

**Fifth Committee of the General Assembly
Seventy-Fifth Session – Second Part of the Resumed Session**

**Introductory remarks by Ms. Martha Helena Lopez,
Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources**

**Agenda item 154 - Report of the Secretary-General
Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/75/754)**

3 May 2021

Mr. Chairperson, distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to introduce the Secretary-General's report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/75/754).

As requested in General Assembly resolutions 71/278 and 71/297, the report provides information on measures to strengthen the system-wide response to sexual exploitation and abuse, including progress in implementing the zero-tolerance policy and the Secretary-General's 'new approach' strategy outlined in A/71/818 and further addressed in A/72/551, A/73/744 and A/74/705.

The report provides updates on the implementation of the four-pronged strategy, prioritizing the rights and dignity of victims; ending impunity through strengthened reporting and investigations; engaging with Member States, civil society and external partners; and improving strategic communication for education and transparency. It also contextualizes the efforts put forth to eradicate sexual exploitation and abuse with the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, this report outlines the various initiatives that have been put in place by the members of the High-Level Steering Group and other UN entities to continue engagement and cohesion across the United Nations system.

Following the format of the reports introduced in the past three years, the content of the report focuses on the Secretary-General's strategy for combatting sexual exploitation and abuse. Accordingly, supplementary information has been provided (in a separate document)

which contains statistics and general information on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse relating to personnel in peacekeeping and special political missions, personnel and implementing partners in other United Nations entities, and non-United Nations international forces authorized by a Security Council mandate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.