

**Report of the Secretary-General on Special Measures for Protection from  
Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse  
(A/69/779)**

**FIFTH COMMITTEE**

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**Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/69/779).

In response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 57/306, the report provides information on new allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse for the year January to December 2014. The number of new allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse reported in 2014 for the United Nations system totalled 79, compared to 96 in 2013. While there has been a decrease in the number of allegations, even one allegation is one too many and can inflict damage on victims, the communities in which they live and the Organization's reputation and ability to deliver on its mandate. We must therefore continue in our efforts to enhance the Organization's response to sexual exploitation and abuse.

It may be recalled that in 2012, the Secretary-General introduced an enhanced programme of action to combat sexual exploitation and abuse. As part of that programme, in 2013, an independent team of experts visited the four peacekeeping missions with the highest proportion of allegations to identify factors contributing to sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2014, an inter-departmental and inter-agency working group considered the recommendations of the team of experts, also taking into account experience and lessons learned over the years. The recommendations of the working group, which covered the areas of prevention, enforcement and remedial action, were discussed at a high-level meeting of senior leadership, chaired by the Secretary-General, in January this year. The proposals of the Secretary-

General emanating from the high-level meeting in are summarized in the report. I would like to highlight some of these initiatives.

In the area of prevention, a number of activities are planned to improve community outreach, training and vetting. An eLearning programme on sexual exploitation and abuse is under development by the Department of Field Support. Initially, the eLearning programme will be mandatory for all field personnel and eventually extended to all Secretariat personnel. In order to ensure that former United Nations personnel who were found to have engaged in sexual exploitation or abuse do not re-enter the Organization, efforts will be made to find solutions to challenges that currently hamper the exchange of information between UN system organizations in cases of personnel who were repatriated or terminated for misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as staff who resigned while disciplinary proceedings for alleged misconduct were pending.

In the area of enforcement of the prohibition against sexual exploitation and abuse, efforts will be focused on improving community-based complaint reception mechanisms to provide confidential and effective means of reporting allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, creating an immediate response team to deploy upon receipt of an allegation to undertake initial evidence gathering and preservation pending the dispatch of investigators; setting a six-month benchmark to conclude investigations; and strengthening managerial, leadership and individual accountability.

To strengthen accountability of uniformed personnel, the Secretary-General intends to pursue measures that would include withholding service medals; continuing to consider repatriating an entire contingent or formed police unit in cases of wide-spread violations by several members of the same contingent or formed unit; and non-payment of the exceptional premium to individual contingent and police personnel under investigation for sexual exploitation and abuse. In terms of financial accountability of civilian staff, the sanction for a substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse may be dismissal and a fine may also be imposed. In addition, following consultations to be undertaken including with staff representatives, the Secretary-General intends to amend the staff rules to specify that accrued annual leave balance shall not be paid to staff members who are dismissed due to a substantiated case of sexual exploitation and abuse. In addition, the Secretary-General intends to suspend payments to troop- or police-contributing countries in connection with an individual suspected of sexual exploitation and abuse on the basis of credible evidence. The suspended payments shall be returned to the Member State if, after an investigation, the allegations are not substantiated.

In the area of remedial action in response to sexual exploitation and abuse, the Secretary-General intends to revisit the proposal to establish a trust fund to support victim services, including psychological support, medical care and access to legal

assistance, for victims and children born as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations Personnel.

In addition to the proposed measures emanating from the high-level meeting of senior leadership, the report provides an update of actions taken in 2014 to address sexual exploitation and abuse.

Mr. Chairman,

The Secretary-General is committed to the policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Any act of sexual exploitation or abuse by United Nations personnel harms the people the United Nations is meant to protect. It tarnishes the reputation of the Organization and undermines its credibility. Sustained efforts are needed to prevent acts of sexual exploitation and abuse from occurring. When they do occur, responsive action must be taken to ensure that those responsible are held accountable and that victims are supported. The Secretary-General is committed to pursuing the actions set out in the report to strengthen measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Together with my colleagues from the Department of Field Support, we will be available to answer any questions that the Committee may have on the report.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.