



Security Council

Seventy-first year

7704th meeting

Thursday, 2 June 2016, 10 a.m.

New York

Provisional

President: Mr. Delattre (France)

Members:

Angola	Mr. Gaspar Martins
China	Mr. Wu Haitao
Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
Japan	Mr. Minami
Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
New Zealand	Mr. Taula
Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
Senegal	Mr. Ciss
Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
United States of America	Ms. Sison
Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

Women and peace and security

Responding to human trafficking in situations of conflict-related sexual violence

Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2016/361)

Letter dated 27 May 2016 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/496)

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facilitating trafficking, including the role of military bases as trafficking hubs.

In conclusion, The horrific sexual violence perpetrated by State actors, militias and extremists does not take place in a vacuum. It is part of a continuum of violence across societies, in which women's rights are degraded and gender inequality is the norm. Armed conflict magnifies those problems. Comprehensively addressing the rights and humanitarian needs of women and girls fleeing conflict requires addressing those pre-existing inequalities. This contextual analysis sheds light on sustainable solutions to long-standing human rights violations that are exacerbated by conflict. As we face multiple crises and conflicts today, this approach to social change will help us, as an international community, weave solutions out of uncertainty and build a more equitable foundation for the future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Davis for her briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I thank you, Sir, for chairing and having organized this open debate and included the perspectives of civil society in our discussion. I also thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and leadership on this critical issue, and Special Representative Bangura, Special Rapporteur Giammarinaro and Ms. Davis for their briefings.

The Council has long recognized that sexual and gender-based violence not only abuses and violates the human rights of its victims, but also undermines the security, livelihood and health of nations by suppressing survivors' participation in civic, social, political and economic life. We have put in many place many tools for countering conflict-related sexual violence inflicted by State and non-State armed groups, improving accountability, bringing perpetrators to justice, documenting violations against marginalized groups of victims, including women and girls, men and boys, ethnic and religious minorities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals. But we must do a better job making use of these tools.

We commend Special Representative Bangura for her energetic efforts to translate the Council's resolutions into real, on-the-ground action. Her work with the national militaries of the Democratic Republic

of the Congo and armed groups on both sides of the conflict in South Sudan to help develop structures to hold perpetrators accountable for their actions has been particularly noteworthy. We also applaud her efforts to support the investigation of the 2009 stadium massacre in Guinea. In addition to the Special Representative's efforts, we value the work carried out by the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, which has assisted countries in the areas investigations and prosecutions, strengthening legal frameworks and ensuring the protection of victims and witnesses. However, significant challenges remain in countering sexual violence in conflict, especially when it comes to holding non-State armed groups and their partners and associates accountable for their crimes.

In resolution 2242 (2015), the Council recognized the nexus of sexual violence, terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism. We have seen steady growth in the use of sexual violence against women, men, girls and boys by terrorists not only in Iraq and Syria, but also in Somalia, Nigeria and Mali. Non-State armed groups like the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) use sexual violence in a premeditated and systemic way to recruit fighters, raise money and intimidate and demoralize communities in order to consolidate their hold over territory. Resolutions 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015) not only strongly condemn such acts by ISIL, Al-Qaida and their associates, but also work to strengthen accountability by encouraging all State and non-State actors with evidence to bring it to the attention of the Council. The Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities represents a vital tool for us to punish perpetrators, since any individual who makes funds or other financial and economic resources available to ISIL and other terrorist groups, in connection with sexual violence, is eligible for designation in the 1267 sanctions regime. We must make full use of those tools.

As noted by Special Rapporteur Giammarinaro, we also need to more to protect displaced women and girls whose heightened vulnerability puts them at increased risk of sexual violence and trafficking. Over the past year, we have seen the continuation of mass migration from Syria, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. Reports of smugglers demanding sex as payment of passage are rampant and part of a global surge in human trafficking. With regard to Ms. Davis' intervention, that is why last

month at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, the United States announced an additional \$10 million contribution to the Safe from the Start initiative to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergency situations.

The United States urges all Member States to condemn such crimes and those who commit them, to properly document such horrors so that one day those responsible can be held accountable, to commit to ending the conflicts that provide an ideal climate for human traffickers, and to commit to eradicating the groups that use human trafficking and conflict-related sexual violence as a weapon of war. Member States must also work to ensure that labour practices, such as charging workers recruitment fees that can lead to debt bondage, do not contribute to human trafficking. We must teach people how to actually see the victims of trafficking. We must also make our resources for victims more victim- and survivor-centred, incorporating victims and survivors into policy-making process so as to yield better solutions.

A further challenge is the lack of global documentation of the phenomenon of sexual and gender-based violence against all vulnerable communities, including those that are too often forgotten in this discourse, namely lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, as well as men and boys. Those individuals are not only at a heightened risk of facing harassment, abuse and sexual violence committed by armed groups as a result of discriminatory social norms and attitudes, but they also face a strong stigma against reporting such abuses. We commend the Secretary-General for highlighting the victimization of men and boys in his report (S/2016/361).

The United Nations and Member States must more fully embrace a general inclusive approach in sexual violence and gender-based violence programming. There is scant documentation on the subject, with little understanding of the prevailing patterns and the severity of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence against males, as compared to sexual and gender-based violence against girls and women. In addition, the absence of targeted services for male victims not only fails to address the needs of boys and men, but could also contribute to the problem of underreporting.

Bilateral efforts to counter conflict-related sexual violence and to improve accountability and documentation are also crucial. In 2014, the United

States launched the Accountability Initiative to support the development of specialized justice-sector mechanisms to improve access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. We remain committed to strengthening efforts to protect all people from harm, exploitation, discrimination, abuse, gender-based violence and trafficking. We must, as all of the speakers have noted, hold perpetrators accountable, especially in conflict-affected environments.

The United States has also committed nearly \$40 million for support to victims of sexual violence in conflict, including in Nigeria, where the United States supports United Nations agencies, community groups and local non-governmental organizations that provide health-care services, including appropriate psychosocial counselling for women and children who have survived Boko Haram's horrific campaign. However, we recognize that support programmes are not enough. In order to combat sexual violence in conflict, women must have a seat at the table in resolving conflicts. Empowered women provide powerful antidotes to violent extremism and have critical contributions to make at every level of our struggle against sexual violence in conflict.

We also need women in uniform to rebuild trust between law enforcement and communities, female correction officers and female counsellors to reach out to female inmates who are on the path to radicalization, and women legislators to support more inclusive public policies that address the unique grievances that drive individuals to terrorism. As Secretary of State Kerry has said, fighting the scourge of sexual violence requires all of those tools, including Security Council resolutions, better reporting and support to survivors. It especially requires holding criminals accountable and ending impunity. Instead of shaming the survivors, we must punish the perpetrators, and we must be ready to support and empower the survivors as they work to rebuild their lives.

Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi (Spain) (*spoke in French*): I thank the French presidency for organizing this open debate on the theme "Women and peace and security: Responding to human trafficking in situations of conflict-related sexual violence". Sir, you can rest assured that the French presidency will have the full cooperation of the Spanish delegation. We also thank the Egyptian presidency for the work undertaken, and I also thank today's panellists for their briefings.