

TO: Members of the Policy Committee
A: Participants at the 12 June Policy Committee meeting
(see distribution list)

DATE: 15 June 2007

THROUGH:
S/C DE:

REFERENCE:

FROM: The Secretary-General
DE:



SUBJECT: Decisions of the Secretary-General – 12 June 2007 Policy Committee Meeting
OBJET:

Decision No. 2007/31- Violence against women

Strategic vision and leadership

(i). The Secretary-General will spearhead a **multi-year system-wide campaign** to eliminate violence against women and girls through 2015, coinciding with the target date for the MDGs, in which all UN system entities should participate from their respective areas of comparative advantage. He asks the Deputy Secretary-General to chair a small, high-level steering group from within the UN system, which may be drawn from existing mechanisms and serviced by OSAGI, to guide the campaign and its development by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), in collaboration with UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. The campaign should be launched at the end of 2007 and include practical high-impact activities for 2008 that clearly respond to the urgency of the issue. And it will focus on three key areas:

(a) **Global advocacy** – the Secretary-General and UN senior officials will play an active and visible role and **convey strong messages** on the obligation to end all forms of violence against women and girls as a pressing global issue and the need to ensure prevention, protection, empowerment, remedy for victims and accountability of perpetrators. Annex 1 contains preliminary key messages. In close collaboration with substantive entities, DPI will draw on UN system communicators through the UNCG to develop a communications strategy for broader audiences.

(b) **UN leadership** - the UN system should lead by example and address violence against women through its policies and programmes. It should also have in place and implement a strong internal system to prevent such violence and ensure recourse to justice when it occurs.

(c) **Strengthened efforts and partnerships at the national and regional levels** – to support effectively the efforts of Governments, civil society and other actors in implementing comprehensive approaches to preventing and addressing all forms of violence against women and girls.

[Action; Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, UN senior officials, IANWGE, UN Action, DPI and DM]

(ii) The Secretary-General endorses **UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict** – a UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge building, resource mobilization, and joint programming – and the 24 April 2007 recommendations of the ECPS, attached hereto as Annex 2.
[Action: ECPS]

At the implementation level

(iii) To give further impetus to UN system work on violence against women and girls, particularly stronger follow-up of the Secretary-General's in-depth study (A/61/122/Add.1 and Corr.1) and the related GA resolution (A/RES/61/143), the Secretary-General will:

(a) Promote **effective and dedicated institutional capacity within the UN Secretariat** for addressing violence against women; **strengthen the capacity of IANWGE** to coordinate such work system-wide; and **intensify efforts to mobilize resources** for this work, including to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. Request the steering group to devise proposals on each of these three fronts - within the existing mandates and structures, and without creating additional and duplicative entities and bodies - for his consideration by end 2007. [Action: Deputy Secretary-General and the steering group]

(b) Propose for consideration in the **CEB (HLCP/HLCM)** in 2008, the question of violence against women, including sexual violence in conflict, and also propose periodic review thereafter by HLCP of UN system action on this issue. [Action: Secretary-General]

(c) Ask DPKO with OLA to propose options/strategies to **further strengthen the UN's ability to prevent, investigate and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations** by September 2007, including by encouraging renewed political efforts/initiatives from member states, such as endorsement of the Strategy for Victims' assistance. [Action: DPKO and OLA]

(d) Asks OLA and DPI to **focus the Treaty Event in Fall 2008 on Treaties and Protocols addressing violence against women** and support it with an information campaign. [Action: OLA and DPI]

cc: Deputy Secretary-General
Mr. Nambiar
Mr. Kim
Mr. Pascoe
Mr. Guéhenno
Ms. Arbour
Mr. Michel
Mr. Holmes
Mr. Ocampo
Mr. Dervis
Mr. Akasaka
Ms. Obaid
Ms. Coomaraswamy
Ms. Mayanja
Ms. Heyzer
Mr. Orr