Donor Roundtable

16 SEPTEMBER 2021
ILLUSTRATED READOUT

PREPARED BY
UN ACTION SECRETARIAT
Speakers

MEMBER STATES

Norway
Gunn Jorid Roset, Director on Humanitarian Affairs
(accompanied by Idar Asmund Instefjord and Mona Tranoy)

Sweden
Sofia Calltorp, Ambassador for Gender Equality and Coordinator of Feminist Foreign Policy
(accompanied by Anna Larsson, Annette Widholm Bolme)

Japan
H.E. Kimura Tetsuya, Ambassador, Economic, Social and United Nations Management Affairs, Japan
(accompanied by Mio Akita)

UN ENTITIES

UN Action
Pramila Patten, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, UN Action Chair, and UN Women Executive Director a.i.

UN Action
Bernadette Sene, Coordinator, UN Action

UNHCR
Grainne O’Hara, Director, Division of International Protection,
(accompanied by Julian Herrera, Constanze Quosh)

UNODC
Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, via pre-recorded video
(accompanied by Satoko Nadamoto, Sara Oliveira)

IOM
Lucky Omaar (accompanied by Sonya Armaghanyan, Dahlia Ezekwonna, Antonina Njau)

UNAMI
Noel Kututwa
PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES

Australia
Ambassador Fiona Webster, Australia’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN

Denmark
Marie-Louise Wegter, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN (accompanied by Tanja Vestergaard-Hinds)

Kenya
Njambi Kinyungu, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN (accompanied by Lynn Mogodu, Mohammed Zamzam)

Saudi Arabia
Sulafa Mousa, Head of Department

Luxembourg
Galatée Fouquet, Attachée

Estonia
Ida Høiberg

Canada
Méliné Svadjian, Senior Advisor

Bahrain
Suma al-Alaiwat

Ireland
Alexandra Trant, Lead Policy Adviser

China
Dan Gui

Switzerland
Simon Stocker, Adviser

Finland
Jatta Väisänen

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ESTONIA

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CANADA

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BAHRAIN

Suma al-Alaiwat

IRELAND

Alexandra Trant, Lead Policy Adviser

CHINA

Dan Gui

SWITZERLAND

Simon Stocker, Adviser

FINLAND

Jatta Väisänen

UN ENTITIES

OSAPG
Alice Nderitu, Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

UNFPA
Ib Petersen, Deputy Executive Director (Management)
(accompanied by Emily Krasnor)

DPPA
Teresa Whitfield, Director, Policy and Mediation
(accompanied by Tanisha Hewanpola)

DPO
David Haeri, Director, Policy, Evaluation and Training Division
(accompanied by Federica Seymandi, Chloe Silvestre)

UNOCT
Raffi Gregorian, Deputy to the USG and Director
(accompanied by Natalia Kislitsina and Sara Negrao)

IOM
Tristan Burnett, Deputy Director of the Department of Operations and Emergencies
(accompanied by Anna Reichenberg, Louise O’Shea)

OSRSG-CAAC
Nicolas Gerard, Chief – Monitoring, Reporting and Regional Partnerships
(accompanied by Fabiene Vinet, Alessia Chiocchetti, Laura Huchet)

UN Women
Paivi Kannisto, Chief, Peace and Security
(accompanied by Emily Kenney)

OSRSG-VAC
Annette Lyth

UNICEF
Christine Heckman

OCHA
April Pham, Toni-Anne Stewart

UNODA
Frida Thomassen

OHCHR
Victoria Kuhn

OSGEY
Lili Vessereau

CTED
Krisztina Huszti-Orban

UNDP MPTFO
Mari Matsumoto

TOE
Toby Bonini, Chloe Marnay-Baszanger

OSRSG-SVC
Tonderai Chikhuwa, Letitia Anderson, Alejandro Sanchez, Lindsay Forslund, Elizabeth Kissam, Sana Hajra

Consultants
Bina Emanvel, Karen Newman

Secretariat
Fareen Walji, Fukumi Orikasa, Choki Dolma, Laura Navalta

Margot de Fenoyl
Summary

The UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict Network (UN Action) hosted a virtual Donor Roundtable on Thursday, 16th September 2021 to apprise current and potential donors on the Network’s initiatives and strategic priorities. The event thus aimed to engage Member States in the advocacy and financial support of UN Action through the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence – Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

The Donor Roundtable opened and closed with remarks from the Chair of UN Action, SRSG-SVC Ms. Pramila Patten, as well as representatives from UNHCR, Ms. Grainne O’Hara, and UNODC, Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, as members of the Steering Committee. The event included presentations from the Senior Women’s Protection Advisor in Erbil, Iraq, Mr. Noel Kututwa, and an officer implementing a UN Action project on the reintegration and rehabilitation of women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab in Somalia, Ms. Lucky Omaar. Sweden, Norway, and Japan, all of whom are past or current donors of UN Action, also delivered remarks from the donors’ perspective. An Open Dialogue session allowed Member States and member entities to share statements.
Opening and Introduction

OPENING REMARKS BY MS. PRAMILA PATTEN, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT, UN ACTION CHAIR, AND UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A.I.

- SRSG Patten introduced the Donor Roundtable event, noting that the event occurs against the backdrop of a global health crisis that has deepened existing structural inequalities, insecurity, and displacement that has rendered survivors of conflict-related sexual violence vulnerable to re-victimisation at a time when avenues for reporting and redress are more restricted than ever. She expressed concern over the events in Ethiopia (Tigray) and Afghanistan.
- UN Action was established almost 15 years ago as a coordination platform by a small group of UN entities committed to working as one, to raise awareness, and galvanise action against a crime that, at the time, was committed widely, but scarcely discussed.

SRSG Patten noted her pride in how the Network has operated, and grown, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the Network has 20 member entities that work together to meet the needs of survivors. She explained that the central strategic imperative of the CRSV mandate is fostering national ownership, leadership, and responsibility, which is primarily done through formal commitments she signs on behalf of the United Nations with affected countries (Joint Communiqués, Frameworks of Cooperation). There are currently 11 of these commitments.

- SRSG Patten noted that her Office recently published a digital anthology of more than 150 testimonies from survivors and service providers who shared their stories in their own words.
- Referencing that in 2020, only 0.49% of the US$27.5 billion allocated for humanitarian response was committed to gender-based violence in emergencies, she emphasised that the funding needs for CRSV response remain unmet.

“*The crime of sexual violence in conflict has been history’s most neglected and least condemned atrocity of war. It is my sincere hope that today’s event will result in a demonstration of the political and financial support necessary to respond to the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.”*
Ms. O’Hara shared UNHCR’s pride in its membership and work with the UN Action Network as one of its original members. She emphasised that UNHCR shares the Network’s vision of the need for a system-wide, coherent, and combined response to CRSV.

UNHCR primarily sees the pervasiveness of CRSV through the traumatic experiences of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are also survivors of CRSV. UNHCR’s mandate covers specific aspects of the protection of CRSV survivors. Ms. O’Hara mentioned that she is encouraged by the work that is being done by the UN to break the cycle of CRSV and offer survivors services that support their recovery, particularly in the spirit of resolution 1325. UNHCR and UN Action has worked together to support IDPs and returnees return to their communities as valuable contributors to peace and reconciliation efforts.

UNHCR has seconded a staff member, Mr. Julian Herrera, to the UN Action Secretariat to support the important work of the Network, particularly in the prevention of CRSV. UNHCR is looking to extend and broaden this secondment to firm its commitment to the Network and mandate.

Ms. O’Hara emphasised that the CRSV-MPTF has proven to be the backbone of translating the aspirations of the UN Action Network into concrete, impactful work. UNHCR has benefitted from funding through the CRSV-MPTF, and its predecessor the UN Action-MPTF, to multiply its strength and capacity to respond to the needs of survivors of CRSV.
Ms. Sene presented the important initiatives undertaken by the UN Action Network and the ambitious plan delivering to survivors of CRSV across the peacebuilding, development, and humanitarian nexus for the coming years.

The main goal of the Network is to prevent CRSV and ensure that survivors needs are met and that perpetrators are held accountable for their crime. Its strategic direction, which has been developed to 2025, is guided by the priorities outlined by SRSG Patten and Security Council resolutions, and focused around five key outcome areas on: ensuring regular and smooth coordination of the Network; CRSV prevention, protection, and support to survivors; capacity building and strategic engagement, particularly with duty-bearers; knowledge building and development of policies, guidance, and tools and; data collection, management, monitoring, analysis, and harmonisation.

Some initiatives that are currently in progress include an assessment of the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) to enhance the understanding on whether it has fulfilled its purpose to improve information collection, analysis, and coordination in the field; a guidance for a cohesive understanding of what it means to take a survivor-centred approach in the wake of CRSV; a framework on prevention that will translate the concept of prevention as an international norm into a practical reality; a working group focused on developing new tools and tactics to address the nexus of terrorism, violent extremism, and CRSV; a country-level gaps assessment to better understand what commitments are being upheld and where the gaps and challenges remain in the national response to CRSV; the revitalisation of the public-facing Stop Rape Now campaign (including the Get Crossed symbol) and, finally; impactful joint projects.

Ms. Sene emphasised that without sustained support to the UN Action Network through the CRSV-MPTF, the international community may face a reality where survivors and communities are further left behind. However, Ms. Sene estimated that,

"with a million dollars, UN Action could set up four One-Stop Centres to support thousands of survivors access the essential and life-saving services they need. With four million dollars, UN Action could empower 2500 women in 20 communities to become economically independent, and act as agents of change in the societies that had formerly excluded them".
Mr. Kututwa expressed that UN Action has been a critical player and reliable partner in supporting advocacy efforts to ensure the full delivery of the CRSV mandate in Iraq. He provided the context within which CRSV has been occurring in Iraq - that the armed conflict in Iraq, between Iraqi forces and their allies against ISIL began in December 2013 and ended in December 2017, where an estimated 16 million people were displaced and at least 1.4 million people remained displaced at the beginning of 2020. He noted that part of ISIL’s strategy was the use sexual violence to terrify communities from all ethnic groups, particularly the Yazidi people.

The Joint Communiqué signed in 2016 between the UN and the federal government focused on six priorities – legislative reforms and accountability; service provision and livelihood support; reparations for survivors; engaging tribal, religious, and CSO leaders in prevention; ensuring CRSV concerns were addressed in counter-terrorism measures and; raising awareness on CRSV.

UN Action funded projects that carried out targeted activities in response to these priorities. One project tackled mental health and psychosocial support; another sought reparation for survivors; another supported children born of rape. UNAMI coordinates these projects.

Mr. Kututwa shared that a key result of their hard work was the enactment of the Yazidi Survivors’ Law on 5 March 2021, which is a major step in responding to the needs of survivors as it calls for reparations, care, and rehabilitation of survivors and recognises the need for accountability. This law also ensures that the perpetrators of gross human rights violations will not benefit from general amnesty, as aligned with international law.

Mr. Kututwa noted that the recent political developments in Iraq have led to a de-prioritisation of CRSV. Funding shortage and staff turnover are key challenges that are also affecting the response to CRSV.

Ms. Omaar, IOM’s Women, Peace, and Security Officer, supported the UN Action funded project that offers rehabilitation and reintegration support services for women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab.

She recalled when SRSG Patten visited Somalia and the project in 2019. This visit gave the project team the opportunity to share what they were witnessing through the new programme – they learned that women in Al-Shabaab were threatened by their families because of the sexual violence they experienced. The project, through partnerships with community organisations, was able to provide psychosocial support, livelihoods support, counselling, social reintegration support that enhanced trust between the women and their communities, thanks to UN Action funding.

Ms. Omaar added that her team has been able to advocate at the government level and onboard female focal points for the national programme for the rehabilitation for survivors. They have also provided capacity building trainings to government and community officials to continue this work themselves.

This programme created a conversation around CRSV, where none existed before.

Ms. Omaar emphasised the need for more support from UN Action to further projects such as this one.
Video Presentation

The video created June 2020, *Ending Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: What the UN is Doing*, focused on how the UN has been responding to conflict-related sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Conflict-related sexual violence can amount to war crimes, crime against humanity, or can be a constituent element of genocide.

Decades of conflict have resulted in widespread conflict-related sexual violence and other serious violations.

In 2019, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 2467, urging countries to strengthen justice and accountability for survivors.

It recognizes the need for a survivor-centred approach in preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.
Donor Perspectives

REMARKS BY MS. SOFIA CALLTORP, AMBASSADOR FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND COORDINATOR OF FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SWEDEN

- Ambassador Calltorp shared that Sweden has a feminist foreign policy, of which preventing and addressing CRSV is a critical part. Sweden was historically a strong partner to UN Action through advocacy and financial support; it is also one of the core contributors to the Team of Experts.
- Ambassador Calltorp emphasised that the work of UN Action has been critical to keeping CRSV issues on the agenda at the Security Council, at the national level, and at the country levels. Emphasising a survivor-centred approach, Ambassador Calltorp highlighted the importance of prevention efforts, particularly due to the inter-connected-ness of gender issues. She added that UN Action's holistic approach through its 20 member entities is particularly important in addressing the root causes of CRSV in conflict settings with special attention to the intersectionality of discrimination. She expressed that Sweden will continue to be a supporter of this approach.

REMARKS BY MS. GUNN JORID ROSET, DIRECTOR ON HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NORWAY

- Norway has been a supporter of UN Action for many years and has closely collaborated with the Office of the SRSG-SVC, as well. Ms. Roset shared that in June, Norway signed a new, three-year agreement to support UN Action.
- The protection of people-at-risk of sexual violence is a priority for Norway, as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2021-2022.
- Ms. Roset recalled a conference in Oslo, held shortly after resolution 2467, that brought together donors, Member States, UN actors, and civil society organisations to commit to ending SGBV in humanitarian crises and conflicts; 'it is now up to us to make sure these commitments are respected'.
- Ms. Roset noted that it is imperative that CRSV is addressed in ceasefire and peace agreements, including the monitoring of these commitments. More comprehensive, coordinated, and targeted efforts in peace operations are needed.
- Norway is also the Chair of the working group on children in armed conflict. Ms. Roset called on the international community’s shared responsibility to do more to stop the widespread use of CRSV against girls and boys. She also called for global support to UN Action as the only coordination platform for the UN in the operationalisation of the CRSV agenda.

REMARKS BY H.E. MR. KIMURA TETSUYA, AMBASSADOR, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND UN MANAGEMENT AFFAIRS, JAPAN

- Ambassador Tetsuya reiterated that victims and survivors of CRSV have been experiencing the heavy toll of emerging challenges, including the pandemic. Japan has been supporting the Office of the SRSG-SVC since 2014 and has been supporting UN Action through various projects, such as one in the Middle East to support survivors and children born from wartime rape.
- In addition to contributions to projects, Japan has also supported UN Action through personnel (JPO in the UN Action Secretariat), innovative technological solutions (such as a software system designed to manage individual cases and services for survivors to allow for remote case management), and advocacy (for example, in Security Council meetings). Ambassador Tetsuya noted that Japan would like to continue supporting UN Action in order to contribute to fostering the resilience of individuals and communities that face CRSV.
Open Dialogue Session

MEMBER STATES

SAUDI ARABIA, MS. SULAYFA MOUSA, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- Ms. Mousa congratulated UN Action and pointed out that Saudi Arabia has contributed US$1.6 million to support UNFPA’s emergency services to prevent gender-based violence in Yemen. It hopes to continue to support the CRSV mandate.

KENYA, MS. NJAMBI KINYUNGUL, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- Ms. Kinyungul thanked UN Action and SRSG Patten for this event. She strongly condemned GBV and its manifestations in sexual violence. She further noted that upholding and strengthening protection against CRSV is critical for Kenya.
- Kenya recently launched a roadmap for advancing gender equality and ending GBV. It also has 12 new commitments that target awareness raising, resources, and government involvement in the prevention of GBV, in general. Kenya has decided to invest $23 million for the prevention of GBV by 2022 and committed to establish a GBV Survivors’ Fund through partnership with the private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to support the economic empowerment and access to services for survivors.
- She called on Member States and the international community to support regional efforts against CRSV through enhanced funding, particularly in programmes that sensitise communities and support survivors.

DENMARK, MS. MARIE LOUISE WEGTER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- Ms. Wegter expressed that Denmark prioritises the response to CRSV, noting that it is currently the Chair for the Call to Action. She noted that Denmark is very pleased with its partnership with the Office of the SRSG-SVC, where their joint work has focused on accountability. She shared that Denmark will follow up with UN Action to concretely develop further partnerships.
AUSTRALIA, MS. FIONA WEBSTER, AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- Ambassador Webster noted Australia’s commitment to eradicate CRSV, where WPS is central. She acknowledged the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls and that women are powerful mediators, peacebuilders, and leaders. Australia's second National Action Plan on WPS focuses on the reduction of CRSV, the prevention of CRSV, and access to secure and sustained peace.
- Australia is a proud founding member of the Call to Action on Protection in GBViE, including CRSV. Ambassador Webster emphasised the importance of working with local women’s organisations, who are often at the frontline of prevention and response. She illustrated this with an example of work supported by Australia in Bangladesh where special assistance was delivered to the Rohingya people and the host communities in Cox’s Bazaar, including counselling and support.
- Ambassador Webster emphasised the importance of collaborative action across the humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development nexus.

UN ENTITIES

IOM, MS. TRISTAN BURNETT
Ms. Burnett expressed IOM's commitment to UN Action and noted its gratitude to donors for their contributions to the Trust Fund, specifically the allocation of funds to the joint programme in Somalia. She noted that these contributions have enabled strategic, catalytic work that otherwise would have not happened. “Now is the time to step up contributions towards GBV response, services, and programmes.”

UNOCT, MR. RAFFI GREGORIAN
Mr. Gregorian noted that UNOCT is a recent member of UN Action and is very pleased to have joined in order to specifically address how terrorists and violent extremists build-in misogyny and sexual violence into their agendas. He drew attention to the submission of a joint programme with CTED and IOM on CRSV that will focus on supporting victims of CRSV and terrorism. UNOCT has also developed, with UNODC, a set of model legislative provisions for victims of terrorism, which should be completed by the end of 2021.

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER ON THE PREVENTION OF GENOCIDE, SPECIAL ADVISER MS. ALICE NDERITU
Special Adviser Ms. Nderitu expressed her appreciation in her capacity as Steering Committee Principal of the UN Action Network to those attending this event. She noted that her Office looks forward to building further connections through the Network, particularly in the engagement of religious leaders and actors in the prevention and response to CRSV.

DPO, MR. DAVID HAERI
Mr. Haeri noted DPO’s commitment to UN Action, particularly as one of its founding members. DPO has led the development of the first conference in Hamburg for CRSV programmes, which took place in 2020. It was thanks to the (UN Action) MPTF that DPO was able to carry out a number of impactful initiatives on CRSV in DRC, South Sudan, and other peacekeeping operations. He encouraged donors to take a look at the positive work of the MPTF.

DPPA, MS. TERESA WHITFIELD
Ms. Whitfield echoed the sentiments of her colleagues, particularly the commitment of DPPA to the CRSV mandate. She added that Afghanistan is an urgently concerning context and hopes that the Network will be supported in its ability to respond there.

OCHA, MS. APRIL PHAM
Ms. Pham shared that any effort to gather funding for CRSV is greatly appreciated.

UN WOMEN, MS. PAIVI KANNISTO
Ms. Kannisto affirmed UN Women’s support to UN Action as a proud and committed member of the Network.
Closing

The video created June 2021, Messages from adolescent girls on conflict-related sexual violence, interview a group of adolescent girls in the Zaatari Camp on what comes to their minds when they hear about conflict-related sexual violence.

Remarks by Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNODC (via pre-recorded video)

- Ms. Waly noted that UNODC is proud to be a member of UN Action. She reiterated that the crime of CRSV cannot be tolerated, especially when rape is used as a strategy by terrorist groups.
- Ms. Waly emphasised that the combined, comprehensive effort of UN Action as a Network is key to preventing and responding to CRSV. She noted that COVID-19 and its restrictions have exacerbated the needs of survivors. She appealed to all donors to support UN Action and the CRSV mandate as it hopes to address these challenges. Finally, she paid tribute to all survivors of CRSV and those who support them.
SRSG Patten reiterated the call, as articulated in the Secretary-General’s annual Report on CRSV this year, to: “address chronic funding shortfalls... by providing predictable financial support to the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund”. She called on Member States to explore both traditional and innovative ways of supporting the CRSV mandate and UN Action.

SRSG Patten expressed that there is a tangible difference in the impact on survivors’ lives and the prevention of sexual violence when there is a Senior Women’s Protection Adviser in the field, coordinating the work. However, these teams, though dedicated, are too often under-staffed or ‘a team of one’. She noted that without sustained and collective support, UN Action will no longer be able to operate, the CRSV mandate will lose one of its operational arms, and victims and survivors of CRSV will be left behind and forgotten.

SRSG Patten announced that her Office will host a Donor Conference, including non-traditional donors, such as philanthropists and the private sector, in 2022.

SRSG Patten closed the event by thanking each speaker and saying,

“We can make a difference in the lives of people threatened by sexual violence in conflict. We are here in their service, in our common goal of seeing a better world”.

Global Attendance

85 Participants
22 Countries Represented
18 UN Entities

STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT