most frequent protection concern raised by participants was the level of sexual violence during and after conflict and the lack of accountability for the perpetrators of these crimes. We call on the UN to continue this dialogue with local communities and women's groups so that the international community can respond effectively to these issues.

Madam President,

We are encouraged by the additional measures proposed in the Secretary-General's Report. Canada urges the Security Council to take action today to respond to the recommendations in this report so that the international community can make a strong and concerted effort to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence.