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**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual  
Violence in Conflict**  
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## **Policy**

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# **United Nations Field Missions: Preventing and responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence**

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**DPO/DPPA/OHCHR/OSRSG-SVC POLICY ON  
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE BY UNITED NATIONS FIELD MISSIONS**

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**A. PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this Policy is to institutionalise the approach and role of United Nations field missions (peacekeeping operations and special political missions) in preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)<sup>1</sup>. This is within the broader peace and security framework, and in accordance with the women, peace and security agenda, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocol (1979 and 1999, respectively), international criminal law, relevant Security Council resolutions—1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2467 (2019) on CRSV, 1325 (2000) and 2242 (2015) on the broader Women, Peace and Security agenda, 2331 (2016) and 2388 (2017) on Trafficking, 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) on Children and Armed Conflict, 2151 (2014) on Security Sector Reform and 2447 (2018) on strengthening support to police, justice and corrections in peace operations—and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
2. The policy serves to ensure effective complementarity in prevention and response to CRSV at both headquarters and field levels between the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) and the Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE). The Policy also serves as

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<sup>1</sup> See Section “F,” TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES, for a definition of CRSV

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a resource for United Nations agencies, funds and programmes who lead on CRSV services.

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### **B. SCOPE**

3. This Policy provides guidance on effective prevention of and response to CRSV by United Nations field missions, both peacekeeping and special political missions (SPMs), and strives to ensure relevance and applicability for both while noting the different contexts, roles, composition and resources. It applies to all personnel, from Senior Mission Leadership to Senior Mission Management and everyone under their authority, whether uniformed or civilian, at a strategic, planning, policy or operational level. Those leading the work on CRSV, in accordance with their specific mandate and operational environment, have specific responsibilities outlined herein.
  4. This Policy should be taken into consideration by United Nations Country Teams (UNCT) as well as Member States, particularly Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs), which should incorporate the policy into pre-deployment training and mandate implementation in mission.
  5. This Policy should be considered within the broader framework of existing policies and guidance within the United Nations<sup>2</sup>, including the OHCHR/DPKO-DFS/DPA Policy on Human Rights in Peace Operations and Political Missions (2011), DPO Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping (2019), DPKO-DFS Policy on Justice Support in United Nations Peace Operations (2016), DPKO/DFS/DPA Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations Policy (2017) the DPKO/DFS Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (2018); and the DPPA Women, Peace and Security Policy (2019), as well as relevant international legal principles, standards and jurisprudence, expert reports, established methodologies and other guidance developed by OHCHR, relevant Security Council Resolutions, the Reports of the Secretary-General on CRSV and Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), and guidance developed within the framework of the United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action)<sup>3</sup> and the OSRSG-SVC and the Office of the SRSG-CAAC (OSRSG-CAAC).
  6. This Policy does not address the separate framework of prevention and accountability for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by United Nations peacekeepers.
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### **C. RATIONALE**

7. CRSV is a serious violation of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, international criminal law and refugee law. It involves an assault on the rights to physical and psychological integrity, dignity, sexual autonomy and gender equality. It regularly amounts to a form of torture under international human rights law and international criminal law. In addition to invoking States' human rights obligations to prevent CRSV and prosecute its perpetrators, field missions should consistently frame

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<sup>2</sup> See Section "G," REFERENCES, for a full list of DPO and DPPA policies and guidelines.

<sup>3</sup> A cross-United Nations initiative that unites the work of the 15 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict. The network is chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Visit <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/about-us/un-action/> for more details.

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sexual violence committed by parties to an armed conflict as a breach of international humanitarian law and a war crime. If committed as part of a systematic or widespread attack, it also amounts to a crime against humanity; and it may be a constituent element of genocide.

8. The Security Council has stressed, in a series of resolutions on women, peace and security<sup>4</sup> that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war or terrorism or as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians, significantly exacerbates situations of armed conflict and impedes the restoration of international peace and security. The Security Council has affirmed that effective action to prevent and respond to CRSV can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and has also recommended a series of steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence.
9. The United Nations Secretary-General has called on the United Nations System to emphasize its work on prevention by utilising the full range of available capabilities and mechanisms, such as the ones under the Human Rights Up Front initiative<sup>5</sup>, to ensure a more holistic preventive approach. This will allow for a better information flow and help trigger timely political engagement by Mission leadership and the OSRSG-SVC in order to avoid the escalation or recurrence of CRSV. All mission components and UNCTs should, therefore, strengthen their coordination and collaboration towards an integrated analysis on CRSV risks and the mitigating measures that could be taken to address structural challenges such as those related to security sector reform, institutional capacity building and good governance.
10. The Security Council has mandated United Nations field missions to prevent and respond to CRSV<sup>6</sup> and to establish monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA)<sup>7</sup>. It has also called upon them to engage parties to the conflict to obtain concrete time-bound commitments that comprehensively address CRSV; to support the implementation of these commitments; and, to engage in Security Sector Reform (SSR), including capacity building on addressing CRSV, and in Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR). Even where their mandates do not explicitly reference CRSV, field missions are expected to prevent and respond to CRSV based on their human rights, child protection, protection of civilians, women, peace and security, justice, security sector reform and prevention mandates, the cross-cutting application of Security Council resolutions on CRSV<sup>8</sup>, and wider prevention responsibilities.
11. The Security Council has also called for the deployment of Women Protection Advisers (WPAs), particularly at a senior level, to ensure the implementation of these resolutions and has asked the Secretary-General to ensure the role, need and number of WPAs is systematically assessed during the planning and review of each United Nations

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<sup>4</sup> See resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2011) and 2467 (2019).

<sup>5</sup> A UN Secretary-General's initiative to strengthen prevention of serious crises and violations that cuts across the UN's three pillars of peace and security, development and human rights pillars.

<sup>6</sup> As of June 2019, the following five UN peacekeeping missions and two SPMs are mandated to address CRSV: MINUSCA, MINUSMA, MONUSCO, UNMISS and UNAMID, and UNAMI and UNSOM, respectively.

<sup>7</sup> See Section "F," TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES, for a definition of MARA.

<sup>8</sup> See resolutions 1325 (200), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2011) and 2467 (2019).

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peacekeeping and special political mission.<sup>9</sup> The Security Council has further recognised<sup>10</sup> that rape and other forms of sexual violence against children form one of the six grave violations against children in settings of armed conflict.

12. Women and girls continue to be those primarily affected by CRSV, not least due to patterns of gender discrimination and inequality predating the conflict. Boys and men are also victims/survivors<sup>11</sup> of CRSV, with gendered stereotypes linked to masculinity, homophobia, social taboos and biased legal frameworks underlying their victimisation and stigmatisation.
13. While, as stated, CRSV is not solely a women's issue, the Security Council has mandated the prevention and response to CRSV as part of its Women, Peace and Security agenda, recognizing that women and girls face pre-existing patterns of gender inequality and discrimination and are the most frequent targets of sexual violence during armed conflict and political strife. CRSV, a form of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)<sup>12</sup>, is a manifestation of extreme gender inequalities and denial of women and girls' human rights. It is one of the most widespread and deep-rooted barriers to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Sustainable efforts to prevent and respond to CRSV require addressing gender inequality and ensuring the full realisation of women and girls' civil, political, economic and social rights, including through their full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and political processes. In pursuance of the Secretary-General's call to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, field missions must fast track their efforts towards this goal.
14. The use of sexual violence as a tactic of violent extremism and terrorism in conflict situations, particularly when targeting ethnic and religious minorities, has been thoroughly documented. The Security Council has recognised sexual violence as both a tactic of war and a tactic of terrorism and has affirmed that conflict resolution and counter-terrorism strategies can no longer be decoupled from efforts to combat CRSV.<sup>13</sup> In addressing CRSV as a tactic of terrorism and violent extremism, United Nations field missions need to mainstream CRSV considerations in relevant activities and work with host governments to ensure that victims/survivors of sexual violence committed by terrorist entities are considered as victims/survivors of terrorism for the purpose of official recognition and redress, and that gender equality and women's empowerment is reflected in counter-terrorism strategies.
15. A forthcoming handbook will follow this policy to provide further practical guidance for mission components on the implementation of the CRSV mandate.

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<sup>9</sup> See resolutions 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2011) and 2467 (2019)

<sup>10</sup> See resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009) and other relevant SC resolutions on children and armed conflict.

<sup>11</sup> To identify a person who experienced sexual violence as "victim" or "survivor" primarily depends on the preference/self-identification of the concerned individual. UN staff should be respectful of these choices. The context in which the term is used may vary. For example, the term "victim" is regularly used when indicating that a person has been subjected to a violation of international law or a crime. The term is broad in that victims of sexual violence are those individuals who directly experienced the violence as well as those who were indirectly affected (for example, children born of CRSV). The term "survivor" is more commonly used in connection with the healing process of an individual who experienced sexual violence as it implies agency and resiliency. There is no United Nations wide agreement on the use of one term or the other. Both terms can be used simultaneously and interchangeably.

<sup>12</sup> See Section "F," TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES, for a definition of SGBV.

<sup>13</sup> See resolutions 2242 (2015), 2331 (2016) and 2467 (2019)

## D. POLICY

### D1. Guiding principles

16. Consistent with relevant Security Council Resolutions; DPO, DPPA, OHCHR and OSRSG-SVC, recognise CRSV as a women, peace and security issue that also raises serious concerns from human rights, gender equality, child protection and protection of civilians' perspectives as well as from the standpoint of political and mediation engagements by the United Nations. United Nations field missions must strictly adhere to and implement guiding principles on CRSV in coordination and cooperation with UNCT and Headquarters entities involved in addressing CRSV. These principles, which are based on a victim/survivor-centred approach, include but are not limited to:

- i. **Do no harm:** In all circumstances and at all times, mission personnel and all those working on CRSV, have an obligation not to jeopardise or further jeopardise the life, physical and psychological safety, freedom and well-being of victims/survivors of CRSV or others whenever they enter into contact with them in the framework of their work. In all interactions with victims/survivors of CRSV, United Nations personnel should be aware of the potential risk of further harm to victims/survivors, including re-traumatisation, stigma, violence and marginalisation at the hands of alleged perpetrators or their own families and communities. United Nations personnel should exercise good judgement, caution and sensitivity in all interactions with victims/survivors, their family members and witnesses.
- ii. **Confidentiality:** It is essential for the protection of victims/survivors, their families and witnesses, that personally identifiable information relating to incidents of CRSV be treated as confidential unless specific informed consent has been given for their use. Measures must also be taken to safeguard the confidentiality of recorded information, including the identities of victims/survivors and witnesses. This relates to both the safe recording, storage and handling of information.
- iii. **Informed consent:** When conducting interviews with victims/survivors of CRSV, witnesses and other cooperating persons, WPAs and Human Rights Officers (HROs)/CRSV focal points must obtain the interviewees' informed consent to use and/or share the information provided. This means explaining the principle of confidentiality, the intended use of the information and how the information will be protected. It should be explained what information will be kept completely confidential, such as the identity and personal details of the interviewee, what information may be included in a report or shared with and what categories of actors' information will be shared. Each step of the process and the possible outcomes should be carefully explained to the victim/survivor.
- iv. **Gender-sensitivity:** All personnel should use respectful and non-discriminatory language and take into account the different experiences, situations, needs and attributes of women, men, girls, boys and others in all interactions and in the design and implementation of responses to CRSV.
- v. **Victim/Survivor-centred approach:** Victims/Survivors of CRSV and their individual rights and needs, as identified by themselves, should be at the centre of all preventive efforts and responses by field missions. All initiatives to address CRSV should ensure meaningful participation of victims/survivors and should respond to their sex, gender, age, specific situation and cultural context. All personnel should always respect the

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rights, needs, and wishes of victims/survivors, including their choices regarding referral to services.

- vi. **Best interest of the child:** In all actions and decisions concerning children, the best interest of the child shall be the primary consideration. If conducted, interviews with children should follow established standards on informed consent and sensitive procedures. Assessing the best interest of a child means evaluating and balancing all elements and relevant information in order to make a decision regarding a specific situation involving an individual child or group of children.

### D2. Priority objectives of United Nations field missions in addressing CRSV

17. Within the scope of missions' respective mandates and resources, field missions should pursue the following interlinked and mutually reinforcing objectives ("PEACE" approach):
  - i. **Prevention and protection of persons facing the risk of CRSV:** Missions should focus their work on preventing incidents of CRSV. Working closely with concerned communities, including women's groups, field missions must proactively identify CRSV risks, provide early warning and prioritise preventive actions, including through the allocation of resources and the undertaking of CRSV hot spots analyses. Missions need to utilise early warning indicators suitable to local contexts and take these into consideration in contingency planning and in responding to situations that put persons at risk. In close coordination with the OSRSG-SVC, field missions should engage in a dialogue with parties to the conflict, where appropriate, to elicit formal commitments from their leaders on preventing and addressing CRSV in accordance with their international obligations, and specific actions to implement these commitments. Missions should emphasise political dialogue, and advocacy to address CRSV; peacekeeping operations with a protection of civilians mandate are required to use all necessary means, up to and including the use of force, to prevent or respond to threats of violence against civilians, including sexual violence, within their capabilities and areas of operation.<sup>14</sup>
  - ii. **Ending impunity for CRSV:** Within the ambit of their mandate and capacity, field missions should advocate for credible investigations and prosecutions of CRSV cases and promote safe and effective remedies, including reparations, for victims/survivors taking due consideration of a victim/survivor-centred approach. They should provide support to strengthen national capacities to address impunity for CRSV crimes by strengthening national criminal justice mechanisms, promoting safe and effective remedies for victims, promoting the respect of due process and fair trial standards, as well as supporting a legislative and policy reform. They should cooperate with relevant justice and accountability mechanisms and coordinate their work with the TOE<sup>15</sup> and OHCHR. The United Nations will not endorse any peace agreement that includes amnesties for CRSV or otherwise results in impunity for CRSV.<sup>16</sup>
  - iii. **Awareness and condemnation of CRSV:** Field missions must work to raise society's awareness, at all levels, of CRSV, condemn its perpetration and cease any stigmatisation or ostracization of victims. Missions will engage in advocacy, dialogue with parties to conflict, national authorities and civil society, reporting and strategic

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<sup>14</sup> Paragraph 13, DPKO-DFS Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping (2015)

<sup>15</sup> See Security Council Resolution 1888

<sup>16</sup> See DPA Guidance for Mediators on Addressing CRSV in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements (2013)

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communication to increase awareness and overcome a culture of CRSV acceptance. In country situations in which CRSV is a concern, missions must establish the MARA in line with SCR 1960 (2010) to create an evidence base for advocacy and action and make sure these efforts link with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict as well as, where applicable, United Nations sanctions committees. On the basis of the evidence, CRSV must be fully reflected in the Secretary-General's reports to the Security Council and the mission's public reports.

- iv. **Capacity of national actors to effectively address CRSV:** Consistent with their obligations under international law, state authorities have the primary responsibility to prevent and respond to CRSV, protect individuals facing risk, ensure criminal accountability of perpetrators and ensure effective remedies, including gender-sensitive reparations for victims. Within their mission mandates, United Nations field missions will work closely with justice, law enforcement and military authorities and civil society organisations to support: a) national ownership of CRSV prevention and response strategies; b) strong national legal and policy frameworks, including terrorism-related legislation; c) sustainable implementation capacities, including independent, impartial, prompt, effective and appropriately transparent investigations and prosecutions; and, d) effective and gender-sensitive mechanisms to protect and support victims/survivors/witnesses, as well as access for the accused to legal aid.
  - v. Where applicable, field missions should also support parties to conflict, including non-state armed actors, to prevent and respond to CRSV, including by implementing commitments made through joint or unilateral communiqués on CRSV in cooperation with OSRSG-SVC, the TOE and other relevant United Nations entities. United Nations field missions will assist governments in upholding their responsibilities, and support national stakeholders (including military, police and other security sector actors, justice actors, women's groups, civil society, and religious leaders) to address CRSV.
  - vi. **Empowerment of victims/survivors through political processes and their referral for support.** Field missions should seek to ensure that CRSV is addressed in peace processes and throughout negotiations for the cessation of hostilities, ceasefires, and armistices. Peace and national reconciliation processes should address the needs of victims of CRSV and, to the extent possible, provide suitable avenues for victim/survivor support organisations to participate. Field missions must promptly refer victims/survivors to national or international actors that can provide the necessary medical, psychosocial, legal and economic support or physical protection. Such efforts should be linked to referral pathways led by the UNCT or Humanitarian Country Team (HTC) such as those established by gender-based violence (GBV) and protection coordination mechanisms. Within the ambit of their respective mandates, capacities and resources and based on conditions on the ground, field missions may consider providing MEDEVAC or other crucial support services to victims/survivors that other actors cannot provide.
18. Field missions should dedicate available resources as a matter of priority to support the objectives above and mainstream them throughout relevant mission components (military, police and civilian). They should also be integrated into the mission's key planning documents such as the concept of operations, rules of engagement/directives and operational orders on the use of force and the protection of civilians strategy. Field missions should develop, periodically update and implement mission-wide CRSV mainstreaming commitments under the guidance of the Senior Women's Protection



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Adviser (SWPA) or other CRSV lead in missions without an explicit CRSV mandate. These commitments should elaborate on the roles and responsibilities of military, police and civilian components and be included in relevant work plans. CRSV training must also be included in mission induction training and all other relevant training programmes.

19. Prevention and early warning indicators on CRSV should be mainstreamed into the broader political and conflict analyses and engagements of United Nations field missions throughout all phases of the mission cycle.

### D3. Roles and Responsibilities

20. **Head of Mission (HOM):** In accordance and compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions, the HOM/SRSG bears the overall responsibility to prevent and respond to CRSV regardless of whether it is explicitly mentioned in the Mission's mandate. HOMs/SRSGs shall promote a mission-wide approach, with the advice of the SWPA or CRSV lead in missions where the SWPA is not present<sup>17</sup>, to ensure implementation of the CRSV mandate. The HOM, with the technical support of the SWPA or CRSV lead, should engage, where applicable, in constructive dialogue with state and non-state actors in close coordination with OSRSG-SVC, to solicit their commitment to countering CRSV while at the same time ensuring that inaction, impunity and other obstacles are identified and addressed. The HOM, with the technical support of the SWPA or CRSV lead, as applicable, convenes the Working Group on CRSV (WG-CRSV)<sup>18</sup> at the strategic level that shall inter alia, include the heads of military, police and relevant civilian components. The HOM shall incorporate CRSV prevention and response in the Mission's strategies, planning and operations, including resource allocation, at every stage. The CRSV mandate should be considered a political priority. The HOM is also responsible for including CRSV considerations in overall reporting from the mission to HQ, including in the regular reports and briefings to the Security Council.<sup>19</sup>
21. **DSRSG:** The DSRSG/P and DSRSG/RC/HC shall work in close cooperation to strengthen collaboration and coordination between the mission pillars in order to prevent and respond to CRSV in a coherent and holistic manner. Where delegated, the DSRSG/P and DSRSG/HC, shall convene the WG-CRSV at the strategic level, with the technical support of the SWPA or CRSV lead, and ensure appropriate linkages between MARA and the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)<sup>20</sup>.
22. **Women's Protection Advisers:** SWPAs and WPAs fulfil a crucial role in implementing the CRSV protection mandate of United Nations field missions. They form part of the United Nations architecture on Sexual Violence in Conflict and are deployed at the request of the United Nations Security Council to mission settings to support the implementation of a specific Security Council mandate, including by:
  - i. Advising senior mission leadership, including SRSG/HOMs, Deputy SRSGs, Force Commanders and Heads of United Nations Police (UNPOL) components, section chiefs, Heads of Regional offices and military and police focal points, on the

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<sup>17</sup> In missions without a SWPA post in their structure, the Human Rights Component will lead on CRSV. See para. 23 on the role of Human Rights Components with respect to the CRSV mandate.

<sup>18</sup> See forthcoming *DPO Handbook on Prevention and Response to CRSV through UN field missions*.

<sup>19</sup> The Security Council has requested HOMs to include information on CRSV in briefings to the Council. See Security Council Resolution 1888 OP 24.

<sup>20</sup> See the Provisional Guidance Note on Intersections between the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) & the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) (2016)

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- implementation and mainstreaming of the CRSV mandate and on relevant CRSV issues and actions to be taken, and regularly reviewing progress;
- ii. Providing overall substantive guidance and coordination across all relevant mission components on CRSV prevention and response;
  - iii. Chairing the MARA working group at the technical level and supporting senior mission leadership in chairing the WG-CRSV at the strategic level.
  - iv. Fulfilling reporting obligations under the Security Council mandated MARA, including in quarterly reports to HQ; relevant sections of Secretary-General's country reports, and the Secretary-General's annual report on CRSV;
  - v. Engaging in dialogue with parties to conflict on the signing and implementation of commitments to halt and prevent conflict-related sexual violence, in line with Security Council resolutions and in coordination with the OSRSG-SVC and other relevant mission components; supporting parties to conflict in the implementation of commitments to address CRSV and regularly reviewing progress
  - vi. Acting as an entry point and focal point to other United Nations and non-United Nations actors and coordination mechanisms working on CRSV issues that are relevant to United Nations field missions, building on the complementarity of respective roles and mandates;
  - vii. Promoting local ownership and prevention strategies on CRSV through advocacy, sensitisation, capacity-building and training activities at community level.
  - viii. Advocating with host state governments, parties to the conflict, diplomatic and donor communities, regional and international organisations, including through the release of public advocacy reports on CRSV and participation by the SWPA and WPAs in relevant bilateral and multilateral fora.
- 22.1 SWPAs, or other CRSV leads, where there is no SWPA, maintain ongoing communication with the OSRSG-SVC in coordination with the designated focal points in DPO or DPPA, as applicable, and OHCHR, including by providing inputs for the SRSG-SVC briefings and other information as needed. SWPAs or other CRSV leads shall have direct access to senior mission leadership as specialised advisors on the implementation of the mission's CRSV mandate and shall have the political and operational space needed to engage on CRSV with relevant United Nations and non-United Nations counterparts, including parties to conflict.
- 22.2 Mission planning and review processes should ensure that all United Nations field missions with a mission-specific Security Council mandate on CRSV shall have core capacity of a SWPA supported by dedicated WPAs in line with relevant Security Council resolutions.
23. **Human Rights components (HRCs):** HRCs lead the mission's investigation, monitoring and reporting of CRSV. HRCs will mainstream CRSV into other core areas of their work including capacity building, advocacy directed towards State authorities, conflict parties and civil society, including on access to justice and effective criminal investigations, transitional justice, effective remedies and reparations for victims, the protection of victims and witnesses and risk assessments conducted in the framework of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. HRCs shall coordinate efforts related to CRSV with the ToE, as appropriate. Human rights components, in coordination with the SWPA where not already consolidated, shall apprise the HOM, the High Commissioner, the SRSG-SVC and relevant Human Rights mechanisms on acts or omissions on the part of the State to implement international human rights obligations related to prevention and response to CRSV. Human rights components of missions where all WPA capacities are consolidated,

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should include thematic units called “CRSV unit” comprised of dedicated specialised expertise on CRSV. In consolidated missions, the SWPA guides the CRSV-specific work of the human rights component (including the tasks indicated in para. 22) and heads the CRSV unit, while retaining any prior distinct budget lines where applicable, a dedicated team, and direct access to the mission leadership in accordance with relevant guidance.

<sup>21</sup> The mission organigram should identify the SWPA and the CRSV unit. To the extent that the consolidation of WPAs with human rights component does not provide adequate capacity to carry out their tasks, human rights components should appoint additional CRSV focal points to ensure implementation of the CRSV mandate throughout the mission area under the guidance of the SWPA. The Head of the HRC oversees the implementation of the CRSV mandate by the SWPA. In missions without an explicit CRSV mandate and therefore without a SWPA, the human rights component leads on CRSV work.

24. **Action-oriented reporting on CRSV:** Missions are to report on CRSV through dedicated quarterly activity-based reports, including information on the missions' efforts to prevent and respond to acts of CRSV; trends and patterns of CRSV emanating from the MARA; inputs to the annual report of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict; and inputs in all relevant reports and briefings to the Security Council.<sup>22</sup> To streamline data collection on CRSV, components should share case summaries that exclude protection-sensitive personal information through appropriate databases. CRSV should also be covered in the regular public and internal human rights reporting of human rights-mandated missions.
25. **Mainstreaming CRSV concerns:** To mainstream CRSV concerns throughout the mission, each relevant component must appoint a CRSV focal point to work closely with the SWPA to address CRSV in respective areas of work. Relevant civilian components include, but are not limited to Police, Justice and Corrections, Security Sector Reform (SSR), Protection of Civilians, Child Protection, Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), Political Affairs, Civil Affairs, Public Information, Gender, HIV/AIDS, Joint Operations Centre (JOC) and Joint Mission Analysis Centre (JMAC). The objectives of preventing and responding to CRSV should be mainstreamed throughout all functions and substantive areas that these components engage in.
26. **Political affairs and civil affairs sections:** Political affairs and civil affairs components should play a key role in supporting activities to prevent and respond to CRSV. This includes sensitising stakeholders – at the local, national and regional level – to the CRSV normative framework and ensuring that CRSV considerations are included in all prevention, mediation, peacebuilding, peace agreement implementation, national reconciliation and conflict management efforts of the mission. They must also, where applicable, incorporate

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<sup>21</sup> For consolidated missions, see for relevant details the Consolidation of protection functions in peace operations Guidance Note / Operational Framework of 25 February 2016 (Code Cable 0467/2015). For non-consolidated mission, see the DPA/DPKO-DFS/OSRSG-SVC Terms of Reference: Women Protection Advisers, 2011.

<sup>22</sup> The Security Council in resolution 1888 OP 24 requests systematic reporting on sexual violence in all relevant reports to the Security Council. For more information on the specific purpose and formats of reporting inputs, please refer in the forthcoming DPO Handbook on Prevention and Response to CRSV through UN field missions, and in the Provisional Guidance Note on the Implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1960.

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CRSV considerations as a part of gender-sensitive conflict and political analysis, conflict prevention reports, and in political reporting to HQ. Contacts established by the **Political affairs** component at the highest level should be fully used and made accessible to SWPAs and human rights components to implement the CRSV mandate. **Civil affairs**, where applicable, shall incorporate CRSV considerations in relevant protection, conflict prevention and restoration of state authority efforts.

27. **Gender units** (GUs) are a critical partner of SWPAs/WPAs due to the complementary mandates under the Women, Peace and Security agenda. GUs should provide support to SWPAs in strengthening women's participation, representation and empowerment as an enabler of CRSV prevention and response and in delivering of mission mandates.<sup>23</sup> Gender analysis conducted by the GUs can enhance CRSV analysis. SWPAs should coordinate with GUs to strengthen mission efforts to prevent incidents of CRSV within SGBV prevention efforts, including by reaching out to communities and strengthening women's participation.
28. **Justice and corrections components**, in close coordination with other partners (particularly the police, human rights and political affairs components), will seek to promote, support and facilitate criminal accountability for CRSV; ensure the protection of victims and witnesses; and, support the enactment of laws and policies to prevent and address CRSV, including terrorism-related offenses. In missions mandated to support nationally led investigations and prosecutions of serious crimes, including CRSV, justice and corrections components will provide technical and operational assistance to criminal justice authorities, including military justice authorities and international justice mechanisms as mandated, in coordination with the TOE. In some mission settings, justice and corrections components will also support the establishment and operationalisation of specialised national mechanisms responsible for investigating, prosecuting or adjudicating CRSV and other serious crimes. Justice components also play an important role in coordinating international support and assistance to ensure criminal accountability for CRSV, including by facilitating coordination between national actors in the criminal justice chain. To complement such efforts, corrections components will assist national authorities in strengthening corrections facilities for the secure and humane detention of alleged and convicted perpetrators, including of CRSV.
29. **SSR components** should address CRSV at structural, functional and legislative levels, incorporating CRSV concerns into national security dialogues, mappings, policies, legislation and management oversight, to support the development of inclusive and effective national defense and security institutions. This would include the integration of former members of armed groups into national security forces. SSR components should ensure that former armed group members and other persons who had direct or command responsibility for CRSV are not integrated into reformed state security forces.
30. **DDR components** should support the design and implementation of programmes that prevent CRSV and protect DDR beneficiaries while duly considering the special needs of victims/survivors among persons associated with armed groups. From the initial stages of screening and identification of combatants to their long-term reintegration, DDR components should establish effective mechanisms for receiving and transmitting information on CRSV incidents that occur throughout the process. Moreover, combatants, dependants and members associated with armed groups might have suffered sexual abuse during war. Community mental health practices should be promoted to contribute to trauma healing of ex-combatants and associated members of the armed group.

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<sup>23</sup> See DPO/DFS Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations policy (2018)

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Community-based initiatives, especially Community Violence Reduction (CVR) projects, should also aim at empowering and mobilising women to prevent sexual violence. Field missions should ensure that their DDR work is not misperceived as condoning amnesty for combatants responsible for perpetrating CRSV crimes.

31. **Public information components**, with the guidance of the SWPA and the human rights component, including where WPAs are not deployed, and in consultation with all relevant offices, should develop easily understandable messages and outreach programmes targeting local communities, community and traditional leaders, women's groups, youth and religious communities. Where possible, these messages should be produced in local languages, and in picture format to facilitate better understanding. The messages should cover:
  - the categorical condemnation of all forms of CRSV and the responsibilities of state and non-state actors under international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law as well as national laws and policies protecting against CRSV;
  - recognition of Government led action to counter CRSV and the work of the mission and UNCT in support of the Government;
  - recognition of commitments and efforts made by non-state actors in addressing CRSV;
  - assistance and remedies available to victims/survivors of CRSV and points of contact to access referral mechanisms; and
  - the role of the community and society in combating CRSV, including by offering protection to victims/survivors, unequivocally rejecting all prejudices and stigma affecting victims/survivors and focusing society's attention on the perpetrators.
32. **Protection of Civilians Advisers** should ensure that missions integrate CRSV concerns into the broader mission efforts to protect civilians from violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. It is essential that SWPAs/CRSV leads work in close coordination with the mission's Senior Protection of Civilians Advisers or POC Focal Points and also attend established protection mechanisms such as the Senior Management Group on Protection and the Protection Working Group to ensure that CRV information and analysis is properly included in broader protection of civilians efforts.
33. **Child Protection Advisers (CPAs)** should cooperate closely with SWPAs to address CRSV. The mandates on children affected by armed conflict (CAAC) and SVC are structurally similar and offer complementary protection in relation to CRSV against children. Through the MRM under SCR 1612 and 1882, field missions are mandated to monitor and report on the six grave violations committed against children including rape and other sexual violence against children. CPAs, WPAs and human rights components should ensure that information relevant to the MRM and MARA is systematically exchanged and informs both mechanisms.
34. **Joint Operation Centres (JOCs)** shall seek to ensure that rape and other forms of sexual violence are included and addressed at the operational level through its review of the reports coming from the field offices and shall ensure that its own reporting include dedicated efforts to reflect information about sexual violence. To the extent possible, these reports should contribute to deducing trends within contextual analyses and also address specific manifestations of CRSV such as trafficking in persons when committed for the purposes of sexual violence/exploitation. Human rights components, WPAs and CPAs should systematically share information with the JOCs for hotspot mapping, in order to ensure that patrols and operational response activities are targeted to respond to high risk areas. The JOC should pay attention to ensure that information on alleged perpetrators

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and parties credibly suspected of committing rape and other forms of sexual violence are reflected in its reports, whilst upholding the principles of confidentiality and anonymity of victims. There should also be systematic horizontal information flows at field office levels with all concerned components, in particular, WPAs and CRSV focal points, to ensure early warning, timely follow-up to cases and situations of concern and comprehensive reporting.

35. **Joint Mission Analysis Centres (JMACs)** and similar analytical units in SPMs, will ensure that situational analyses and threat assessments integrate, when relevant, emerging patterns of attacks and early warning indicators regarding the use of sexual violence in conflict as well as information regarding parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing CRSV. In its field visits and inter-mission cooperation, JMAC should liaise with uniformed and civilian components to discuss and gather information on CRSV and related activities and movements of security forces and armed groups, including across borders. In keeping with the principles articulated in this policy, JMAC analyses should inform action by the military and police components and civilian protection actors to inter alia prevent and respond to CRSV.
36. JOC and JMAC should work in close partnership, and should ensure cooperation with the WPAs, CPAs, Human Rights, Gender, Political Affairs and Civil Affairs, DDR, SSR and the Police and Military components. Information emanating from JOC and JMAC relating to CRSV should feed into the WG-CRSV and JMAC should participate in this working group.
37. **Head of Office:** Through his/her relationships with local authorities, political and community leaders, civil society actors, women's groups, parties to the conflict and United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, the Head of Office (HoO), with technical support from the WPA or CRSV lead at sector or field level, should engage in constructive dialogue with these actors aimed at preventing and responding to CRSV. In consultation with the WPA or CRSV lead, as well as with relevant components at Mission HQ, the HoO should ensure the integration of CRSV considerations in the activities of field level teams of the mission, including to implement the MARA. The HoO should also ensure that in his/her analysis and monitoring of local developments and emerging issues with respect to the mission's priorities, CRSV considerations are included where relevant. They should make recommendations, in consultation with the WPA or other CRSV lead, to the Mission leadership and partners on possible strategies.

### **Uniformed components**

38. The roles and responsibilities of the police and military components will vary according to the mission and its mandate, and the needs of the host nation. Police and military components have an important role to play by working, where possible, with their national counterparts and other relevant mission components to ensure the physical protection of civilians from serious human rights violations and abuses. Furthermore, the Police, when mandated, conduct or supports investigations, including of CRSV, and help to end impunity. The military and police components should gather information relevant to CRSV to have a better situational awareness to support protection from CRSV by establishing a protective security environment through, for example, effective patrols, community-oriented policing, intelligence-led policing, peer-to-peer advocacy on documented concerns, and support to effective national security sector reform, including with regard to internal oversight and accountability mechanisms. Military and police should record information and allegations on CRSV and pass them on promptly to SWPAs/WPAs and human rights components for their comprehensive investigation, in accordance with mission-specific standard operating procedures for sharing human-rights related information.

39. The Force Commander and the Police Commissioner shall appoint CRSV Focal Points<sup>24</sup>, in their components, at the HQ level and one for each sector. These posts should be reflected within the organigram of the Force and Police. Focal points should have the necessary rank and function within the component allowing them to have the necessary impact on decision-making. CRSV focal points may also be assigned other focal point functions related to gender equality and protection where necessary.
40. The deployment of women military and police personnel for all work categories should be prioritised at the onset of a peacekeeping mission. Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and Police Contributing Countries (PCCs) should be encouraged to deploy women to areas of conflict, to facilitate reporting by victims/survivors, enable women and girls to voice their security concerns and encourage the development of gender-sensitive local protection and early warning arrangements which respond to their needs. However, it must remain clear that female and male uniformed peacekeepers are equally responsible for working on CRSV and engaging with communities in this respect. All planning processes should mainstream CRSV concerns and integrate a gender sensitive approach, which enables the meaningful participation of women and girls, so that their concerns are fully considered and addressed. Military and police components should have sufficient allocations of female and male language assistants, to support effective engagements with local populations during patrols in the prevention and response to CRSV.
41. Police and military components should be trained on CRSV by the SWPA, WPAs and human rights components, where no WPAs are deployed, in accordance with existing guidance and training materials for UN Police and UN Military and in coordination with other relevant mission components and DPO.

#### **Police components**

42. The Heads of Police Components (HOPCs) are responsible for ensuring that the police component contributes to the effective prevention and response to CRSV. This includes integrating a gender perspective into the analysis, planning and conduct of operations.<sup>25</sup> Where UNPOL is engaged in interim policing, patrolling and other law enforcement functions, and where UNPOL may be required to use mandated powers to use force, arrest, detain and search, it should use these activities to address CRSV also, seeking relevant advice from WPAs on the local situation and appropriate interventions. Where UNPOL has a mandate to build the capacity of the host State police in preventing and detecting crime, protecting life and property, and maintaining public order and safety, it should also include preventing and investigating CRSV within its responsibility to address SGBV. This should be done through a comprehensive set of measures such as assisting in the development of policies, standardised operating procedures, and training curricula, delivering specialised police investigation courses, including on CRSV and with the assistance of WPAs, human rights and justice components, establishing specialised SGBV police units and victim referral networks and setting up preventive mechanisms through community-oriented policing.<sup>26</sup> In addition, the police component should also address CRSV in their

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<sup>24</sup> CRSV focal points can co-function as focal points for other protection related matters such as SGBV, human rights and child protection.

<sup>25</sup> See UNPOL, UN Police Gender Toolkit: Standardised Best Practices on Gender Mainstreaming in Peacekeeping and the UN Police Standardised Training Curriculum on the Prevention and Investigation of SGBV in Post-Conflict Environments (2015)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

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mentoring, training and peer-to-peer duties. Finally, the police component should assist, when mandated, in collecting reliable data on reported SGBV and CRSV cases.

43. A specialised UNPOL team dedicated to addressing SGBV, including CRSV, should support the capacity development of the national police service. Through the provision of support to establish or reform the national police institution, UNPOL, in close collaboration with the WPAs, human rights and justice components, should ensure due attention to CRSV with a view to building the capacity of national police officers to understand the nature of CRSV crimes and to respond. UNPOL SGBV Unit/UNPOL Gender Adviser shall work in close collaboration with the WPAs, GUs, CPAs, justice and human rights components to assist and follow-up with the national authorities on cases of SGBV/CRSV. They should also ensure UNPOL contributions to the MARA.
44. UNPOL should liaise with the national police, its SGBV headquarters units, CRSV-affected communities and relevant partners to support the establishment of dedicated capacity in police stations covering areas where SGBV/CRSV is prevalent. Where appropriate and desired by affected communities, one-stop centres can provide comprehensive services to victims/survivors with police, medical, legal and social workers under one roof. Dedicated capacity can be established as part of the police station, beside a hospital, or in a stand-alone separate facility, and should receive the budget necessary to carry out its functions. The unit should be staffed with a critical mass of women officers. All members of these units should receive specialised training on CRSV investigation and management, including with regard to witness and victim protection, analysis, database management, and coordination with service providers. Reliable referral systems must be put in place to appropriately respond to victims'/survivors' needs with dignity, respect, confidentiality, safety and due regard for protection of their rights. UNPOL, in collaboration with the SWPA or mission CRSV lead as applicable, should support the national police in integrating CRSV training into the national police training curriculum.

### **Military components**

45. The Heads of Military Components (HOMCs) are responsible for ensuring that the military components contribute to the prevention and response to CRSV. This includes liaising with the SWPA and human rights components to integrate a focus on CRSV into analysis, planning and conduct of operations. Interaction with external actors involved in preventing and responding to CRSV is also fundamental.
46. HOMCs should advocate with state and non-state actors to prevent and end any use of CRSV and to promote the highest standards of conduct. Military components should facilitate engagement by WPAs with parties to the conflict for purposes of addressing CRSV. Military components should participate in the MARA working group, represented by the Force U2 and Military Gender and Protection Adviser and/or other designated CRSV focal point. The military component has a responsibility to share information with all stakeholders within the mission in preventing and responding to CRSV.
47. The HOMC shall ensure that, the military component, in coordination with the Department of Operational Support and transport assets, prioritises support to the SWPA/WPAs and other mission staff involved in addressing CRSV. This will range from the provision of security and route clearance to safe locations for interviews and allocation of sufficient time for the conduct of interviews and investigations during field missions.



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48. In areas where there is limited or no humanitarian access or presence, the military component, with the advice of WPAs and in consultation with humanitarian actors, may provide medical assistance – including MEDEVAC – and other support to CRSV victims/survivors. Quick impact projects and other military resources can be used to prevent and respond to acts of conflict related sexual violence. Engagement with community leaders and women’s groups is vital prior to the provision of support.
49. WPAs or CRSV focal points in human rights components, where WPAs are not present, shall provide Military Observers (MILOBS) with training and a list of basic information required for them to follow up on CRSV allegations recorded by military components. MILOBS shall also report their findings to their superiors, and this information should feed into the WG-CRSV for appropriate follow-up. The WPAs, in cooperation with the UNCT shall also compile and provide MILOBS and military components with information so that they may refer communities and victims to the appropriate service providers in accordance with established referral pathways.
50. HOMC shall ensure that their advocacy and other interventions, and those of their subordinates, with state and non-state parties, are included in reporting to the Security Council, including measures taken to protect civilians, engagement in dialogue to secure commitments and their implementation, and updates on progress and obstacles experienced. Uniformed personnel in SPMs shall liaise with national and international military forces on CRSV, with a view to supporting prevention, response and accountability.
51. **Support to non-United Nations security forces:** In compliance with the United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, United Nations field missions shall not provide support to or conduct joint operations with non-United Nations security forces that engage in or are complicit to CRSV. Support includes training and mentoring, technical cooperation, financial support, and strategic, logistical or operational support. Non-United Nations security forces include military forces, paramilitary forces, police forces, intelligence services, border control services, and regional peacekeeping forces. The component providing support, in consultation with HRCs and SWPAs, must ensure that the mission carries out risk assessments of units of non-United Nations security forces that may be assisted by the United Nations and implements mitigation measures to ensure that they do not engage in CRSV. United Nations field missions may, however, engage with non-United Nations security forces involved in CRSV with a view to halting and preventing perpetration, and promoting adherence to international human rights norms and standards. This includes: engagement on implementing commitments to address CRSV; delivery of training or sensitisation on CRSV; and provision of advice on and review of legislation, directives and policies to promote compliance with international norms and standards. UN field missions shall be guided by the list of perpetrators included in the annexes of the Secretary-General’s annual reports on CRSV.

### **D.3 Partnership**

52. **United Nations field missions and UNCT coordination.** Cooperation, information sharing, coordination and complementary advocacy on CRSV with the UNCT is essential to maximise synergies and avoid duplication and gaps, including in the area of medical, psycho-social, legal and economic assistance to victims/survivors for which UN field missions do not have a comparative advantage. While deployed, United Nations field missions often have a greater presence, outreach and contact with the population than the

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UNCT. However, field missions will eventually draw down and the UNCT will remain and carry forward the United Nations field missions' work to prevent and respond to CRSV. Coordination should include all members of the UNCT to ensure that efforts addressing CRSV are multi-dimensional/multi-sectoral and harness the full capacity of the UN system. It is therefore imperative that the UN system acts as ONE in a coordinated and coherent manner.

53. **Humanitarian Country Team:** The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), led by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), is the decision-making and oversight forum for humanitarian action at the country level. Humanitarian protection coordination mechanisms, such as the Protection cluster and the GBV sub-cluster, are established under the HCT structure to enhance the coordination of protection actors and provision of protection services. In accordance with the UN Integrated Assessment and Planning Policy and while safeguarding humanitarian principles, UN field missions coordinate with the HCT to explore possible collaboration in harmonising and synchronising planned activities aimed at creating a protective environment for civilians, provide gender sensitive conflict analysis and conflict mapping in selected areas, and to facilitate linkage with local authorities and vulnerable populations affected by conflict.
54. **Security Council-mandated infrastructure on CRSV:** Resolution 1888 (2009) established an infrastructure and mechanisms to advance implementation of the sexual-violence in conflict agenda, including the creation of a SRSG-SVC, the establishment of the TOE comprising experts from DPO, OHCHR and UNDP, and dedicated WPAs in field missions. As part of this architecture, in coordination with DPO or DPPA, as applicable, and OHCHR, WPAs collaborate with the OSRSG-SVC on a regular basis, share information and receive strategic guidance on the implementation of the CRSV mandate. Operational support and backstopping responsibilities remain, in line with existing arrangements, with DPO or DPPA and with OHCHR to the extent that SWPA/WPAs have already been consolidated into human rights components, as appropriate.
55. **Group of Experts and Sanctions Committee:** The Security Council in a succession of resolutions commits to consider the use of sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities credibly suspected of committing CRSV, and a number of country specific sanction regimes include CRSV as part of designation criteria. Regular information sharing by field missions with expert groups and monitoring teams of Sanctions Committees will facilitate the Security Council to apply sanctions and other targeted measures against individuals and entities credibly suspected of committing CRSV.
56. **Regional Organisations:** Regional organisations play a significant role in the Security Council's mandate implementation and have been involved in developing and implementing policies, activities, and advocacy for the benefit of victims/survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict. In line with SCR 2167 (2014), DPO and DPPA in cooperation with SRSG-SVC and OHCHR, promote and strengthen partnerships with regional organisations, including but not limited to the African Union, European Union, the League of Arab States, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), International Organisation of the Francophonie and NATO in the area of CRSV to encourage consistency in the application of international norms and standards;; mainstreaming of CRSV, guidance and policy development; mission planning; deployment of CRSV capacities; training of field missions personnel; mentoring of state security forces of host countries;; information sharing on CRSV; and conduct of peace support operations. Such partnerships are of increasing importance in light of the growing cooperation in the field between regional peacekeeping forces operating under Security Council mandates and United Nations field missions. Regional peacekeeping forces are expected to adhere

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to international law including provisions prohibiting CRSV, in the conduct of their operations. Such compliance is a pre-requisite for United Nations support to non-United Nations field missions authorised by the Security Council and should be discussed with T/PCCs and mainstreamed in Security Council resolutions authorising/supporting their deployment.

57. **International Organisations (IOs) / Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) / Independent State Bodies:** Since combating CRSV is a mission-wide activity, undertaken in a multidimensional space with multi-sectoral approaches, coordination with all actors and integration of efforts is vital for timely and effective response. Coordination (as relevant) with IOs/NGOs and independent state bodies, such as national human rights institutions, where they exist, is essential, to assist the host State in its primary responsibility to address CRSV, including victim referral systems or sensitisation, and training and awareness of personnel undergoing DDR processes within programmes run by IOs/NGOs. In addition, MARA at the country level should include the use of data from a variety of sources, including international and local NGOs. WPAs are responsible for coordinating prevention and response measures internally (with all mission components) and collaborating externally (with the UNCT, HCTs, parties to the conflict, host State, regional organisations, civil society, NGOs, etc.) ensuring that CRSV is not addressed in isolation of other human rights violations, justice and accountability mechanisms, or existing coordination mechanisms with IOs/NGOs.
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### E. MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

58. At United Nations Headquarters, the Under-Secretaries-Generals for Peace Operations and Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, with the support of DPO-DPET CRSV Team, DPPA Gender, Peace and Security Unit, OHCHR and OSRSG-SVC, shall provide leadership for the implementation of this Policy, including by allocating adequate resources and ensuring that CRSV is a priority across the respective Departments.
59. At Mission level, the SRSG/HOMs shall maintain overall management and oversight of this Policy and shall ensure, with the support of WPAs, that preventing and responding to CRSV is a priority across the mission's work. The SRSG/HOMs shall share with DPO or DPPA, as appropriate, an annual summary of activities, lessons learned, best practices, challenges and needs relevant to prevention and response to CRSV in mission contexts.
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### F. TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND PRINCIPLES

**Definition of CRSV:** The United Nations agreed definition on CRSV refers to incidents or (for Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010) listing purposes) patterns of sexual violence that occur in conflict or post-conflict settings or other situations of concern (e.g., political strife). CRSV includes rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity, against women, men, girls or boys. CRSV has a direct or indirect nexus with the conflict or political strife itself, i.e., temporal, geographical and/or causal link. This link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator (often affiliated with a State or non-State armed group, including a terrorist entity or network), the profile of the victim (who is frequently an actual or perceived member of a persecuted political, ethnic or religious minority, or is targeted on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity), the climate of impunity (which is generally associated with State collapse), cross-border consequences (such as displacement or trafficking in persons) and/or violations of the provisions of a ceasefire agreement. The term

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also encompasses trafficking in persons when committed in situations of conflict for the purpose of sexual violence/exploitation. The determination of whether sexual violence is conflict-related is made on a case-by-case basis and follows an established methodology detailed in the analytical and conceptual framing of CRSV. CRSV is a sub-set of sexual and gender-based violence. For the most up to date definition of CRSV, please refer to the latest report of the Secretary General on conflict-related sexual violence.

**SGBV:** Sexual and gender-based violence is any type of violence directed against individuals or groups on the basis of their sex or gender. The reference includes any act that inflicts physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty in the public or private sphere. Women, men, girls and boys can all be victims of gender-based violence (DPKO-DFS Gender Policy 'Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations' and Gender Forward Looking Strategy 2014-2018, which describes how field missions address SGBV more broadly). SGBV is pervasive, far reaching and not necessarily conflict related. It includes, for example, domestic violence and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM and forced marriage).

**Gender mainstreaming:** Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality (Agreed Conclusions of ECOSOC Coordination Segment on Gender Mainstreaming 1997).

**Monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA):** In order to strengthen prevention and response to CRSV, the Security Council has mandated the establishment of Monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA) (SCR 1960). The purpose of the MARA is to ensure systematic gathering of timely, accurate, reliable, and objective information on trends and patterns of CRSV against women, girls, boys and men in conflict and post conflict and other situations of concern. This information is used to promote increased and timely action to prevent and respond to CRSV; and, it should inform strategic advocacy, enhance prevention and programmatic responses for victims, and contribute to the development of comprehensive strategies to combat sexual violence at the country level. The MARA also provides information on parties to conflict credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for CRSV. All the information from the MARA serves as the basis for Security Council action, including for listing purposes, sanctions and other targeted measures.

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## G. REFERENCES

### Normative or Superior References

- A. Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, in particular resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2242 (2015) and 2467 (2019); Security Council resolutions on Child Protection, in particular resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009); Security Council resolution 2447 on strengthening support to police, justice and corrections in field missions; Security Council resolution 2151 (2014) on Security Sector Reform; Security Council resolution 2331 (2016) on Sexual Violence as a tactic of terrorism; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocol (1979 and 1999, respectively) and; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

**United Nations and DPO/DPPA Policies and Guidance:**

- A. Analytical and Conceptual Framing of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (2011)
- B. DPA Guidance for Mediators on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements (2013)
- C. DPA Guidance on Gender and Inclusive Mediation (2017)
- D. DPKO/DFS Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (2018)
- E. DPKO/DFS Policy on Justice Support in United Nations Peace Operations, 2016
- F. DPKO/DFS/DPA Child Protection in United Nations Peace Operations Policy (2017)
- G. DPKO-DFS Policy on Prison Support in United Nations Peace Operations (2015)
- H. DPKO Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping (2019)
- I. DPPA Women, Peace and Security Policy (2019)
- J. Draft Guidance Note on Consolidation of Specialised Protection Functions in UN Peace Missions (2016)
- K. Early Warning Indicators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (UN Action, 2011)
- L. Guidance Note of the Secretary-General, Guidance Note of the Secretary-General Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (2014)
- M. Guidance Note of the Secretary-General, UN Approach to Rule of Law Assistance (2008)
- N. Guidance Note of the Secretary-General, United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice (2010)
- O. OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions (2011)
- P. Provisional Guidance Note on Intersections between the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) & the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) (2016)
- Q. Provisional Guidance Note on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010) on Women, Peace and Security (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence) (2011)
- R. United Nations Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to Non-United Nations Security Forces (2013)
- S. United Nations Policy on Integrated Assessment and Planning (2013)

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**I. CONTACT**

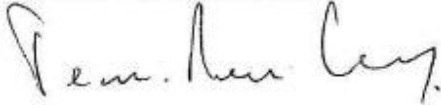
60. This document was developed by the CRSV Team, within the PBPS of DPET under DPO, jointly with offices and divisions within DPO, DPPA, OHCHR and OSRSG-SVC. Queries or comments should be directed to the DPO CRSV Team or DPPA Gender Peace and Security Unit, as appropriate.

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**J. HISTORY**

61. This is the first policy addressing CRSV. The Policy will be reviewed after two years in January 2022.
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**APPROVAL SIGNATURE:**

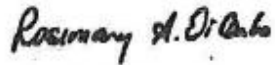


Jean-Pierre Lacroix  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Peace Operations

**DATE OF APPROVAL**

**OCT 30 2019**

**APPROVAL SIGNATURE:**

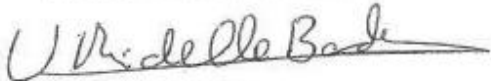


Rosemary DiCarlo  
Under-Secretary-General  
for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

**DATE OF APPROVAL**

**OCT 30 2019**

**APPROVAL SIGNATURE:**

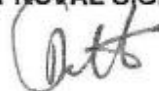


Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for  
Human Rights

**DATE OF APPROVAL**

**23.12.2019**

**APPROVAL SIGNATURE:**



Pramila Patten  
Under-Secretary-General and  
Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General on Sexual  
Violence in Conflict

**DATE OF APPROVAL**

**18 Nov. 2019**