



Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations

UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

Reading Guide for Military

SC Res. 1325 (2000)

*General*¹: A landmark legal and political framework, it acknowledges the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance. Normally, the resolution is described as having three themes; protection, participation and prevention.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict. The Security Council:

- Para 4. Further urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of **women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers**, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;
- Para 6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide to Member States **training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women**, as well as on the importance of **involving women in all peacekeeping** and peacebuilding measures, invites Member States to incorporate these elements as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training into their **national training programmes for military** and civilian police personnel in preparation for deployment, and further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive similar training;
- Para 10. **Calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls** from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;
- Para 12. Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to **respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps** and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design, and recalls its resolutions 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000;
- Para 13. Encourages all those involved in the planning for **disarmament, demobilization and reintegration** to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependants.

SC Res. 1820 (2008)

General: This is the first resolution to recognize sexual violence as a tactic of war, either when used systematically to achieve military or political ends, or when opportunistic and arising from cultures of impunity. It identifies sexual violence as a matter of international peace and security that necessitates a security response. It recognizes that such acts can exacerbate situations of armed conflict, and impede the restoration of peace and security. It

further notes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict: The Security Council

- Para 2. Demands the **immediate and complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians** with immediate effect;
- Para 3: Demands that **all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence**, which could include, inter alia, enforcing appropriate **military disciplinary measures** and upholding the principle of **command responsibility**, **training troops** on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, **debunking myths** that fuel sexual violence, **vetting** armed and security forces to take into account past actions of rape and other forms of sexual violence, and **evacuation of women and children** under imminent threat of sexual violence to safety; and *requests* the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to encourage dialogue to address this issue in the context of broader discussions of conflict resolution between appropriate UN officials and the parties to the conflict, **taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by women** of affected local communities;
- Para 4. Notes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a **war crime, a crime against humanity**, or a constitutive act with respect to **genocide**, stresses the need for the **exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions** in the context of conflict resolution processes, and calls upon Member States to comply with their obligations for **prosecuting** persons responsible for such acts, to ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and stresses the importance of **ending impunity** for such acts as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking sustainable peace, justice, truth, and national reconciliation;
- Para 6. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group and relevant States, as appropriate, to develop and implement appropriate **training programs for all peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel** deployed by the United Nations in the context of missions as mandated by the Council **to help them better prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence** and other forms of violence against civilians;
- Para 7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the **policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations**; and urges **troop and police contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including pre-deployment and in-theater awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability** in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;
- Para 8. Encourages **troop and police contributing countries**, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to consider steps they could take to **heighten awareness and the responsiveness** of their personnel participating in UN peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, including **women and children, and prevent sexual violence against women and girls** in conflict and post-conflict situations, including wherever possible the **deployment of a higher percentage of women peacekeepers** or police.

SC Res. 1888 (2009)

General: This resolution strengthens resolution 1820 by establishing leadership, deploying expertise and improving coordination among stakeholders involved in addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict: The Security Council:

- Preamble²: Recognizing the need for civilian and **military leaders**, consistent with the principle of **command responsibility**, to **demonstrate commitment and political will to prevent sexual violence and to combat impunity and enforce accountability**, and that inaction can send a message that the incidence of sexual violence in conflicts is tolerated;
- Para. 3. Demands that **all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence**, including measures such as, inter alia, enforcing appropriate **military disciplinary measures** and upholding the principle of **command responsibility**, **training troops** on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, **debunking myths** that fuel sexual violence and **vetting** candidates for national armies and security forces to ensure the **exclusion of those associated with serious violations** of international humanitarian and human rights law, including sexual violence;
- Para 4 sets up the function of a **Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict** with a mandate to work with numerous actors including military and parties to conflict;
- Para 7. Urges **all parties to a conflict to ensure that all reports of sexual violence committed by civilians or by military personnel are thoroughly investigated and the alleged perpetrators brought to justice**, and that **civilian superiors and military commanders, in accordance with international humanitarian law, use their authority and powers to prevent sexual violence, including by combating impunity**;
- Para 8 sets up **Team of Experts** with mandate to work with numerous actors, including military;
- Para 10. Reiterates its intention, when adopting or renewing **targeted sanctions** in situations of armed conflict, to consider including, where appropriate, designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence; and calls upon all peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions and United Nations bodies, in particular the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, **to share** with relevant United Nations Security Council sanctions committees, including through relevant United Nations Security Council Sanction Committees' monitoring groups and groups of experts, **all pertinent information about sexual violence**;
- Para 12. Decides to include **specific provisions**, as appropriate, **for the protection of women and children from rape and other sexual violence in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping operations**, including, on a case-by-case basis, the identification of **women's protection advisers (WPAs)** among gender advisers and human rights protection units, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the need for, and the number and roles of WPAs are systematically assessed during the preparation of each United Nations peacekeeping operation;
- Para 19. Encourages Member States to **deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations**, and to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities;
- Para 20: Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that **technical support is provided to troop and police contributing countries, in order to include guidance for military and police personnel on addressing sexual violence in predeployment and induction training**;

² The preamble is the first section of a Security Council resolution which gives context and general considerations. The second part is the operational paragraphs, marked with paragraph numbers, where the SC takes decisions.

- Para 21: Requests the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the **policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations**; and urges troop and police contributing countries to take **appropriate preventative action, including predeployment and in-theater awareness training**, and other action to ensure **full accountability** in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;
- Para 24: Requests that the Secretary-General ensure more **systematic reporting on incidents of trends, emerging patterns of attack, and early warning indicators of the use of sexual violence in armed conflict** in all relevant reports to the Council [...];
- Para 25: Requests the Secretary-General to include, where appropriate, in his regular reports on individual peacekeeping operations, **information on steps taken to implement measures to protect civilians, particularly women and children, against sexual violence**;
- Para 27 (c): Requests that the Secretary-General continue to submit **annual reports** to the Council [...] **including [...] information regarding parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence**, in situations that are on the Council's agenda.

SC Res. 1889 (2009)

General: This resolution stresses the need to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of resolution 1325. It calls for the establishment of global indicators, reiterates the mandate for increasing women's participation and reinforces calls for mainstreaming gender perspectives in all decision-making processes, especially in the early stages of post-conflict peacebuilding.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict: The Security Council:

- Para 2: Reiterates its call for **all parties in armed conflicts to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls**;
- Para 3: Strongly **condemns** all violations of applicable international law committed against women and girls in situations of armed conflicts and post-conflict situations, **demands all parties to conflicts to cease such acts** with immediate effect, and emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to **impunity** and to prosecute those responsible for all forms of violence committed against women and girls in armed conflicts, including rape and other sexual violence;
- Para 12: Calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to **respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps** and settlements, and ensure the protection of all civilians inhabiting such camps, in particular women and girls, from all forms of violence, including rape and other sexual violence, and to ensure **full, unimpeded and secure humanitarian access** to them.

SC Res. 1960 (2010)

General: This resolution provides an accountability system for stopping conflict-related sexual violence. It requests lists of perpetrators and annual reports on parties suspected of committing or being responsible for sexual violence. It stipulates strategic, coordinated and timely collection of information for and briefings to the Security Council on conflict-related sexual violence, and calls for countries to establish specific time-bound commitments to address the issue.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict: The Security Council:

- Preamble: Reiterating the need for civilian and **military leaders**, consistent with the principle of **command responsibility**, to **demonstrate commitment and political will to prevent sexual violence** and to combat impunity and enforce **accountability**, and that **inaction can send a message that the incidence of sexual violence in conflicts is tolerated**;
- Para 3. Encourages the Secretary-General to include in his **annual reports** submitted pursuant to resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009) **detailed information on parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for acts of rape or other forms of sexual violence**, and to **list in an annex** to these annual reports the parties that are credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the Security Council agenda; expresses its intention **to use this list as a basis for more focused United Nations engagement** with those parties, including, as appropriate, measures in accordance with the procedures of the relevant **sanctions** committees;
- Para 5. Calls upon **parties to armed conflict to make and implement specific and time-bound commitments** to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of **clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence** and the prohibition of sexual violence in **Codes of Conduct, military field manuals**, or equivalent; and further calls upon those parties to make and implement specific commitments on timely **investigation** of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable; Para 6. Requests the Secretary-General to **track and monitor implementation of these commitments** by parties to armed conflict on the Security Council's agenda that engage in patterns of rape and other sexual violence, and regularly update the Council in relevant reports and briefings;
- Para 7. Reiterates its intention, when adopting or renewing **targeted sanctions** in situations of armed conflict, to consider including, where appropriate, designation criteria pertaining to acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence; and calls upon all peacekeeping and other relevant United Nations missions and United Nations entities [...] to share with relevant United Nations Security Council Sanctions Committees [...] all pertinent information about sexual violence;
- Para 8. Requests the Secretary General to establish **monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence**, including rape in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict and [...] to engage with United Nations actors[...] to **enhance data collection and analysis of incidents, trends, and patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence** to assist the Council's consideration of appropriate actions, including targeted and graduated measures[...];
- Para 11. Welcomes the elaboration by the Secretary-General of **scenario-based training materials on combating sexual violence for peacekeepers** and **encourages Member States to use them as a reference for the preparation and deployment of United Nations peacekeeping operations**;
- Para 15. Encourages Member States to **deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel** to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and to **provide all military and police personnel with adequate training on sexual and gender-based violence, inter alia, to carry out their responsibilities**;
- Para 16. Requests the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the **policy of zero tolerance on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeeping** and humanitarian personnel, and further requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide and deploy guidance on addressing sexual

violence for predeployment and inductive training of military and police personnel, and to **assist missions in developing situation-specific procedures to address sexual violence at the field level and to ensure that technical support is provided to troop and police contributing countries in order to include guidance for military and police personnel on addressing sexual violence in predeployment and induction training.**

SC Res. 2106 (2013)

General: This resolution adds greater operational details to previous resolutions on this topic, reiterates that all actors, including not only the Security Council and parties to armed conflict, but all Member States and United Nations entities, must do more to implement previous mandates and combat impunity for these crimes.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict: The Security Council:

- Preamble: Recalling the **Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on United Nations Support to non-United Nations Security Forces** as a tool to enhance compliance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, including to address sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations;
- Para 10. Reiterates its **demand for the complete cessation with immediate effect by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence** and its call for these parties to **make and implement specific time-bound commitments** to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of **clear orders** through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and **accountability** for breaching these orders, the prohibition of sexual violence in **Codes of Conduct, military and police field manuals** or equivalent and to make and implement specific commitments on timely **investigation** of alleged abuses; and further calls upon all relevant parties to armed conflict to cooperate in the framework of such commitments, with appropriate United Nations mission personnel who monitor their implementation, and calls upon the parties to designate, as appropriate, a high-level representative responsible for ensuring implementation of such commitments;
- Para 11. Emphasizes the **important role that can be played by women**, civil society, including women's organizations, and formal and informal community leaders **in exerting influence over parties to armed conflict** with respect to addressing sexual violence;
- Para 17. Recognizes that **women who have been forcefully abducted into armed groups and armed forces**, as well as children, are especially vulnerable to sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and as such demands that parties to armed conflict immediately **identify and release** such persons from their ranks.

SC Res. 2122 (2013)

General: This resolution sets in place stronger measures to enable women to participate in conflict resolution and recovery, and puts the onus on the Security Council, the United Nations, regional organizations and Member States to dismantle the barriers, create the space, and provide seats at the table for women. The Resolution positions gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security, underlining that women's economic empowerment greatly contributes to stabilizing societies emerging from conflict. It establishes a roadmap and calls for: the development and deployment of technical expertise for peacekeeping missions and UN mediation teams supporting peace talks; improved access to timely information and analysis on the impact of conflict on women and women's participation in conflict resolution; and strengthened commitments to consult or include women directly in peace talks. It sets out the need for humanitarian aid to ensure

access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including for pregnancies resulting from rape.

Specific paragraphs on military and parties to conflict: The Security Council:

- Para 5. Requests United Nations **peacekeeping mission leadership to assess the human rights violations and abuses of women** in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and **requests peacekeeping missions, in keeping with their mandates, to address the security threats and protection challenges faced by women and girls** in armed conflict and post-conflict settings;
- Para 9. Encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to **increase the percentage of women military** and police in deployments to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and further encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to **provide all military and police personnel with adequate training** to carry out their responsibilities, and relevant United Nations entities to make available appropriate **guidance or training modules**, including in particular the United Nations **predeployment scenario-based training on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence**;