

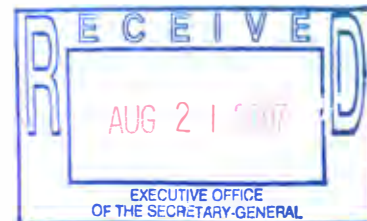
reital SP



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Switzerland

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations



714.1-21.1 - APA

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to kindly request that the enclosed letter from H.E. Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation, be forwarded to the Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration. &

New York, August 20, 2007



Encl.

Copy to H.E. Mrs Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General

By Hand

To the Executive Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
S-3800

New York, NY 10017

JUL 22 2007





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The President of the Swiss Confederation

Berne, 13. August 2007

Excellency,

The strengthening of women's rights has been a central concern of the initiatives launched in the framework of the women foreign ministers' network in recent years. Our present activity, which began in the margins of the 4th session of the Human Rights Council, specifically refers to the continuing violence against women in armed conflicts.

I enclose the letter on this subject signed by the President of Chile, by numerous women ministers and by Benita Ferrero-Waldner, EU Commissioner for External Relations and New Neighbourhood Policy. In this letter, we support the initiative on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict coordinated by UNEFA and we wholeheartedly endorse the Brussels Call to Action to address Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond. This 21-point-plan is fully in line with our responsibility to stand up for women's rights and to combat all forms of violation of these rights.

We therefore greatly value your support in moving forward the Brussels Call to Action within the UN system and we very much appreciate the support that you and the United Nations will bring to our efforts to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

Micheline Calmy-Rey

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General
United Nations
New York



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The President of the Swiss Confederation

ACTION NA
COPY DSG

CH-3003 Bern, EDA MCR



Berne, 13.08.2007

Excellency,

The network of women ministers of foreign affairs – together with our women minister colleagues and representatives of governments – decried violence against women on the margins of the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights in March 2004. We particularly focused on sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts, since women and children suffer disproportionately during and after wars.

Three years later, we note with sadness and consternation that our concerns are still justified and that our efforts are more needed than ever. Indeed, rape and sexual abuse of women as weapons of war are still widely perpetrated. At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders strongly condemned the use of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse of women and committed themselves to elaborating and implementing strategies to report on, prevent and punish gender-based violence. As a consequence, we express and repeat our firm conviction that much more attention must be given to the consequences of conflicts on women and children at local, national and international levels.

We therefore welcome the initiative on sexual and gender-based violence in conflict coordinated by UNFPA and we fully endorse the Brussels Call to Action to address Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, which is one of the important results of the initiative.

That 21-point plan covers the key points aimed at strengthening the efforts to eradicate sexual violence in armed conflicts. This call to action is fully in line with our responsibility to stand up for women's rights and to combat all forms of violations of these rights.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary General
United Nations
New York



2010-10-10 10:10:10

We are particularly concerned about:

- **Prevention:** Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict starts in times of peace; gender equality has to be promoted constantly and women's rights have to be upheld without exception. Legal equality is not enough – States have a responsibility to ensure an enabling environment for the protection of women's rights and establish de-facto equality of both men and women and to fight all forms of discrimination of women.
- **Response:** The key focus in response has to be on national implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, including national action plans to address sexual and gender-based violence. To fully and effectively implement the resolution as called for by the World Summit and ensure the participation of women in the transition from conflict to sustainable social justice and development, an affirmative and multi-sectoral approach is crucial, providing access to adequate housing, health and psychosocial care, income and awareness of rights, with the security sector providing supportive services to guarantee women's safety, including for victims and witnesses of sexual violence. This approach needs to be integrated in humanitarian action as well as in peace-building and development programmes. There must be close coordination between those activities. Mechanisms for regional and sub-regional collaboration of governments, donors, international organizations and civil society to address sexual and gender-based violence should be strengthened, particularly in highly volatile areas.
- **End Impunity:** Significant progress has been made in criminalizing sexual and gender-based violence through the work of international criminal tribunals. In particular, the International Criminal Court warrants unequivocal political and financial support. Necessary resources are needed to enable national and international legal and justice systems to intensify measures to end impunity. At the same time, rigorous efforts have to be undertaken to support the victims in coming forward. To that end, it is essential to reduce the vulnerability and the dependency of survivors of sexual violence by strengthening their social and economic rights and it is important to think of new ways to address prosecution which redress inequality and ensure justice. It is also important to ensure the participation of survivors in transitional justice systems. If these measures are not taken, it is most likely that international attention will not translate into convictions and impunity will persist.
- **Lack of empowerment of women:** While women play important roles in informal processes, they are often largely excluded once these processes reach a more formal stage. This has a negative impact on the situation of women and their empowerment in general. We believe that the United Nations should play an exemplary role in this respect and that women in leading UN positions can have a catalytic effect on the situation of women in a particular crisis situation. We therefore note with concern that not one of your current Special Envoys or Special Representatives is a woman and ask you to address this situation.

Your Excellency,

The support that you and the United Nations will bring to our efforts to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence in the context of armed conflict is essential in order to be successful in our common undertaking. In this context we are aware of the efforts made by the UN system to counter sexual and gender-based violence and combat impunity for such acts. We welcome the recent creation of the joint inter-agency UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, building on numerous initiatives of UN entities and other actors, including the Call to Action, with the aim to improve the quality and coordination of prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, as well as strengthening advocacy and capacity building strategies with governments and partners. This being said, there is a long way to go before adequate attention is given to the consequences of conflicts on

women. We therefore highly value and appreciate your support in moving forward the Brussels Call to Action within the UN system, at all levels.

We avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of our highest consideration.

- H. E. Ms Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile
- H. E. Ms Micheline Calmy-Rey, President of the Swiss Confederation
- H. E. Ms Meritxell Mateu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Andorra
- H. E. Ms Ursula Plassnik, Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of the Republic of Austria
- H. E. Ms Dame Billie A. Miller M.P., Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados
- H. E. Ana Trisic Babic, Vice-Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- H. E. Ms Antoinette Batumubwira, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi
- H. E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Croatia
- H. E. Ms María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration of the Republic of Ecuador
- H. E. Ms Dora Bakoyannis, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic
- H. E. Ms Kinga Göncz, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary
- H. E. Ms Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland
- H. E. Ms Martha Karua, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the Republic of Kenya
- H. E. Ms Rita Kieber-Beck, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein
- H. E. Ms Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Federal Council of Mexico
- H. E. Ms Alcinda António de Abreu, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique
- H. E. Ms Anna E. Fotyga, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland
- H. E. Ms Diana Štrofová, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- H. E. Ms Mary Michael Nagu, Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the United Republic of Tanzania
- H. E. Ms Belela Herrera, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay
- H. E. Ms Huda Abdulatif Al-Ban, Minister for Human Rights of the Republic of Yemen
- H. E. Ms Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner of External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy of the European Union

Brussels Call to Action

We, the delegates to the *International Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond*, call for urgent and long-term action to:

1. Prevent sexual and gender-based violence by promoting gender equity and equality and the economic, social and political empowerment of women.
2. Enhance mechanisms for regional and subregional collaboration of governments, donors, international organizations and civil society to address sexual and gender-based violence, with special attention to highly volatile areas.
3. Incorporate sexual violence prevention and protection into all aspects of humanitarian assistance including food, fuel, water and sanitation, and shelter as prescribed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee *Guidelines for gender-based interventions in humanitarian settings*.
4. Prevent and respond to sexual violence in all planning and funding frameworks for humanitarian response, peacebuilding, recovery, development and political dialogue, and link relief and development funding to ensure the continuity of sexual violence prevention and response.
5. Strengthen accountability frameworks and systematic monitoring and reporting on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 and relevant resolutions adopted by the European Council.
6. Intensify international, regional and national efforts to end impunity for perpetrators by strengthening the legal and judicial systems and by enacting and enforcing legislation, and provide national justice systems with the necessary resources to prosecute cases of sexual and gender-based violence.
7. Recognize the right and ensure access to material and symbolic reparation, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition for all survivors.
8. Develop national action plans to address sexual and gender-based violence that identify comprehensive programmes and opportunities for action across sectors, including sexual and reproductive health and the prevention, treatment and care for HIV/AIDS; education and life skills; human rights; justice; security sector reform; and socioeconomic recovery and livelihood support.
9. Ensure the full and active participation of youth, **women** and other vulnerable populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons, in the development of comprehensive national action plans to address sexual and gender-based violence.
10. Include in national plans the prevention of gender-based violence as an indicator of good governance to be used as an element in determining access to funding, including incentive tranches.
11. Build and strengthen ownership of all national frameworks and develop the capacity of country partners, governmental and non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations, and the United Nations system to ensure the centrality of sexual and gender-based violence in poverty reduction strategy papers, sector-wide approaches, country and regional strategy papers, consolidated appeals processes, post-conflict needs assessments and national transitional strategies, and common country assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.
12. Ensure specific protection mechanisms for especially vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied and separated children and persons with disabilities.

13. Strengthen behaviour change communication and other measures to preserve and restore positive social values and change harmful beliefs and practices to protect against sexual and gender-based violence and strengthen the protective capacities of families and communities.
14. Incorporate strategies to prevent and respond to sexual violence in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and in security sector reform processes, and ensure the full engagement of the security sector, including police and army, to prevent and respond to sexual violence in a sensitive and effective manner.
15. Urge all nations providing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
16. Develop awareness of humanitarian laws, human rights and gender equality for humanitarian workers and peacekeepers and enforce the United Nations code of conduct on zero tolerance for sexual abuse and exploitation.
17. Develop comprehensive awareness-raising strategies on the nature, scope and seriousness of sexual and gender-based violence at all levels to ensure the protection of survivors from discrimination and stigmatization, and engage men and boys, as well as government officials, community and religious leaders, the media, women's groups and other opinion makers in promoting and protecting the rights and welfare of women and children.
18. Develop a comprehensive methodology and tools to assess the scope and nature of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected countries and specify budgetary and cost implications.
19. Undertake comprehensive, ethically and methodologically sound, qualitative and quantitative research on the nature, scope, impact, root causes and contributing factors of sexual and gender-based violence, and develop ongoing data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting systems, including gender budgeting.
20. Invest in the capacity-building of all stakeholders involved in the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and beyond.
21. Empower the media to educate and advocate against sexual and gender-based violence.

Together we call for a broad partnership of governments, civil society, the United Nations and other organizations to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in all its forms in conflict and beyond.

Stefania Piffanelli/NY/UNO

05/09/2007 10:11 AM

To Rachel Mayanja/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc Andrei Abramov/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Samuel
Choritz/NY/UNO@UNHQ

bcc

Subject Fw: Letter from Mission of Switzerland

Dear Rachel,

I hope you are well.

Re: the attached document, we would appreciate it if your office could prepare a reply letter to be signed by the Secretary-General.

Many thanks and kind regards,
stefania

----- Forwarded by Stefania Piffanelli/NY/UNO on 05/09/2007 10:08 AM -----



Isabel Deza/NY/UNO

04/09/2007 12:30 PM

To Stefania Piffanelli/NY/UNO@UNHQ

cc

Subject Letter from Mission of Switzerland



SDOC2092.pdf