

MAP for June 2016

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

For June, in which France has the presidency of the UN Security Council, the MAP provides recommendations on the situations in **Afghanistan, Libya, Mali, and Sudan (Darfur)**. The MAP also provides recommendations on **protection of civilians and women, peace and security**.

The Security Council will hold a High-level **open debate** on protecting civilians in the context of peacekeeping operations. During the debate, Member States should:

- Emphasize that women's protection is at the core of protection of civilian mandates and call for mandatory consultations between mission leadership, including Force Commanders, and women's civil society organizations as part of the development and implementation of any protection strategies;
- Reinforce the importance of women's participation in the design and implementation of specific strategies to protect civilians including gender-specific strategies and responses to acts of sexual and gender-based violence; and
- Commit to increasing the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in their own security and justice sectors and the percentage of women in deployments to UN peace operations, as well as support the development of a UN strategy with concrete benchmarks for increasing women's inclusion in deployments.

Women, peace and security

The Security Council will be holding an **open debate** on women, peace and security, with a focus on conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking. Preventing and combating sexual and gender-based violence requires a comprehensive approach that mainstreams women's participation in both design and implementation, addresses pre-existing structural discrimination, as well as meets immediate health and protection concerns. In their statements, Member States should consider the following:

- In **humanitarian settings**, all actors, including donors, should ensure there is both access to and availability of services for all displaced persons by both supporting and funding comprehensive and non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health care without limitations, including access to safe abortion services in line with international humanitarian law;
- Crackdowns on **women human rights defenders** and women's organizations should be condemned by all Member States and the UN. National security strategies must not obstruct the work, or endanger the staff and beneficiaries, of women's rights organizations and women human rights defenders;
- **Women's participation** and attention to gender in the design and implementation of national strategies and UN programs aimed at conflict prevention, reconciliation and peacebuilding, as well as preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism must be prioritized. The Security Council, particularly through the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate and the Department for Political Affairs, should strengthen its calls for and provide support to Member States on integrating women and gender into such strategies;
- Comprehensive **justice and accountability strategies** must underpin any efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence and Member States should utilize all relevant tools, including referrals to the ICC;
- In its work, the **Security Council** must ensure that all peace operations are adopting gender as a cross-cutting issue and women's participation and consultation is prioritized in the implementation of all mandate components; and
- Efforts to **prevent conflict** should address the root causes of violence including political and economic drivers of conflict, flow of small arms and light weapons, militarization of societies, and grievances between states and populations that create conditions conducive to instability and violence, including violent extremism.

Afghanistan

In its consideration of the **report** on the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Council members must call on Afghanistan to ensure that women's full participation and protection is prioritized in the country's period of transition. As peace talks resume with armed insurgent groups such as Hizb-i-Islami and the international community looks to demonstrate its continued commitment to Afghanistan during the Warsaw NATO Summit and Brussels Donor Conference on Afghanistan, it is a critical time for women's voices to be included in peace and security decision-making. Afghan women leaders who are playing a fundamental role in supporting the country's transitional period face increasing insecurity across the country. As the Taliban, Islamic State, and other armed groups attempt to destabilize areas around the country; women are often primary targets. They face ongoing intimidation, threats and targeted violence, exemplified by the Taliban's public execution of a woman in May. Council members should inquire as to efforts by UNAMA, in accordance with **SCR 2274 (2016)**, and Afghanistan to:

- Ensure women's security and ability to move freely throughout the country by countering the Taliban and other armed groups, in full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;
- Ensure women's involvement in all efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan, including in peace jirgas and any negotiations with all armed insurgent groups, to ensure reconciliation does not undermine women's progress;
- Ensure adequate preparation for October's parliamentary elections, including ensuring temporary female security personnel are contracted to staff polling stations and female candidates are afforded same levels of protection as their male counterparts; and
- Ensure full implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) as a critical step in elevating women as full and equal partners in creating a stable future for the country.

Libya

With the deteriorating security situation and the threat posed by armed groups and illicit arms proliferation, active female public figures, including human rights defenders, civil society leaders, activists, journalists and politicians, continue to be targets of in assassinations, abductions, and crimes of sexual violence. The Security Council is expected to renew the **mandate** of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The Council should call for gender to be considered a cross-cutting issue across the work of the mission (SCR 2122 (2013), OP 4) and reverse the removal of all gender-specific provisions which occurred in response to the crisis which resulted in the mission's withdrawal to Tunisia. The Council should, further, include provisions which:

- Promote the full and effective participation of women in all peace, security and political processes including through the establishment of a consultative mechanism with civil society groups in all activities relating to the democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, in line with SCR 1325 (2000) and subsequent women, peace and security resolutions;
- Recognize women's unique protection needs, including with regards to cases of trafficking, torture, and detainment, as well as considerations relevant to women's role in DDR and SSR processes;
- Call for an end to impunity for violence against women, investigate and monitor human rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and deploy women's protection advisers (WPAs) and gender advisers;
- Support women's leadership and participation in all combating, reducing and preventing violent extremism; and
- Request the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the gender dynamics of the situation in Libya, including in the political, security and humanitarian sectors, and provide sex and age disaggregated data whenever possible.

Mali

In its renewal of the **mandate** of the UN mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the Council should continue to consider gender as a cross-cutting issue, as articulated in SCR 2227 (2015) (OP 23) and call for dedicated gender capacity and analysis (SCR 1960 (2010), OP 13), which are necessary for the successful implementation of MINUSMA's mandate. Further, the Council should ensure that the mission retains all relevant provisions in the existing mandate related to women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution efforts; as well as protection for women's rights and efforts to combat human rights violations. MINUSMA should also promote women's full and effective participation in all peace processes at both the local and state level, including through the consultation of women's civil society groups. Finally, efforts to track and measure progress in Mali should include gender-specific benchmarks and analysis (SCR 1889 (2009), OP 9), the Council should call for women's empowerment to be factored into decisions regarding post-conflict peacebuilding activities, including all efforts to counter violent extremism.

Sudan (Darfur)

The Security Council is expected to renew the **mandate** of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The Council should expand the current provisions in the mandate related to women, peace and security (SCR 2228 (2015), OPs 19, 24) by strengthening language concerning women and civil society's participation in the ongoing political dialogue, transitional justice mechanisms and all security-related matters, including ceasefire monitoring and DDR programming. The patterns of ethnically motivated sexual violence (S/2016/361), including SGBV in and around IDP camps, and the prioritization of civilian protection, necessitates the continued deployment and engagement of qualified WPAs, in order to ensure there is capacity for monitoring SGBV and support for the development and implementation of a structured framework on conflict-related sexual violence (SCR 2228 (2015), OP 24), even in the context of a phased drawdown. There should be mandate language which explicitly links protection efforts with activities supporting women's participation, including consultations with female IDPs and women's organizations regarding the design and implementation of active patrolling and community policing safety for women engaging in livelihood activities, and justice reform and accountability.