



Human Rights Council

Third Session

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President,

Recalling also the statement of its President to the press on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816),

Recalling as well the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

Expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and *recognizing* the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building, and *stressing* the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

Recognizing the importance of the recommendation contained in the statement of its President to the press of 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations,

Further recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Noting the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. *Urges* for the incorporation of gender mainstreaming into all UN operations;
2. *Strongly disapproves* of the usage of violence against women as a systematic weapon of war to achieve wider military goals such as ethnic cleansing and intimidation;
3. *Urges* the international community to concentrate efforts on providing adequate assistance for women affected by violence, especially of sexual nature in conflict and post-conflict situations;
4. *Calls* for increased awareness and support for women stigmatised by sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations;
5. *Stresses* the importance of the presence of female military and police personnel in conflict stricken regions, so as to increase sensitivity for specific issues of women and facilitate rehabilitation and prosecution of crimes of violence against women;
6. *Stimulates* human rights education by United Nations and local experts for all military, armed and police forces;
7. *Calls* for national judiciaries to mainstream gender in their strategies, so as to ensure the full support for women who have been affected by violence, especially of sexual nature in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as improve the access to a fair trial, and enhancement of their legal status;
8. *Strongly urges* the countries that have abstained from the CEDAW Convention and the Optional Protocol to sign and ratify these and strictly comply with them;
9. *Increase* support for gender equality, so as to enhance women's representation at the highest levels of national and international decision-making, with the purpose of ending the discrimination that hinders full gender integration and that constitutes a breeding ground for violence against women.