Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7321st meeting of the Security Council, held on 26 November 2014, in connection with the Council’s consideration of the item entitled “Women and Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict,” the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:


“The Security Council stresses the importance of taking a three-level approach concerning the issue of sexual violence against women in armed conflicts.

“The Security Council suggests that the three levels should concern prevention through education, immediate action through aid, and rehabilitation through evaluation. The first level concerning prevention should focus on the education of all actors in conflict areas, including the peacekeepers, criminal investigators, police, prosecutors, and judicial officials. In order to fully integrate gendered perspectives, the education of civilians should be organized based on a bottom-up approach in the limits of the Security Council’s competencies. The education of peacekeepers should be approached in multiple ways, including the creation of online seminars involving peacekeeping personnel already in conflict zones, shared-experience meetings, and the use of scenario-based training. The second level addressing immediate action should focus on providing direct aid through the implementation of counseling zones with specialized advisors, which should create a safe haven for victims of sexual abuse. The third level being the rehabilitation phase, should aim to provide help in the post-conflict period. This should be based on the evaluation of past actions implemented at the Prevention and Immediate Action levels on one hand, and on special programs created in order to provide care for victims of sexual violence who suffer from post-traumatic stress, anxiety or depression on the other hand.”

“The Security Council takes note, with appreciation, of the previous actions of the Department of Peace Keeping Operations and recognizes the need for continual cooperation with varying international, regional and local non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental organizations on all three levels.”

“The Security Council awaits the upcoming high-level review of resolution 1325 in 2015 and expresses its hopes that this review will enable the United Nations to identify successful measures that have been undertaken and further challenges that need to be addressed. The Security Council further emphasizes its hopes that based on the high-level review it will be possible to set priorities in addressing the issue of sexual violence in conflict with regards to international peace and security.”
Guided by the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR),

Thanking the Secretary-General for the report of 13 March 2014 on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2014/181),

Firmly believing that respect of human rights is pivotal to achieving global peace and international security,

Noting the direct relationship between peace and development as discussed in the United Nation’s post-2015 development agenda, as exemplified by the current peace and security experienced within Rwanda which was achieved through the implementation of the development-oriented strategy,

Noting the importance of women’s involvement in decision-making processes that address peacekeeping and peacebuilding measures as exemplified in resolution 1325,

Bearing in mind resolutions 1325, 1674, 1820, 1888, 2106, and 2122 as well as all other relevant resolutions and all relevant statements of the President which have aimed to limit sexual violence as a tactic of war,

Recognizing the importance of resolution 2122 (2013), which emphasizes the value in using women as a tool for effectively combating and preventing acts of sexual violence against women,

Recognizing the validity of sharing information between Member States as evidenced by the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW),

Acknowledging that some Member States’ economies are still maturing, and there remains a lack of funding for the development of initiatives to support victims of sexual violence, which results in the continued destabilization of conflict-ridden regions,

Being concerned with the high rates of unreported incidents of sexual violence in conflict due to cultural stigmas,

Highlighting the value of programs that foster ideas of female empowerment and which reduce the stigmatization attached to victims of sexual violence thus allowing them to reintegrate into society further fostering continued peace and security for all civilians,

The Security Council,

1. Recommends Member States initiate programs to eliminate the stigma attached to gender violence by establishing community-based movements for the purpose of promoting female empowerment;

2. Encourages regional development banks provide financial support to Member States affected by conflict in order to fund programming designed to reduce the stigma attached to women who have fallen victim to sexual violence;

3. Highly Suggests Member States develop initiatives that will promote the inclusion of women in every aspect of peacekeeping and peacebuilding decision-making processes regarding sexual violence in armed conflict;

4. Further Encourages the incorporation of all actors into the international discourse of addressing sexual violence in conflict including: military officials, policing agents, diplomatic ambassadors, civil society organizations and members of academia;
5. *Invites* Member States to share their experiences with other Member States in tackling issues of sexual violence against women in order to facilitate and enhance peace and stability within conflict-ridden regions;

6. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.
Alarmed by the recent developments in Donetsk region, especially by high counts of civilian deaths and uprising of hostile activities in violation with the Minsk Agreement,

Noting with concern that the Minsk Agreement has not led to the ceasefire, agreement to federalism and release of hostages and illegally held prisoners that was hoped to be achieved,

The Security Council,

1. Expresses its hope that the parties to the conflict in Ukraine restart negotiations on a further ceasefire, suggesting that the following parties take part in these negotiation: representatives from the Ukraine, a spokesperson on behalf of the localized powers in the Donetsk and the Luhansk region, representatives from the Russian Federation and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

2. Urges that the aforementioned parties work towards re-implementing a ceasefire according to the Minsk agreement;

3. Recommends the aforementioned parties engage in further dialogue in order to establish long lasting peace;

4. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.
Guided by the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as well as its Additional Protocol I of 1977, and in particular by
Article 13, prohibiting military attacks against civilians as well as civilian locations,

Recalling the Statement by the President of Security Council at the 7109th Meeting on the item entitled
“Protection of civilians in armed conflict”, focusing on the enduring need to strengthen the protection of
civilians in armed conflict,

Alarmed by the recent developments in the Donetsk region, including attacks on civilians and civilian locations,

Deeply concerned by human rights violations within the Donetsk region,

The Security Council,

1. Reaffirms its commitment to protect civilian populations as well as civilian locations under its statutes;

2. Condemns any actions resulting in civilian deaths or the destruction of civilian locations, for example the
   bombing of a local hospital in Donetsk, the most recent of continuous deadly attacks on civilians;

3. Condemns any action resulting in civilian deaths or the destruction of civilian locations, for example the
   recent bombing of a hospital in Donetsk as well as the detonation of a bomb outside the Parliament in Kiev,
   the most recent of continuous deadly attacks on civilians;

4. Condemns human rights violations against civilians in this region by any party;

5. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.