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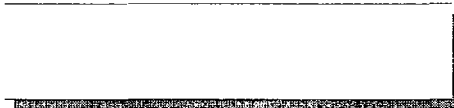
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Notes

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

LGA  
DPKO

25 May 2006

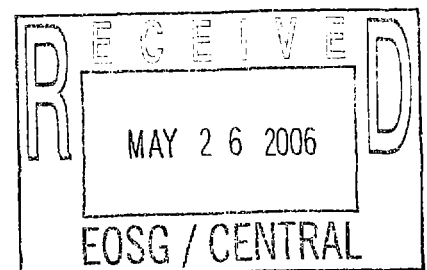
Dear Mr. President,

The staff of the United Nations, and the uniformed peacekeepers who serve alongside them, commit to uphold the integrity of the United Nations, and to treat with respect and dignity those whom they are mandated to serve. The vast majority of those working under the United Nations flag proudly live up to these standards, many of them in difficult and dangerous circumstances. However, we are all keenly aware that among our ranks are individuals who have violated the trust that is placed in the United Nations by engaging in acts of sexual exploitation and abuse of the same people that the United Nations is mandated to protect. These appalling acts have brought shame upon the United Nations and upon those in its service. Worse still, these acts have caused great harm to those already suffering from poverty, conflict or desperate circumstances.

Drawing upon the work of my Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, His Royal Highness Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, in April 2005 the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations recommended a number of measures to prevent and respond to these egregious acts, many of which have since been implemented or are underway. In endorsing these recommendations, the General Assembly requested me to provide the Committee with "a comprehensive strategy for assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse, including means for financial compensation". In the World Summit Outcome, Member States again encouraged me to submit proposals leading to a comprehensive approach to victims' assistance. I now submit to you a draft Policy Statement and draft Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel. I would be grateful if it could be made available to the members of the General Assembly.

His Excellency  
Mr. Jan Eliasson  
President of the General Assembly  
New York

26-05762



This strategy represents more than twelve months of internal and external consultation with United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes, Member States, non-governmental organisations, and other specialists and interested parties, both at Headquarters and in the field. In order to be truly comprehensive, this strategy must be implemented by both the Organization and its Member States in response to acts of sexual exploitation and abuse by all categories of personnel serving the United Nations. Thus this strategy requires a common approach by both the Organization and the Member States.

The strategy identifies the categories of persons who should receive assistance and support, describes what assistance and support should be provided and how this should be achieved. It notes that gender-based violence, which includes sexual exploitation and abuse, is endemic in the environments where the United Nations works and that the requisite resources for responding to it effectively are scarce and need to be augmented. The strategy therefore requires that assistance be provided in a manner that is appropriate to the community context, does not further isolate victims, and improves the response capacity of service providers. It further proposes that to facilitate access to such services, the United Nations engage implementing partners to provide victim advocate services.

The strategy breaks new ground. It has been widely discussed and draws on a broad variety of experience, research and expertise. Some of the elements were hotly debated among different United Nations entities before consensus was achieved. Earlier drafts also contained a proposal for comprehensive DNA sampling of all United Nations staff, in order to enable the Organization to help substantiate allegations of paternity or allegations of involvement in a sex crime, to ensure that the victims or children born as a result of acts of sexual exploitation and abuse could be appropriately assisted and their rights protected. This proposal built on recommendations contained in the report of my Special Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The proposal raises new legal, ethical and human resources issues and concerns for the Organization which are under discussion within the Secretariat.

I do believe this is a time for bold measures. We are at a critical juncture where more is expected of the Organization. As the United Nations, we are expected to set standards in meeting the needs of those whose rights have been violated and should lead the way forward. We are all aware of the imperative to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse. We must also address the harm it causes, both to the victims and to the reputation of the Organisation. A truly comprehensive approach will leave no uncertainty for the victims and will restore the reputation of the Organisation as one that acts responsibly towards the communities it serves.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.



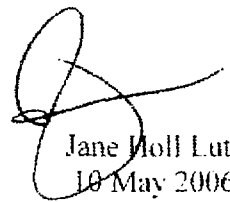
Kofi A. Annan

DPKO

Note to Ms. Bárcena

Re: Strategy on Assistance to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

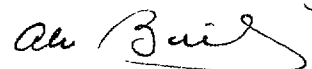
1. Further to my note to Mr. Malloch Brown, dated 6 March 2006, please find attached the final draft of the United Nations Policy Statement on and Comprehensive Strategy for assisting and supporting victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations' Staff and related personnel. As you are aware, the strategy was developed under the auspices of the ECPS-FCHA and DPKO Task Forces on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, and follows several months of extensive internal and external consultation. The draft transmittal letter to the President of the General Assembly has been prepared in close consultation with OLA, OHRM and the FOSG.
2. We would be grateful for the approval of the Secretary-General, with a view to submitting the document to the General Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

  
 Jane Holl Lute  
 10 May 2006

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Guéhenno  
 Mr. Egeland  
 Mr. Michel  
 Ms. Beagle

SG,  
 Please note that there is no reference in the report to DNA comprehensive Testing, with the exception of page 33 for very specific cases when there is an allegation against a staff member.

The cover letter has been agreed by all parties (against and in favour) of the comprehensive DNA Testing.  
 23 May 2006 

26-05762