

SPECIALIZED PAPER: ESSAYS

Instructions: Answer one essay of your choice from each of the two essay sets, amounting to a total of two (2) essays. Clearly mark the choice of essay on your answer booklet. Answering an additional essay will **not** result in additional points.

Suggested time: 65 minutes
Maximum score: 180 points

ESSAY A (option 1)

You are working as a Public Information Officer in a UN country office. You have been asked by your supervisor to develop a national communications campaign strategy to promote clean water and sanitation. Elaborate on the key elements of the strategy. Describe tools and channels to be used for its implementation.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 65 minutes
Maximum score: 180 points

ESSAY A (option 2)

The UN works with well-known personalities as Goodwill Ambassadors to advance certain causes. The Department of Public Information is developing a global campaign to promote universal primary education. Please write an essay, covering the following points:

- a) Three ways of using the Goodwill Ambassador as part of this global campaign;
- b) Three advantages and three risks of using a Goodwill Ambassador;
- c) Another option for external partnerships to promote the cause, besides a Goodwill Ambassador.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 65 minutes
Maximum score: 180 points

ESSAY B (option 1)

Write a news story, including a headline, of no more than 300 words on the UN's response to an incident off Gaza for the UN News Centre, the United Nations' main news portal for providing information to the general public. Use the following attached support materials in Annex 1 (starting on page 25): statements from the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; as well as two wire service stories.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 65 minutes
Maximum score: 180 points

ESSAY B (option 2)

On the occasion of International Women's Day, prepare an opinion-piece, including a headline, of no more than 500 words on the elimination of violence against women, in the name of the Secretary-General, for publication in major newspapers around the world.

Use the following support materials on the issue: a speech by UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet on the Prevention of Violence against Women, the Secretary-General's report on the issue and a fact sheet from the Department of Public Information (see Annex 2, starting on page 29).

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

SPECIALIZED PAPER: QUESTIONS

Instructions: Answer the eight (8) questions.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 1

Briefly describe three advantages and three risks or challenges of using social media to disseminate United Nations messages.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 2

You are tasked to organize a press conference for the SG who is travelling to the country where you are based as a Public Information Officer. Briefly describe the steps you would take to organize the press conference.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 3

The United Nations Information Centres (UNICs), located in 63 countries worldwide, link the United Nations with people around the world, disseminating global UN messages to local audiences.

You are working as a Public Information Officer at a UNIC faced with limited financial and human resources. Describe three measures you would take to maximize the impact of your work.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 4

You have been assigned to produce and disseminate a short video or audio programme to promote a key UN issue. Choose one of the media (video or audio) and outline key steps in producing and distributing the programme.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 5

There are conflicting media reports on an attack on UN peacekeepers in a UN peacekeeping mission. Based at UN Headquarters, you have been asked to prepare a short news story for UN Radio on the incident. What information sources would you consult to prepare the story? Explain your choices briefly.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 6

World AIDS Day is approaching. You have been asked to select five images from the UN photo library for a photo essay for the UN News Centre, the UN's main news portal for informing the public. Briefly describe five images you would use for the essay and reasons for your choice.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 7

The United Nations Information Centres (UNICs), located in 63 countries worldwide, link the United Nations with people around the world, disseminating global UN messages to local audiences.

Describe three ways the UNICs can support the implementation of a global communications campaign.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Suggested time: 8 minutes
Maximum score: 30 points

QUESTION 8

The UN is trying to raise awareness of maternal health in remote areas which suffer from high illiteracy rates. Describe three ways to reach this audience.

IMPORTANT: Write your answers in black or blue pen on the dedicated pages of the answer booklet.

Annexes in English (pages 25 to 51)
Annexes en français (pages 51 à 80)

Annex 1

i) Secretary-General statement on flotilla incident

Kampala, Uganda, 31 May 2010 - Secretary-General's remarks to the media at ICC Review Conference - includes statement on Gaza

Ambassador Wenaweser,
 Judge Song,

Representatives of the national and international media,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank Ambassador Wenaweser and President Song for their tireless efforts in preparing this landmark event, and for their commitment to international criminal justice. It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with them. As I said in my speech to the conference, the old era of impunity is over. In its place, slowly but surely, we are witnessing the birth of a new age of accountability. The establishment of the International Criminal Court struck a resounding blow for peace, justice and human rights. At this conference, we hope to take stock of the Court's progress and strengthen it for the future. We want to send a message: that atrocities and heinous crimes cannot go unpunished. And we want to bolster the Court's deterrent effect – and make potential perpetrators think twice before they act. I urge all States to cooperate with the Court, and I encourage those States that have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute. For the ICC to have the reach it should possess, it must have universal support. Otherwise, we simply embolden those who would commit terrible crimes and those who might want to see the Court fail. The United Nations played an essential role in bringing the ICC into existence. We have stood with the Court ever since, advocating for it and cooperating with it. It has become the centrepiece of our system of international criminal justice. Kampala is an opportunity to advance the cause further still. In view of the seriousness of the situation which happened this morning, I would like with the understanding of the President of the ICC and the President of this Conference, if I make a statement on that situation. I am shocked by reports of killings and injuries of people on the boats carrying supplies for Gaza, apparently in international waters, in the early hours of this morning. I condemn this violence. We do not yet know the full facts yet. More than ten people appeared to have been killed and many more wounded. It is vital that there is a full investigation to determine exactly how this bloodshed took place. I believe Israel must urgently provide a full explanation. I have instructed my Special Coordinator, Robert Serry, and UNRWA Commissioner General Filippo Grandi, to actively engage on the ground in urging restraint and ensuring that no further harm is done and coordinating with all relevant parties.

ii) Security Council statement on flotilla incident

Statement by the President of the Security Council
 1 June 2010

At the 6326th meeting of the Security Council, held on 1 June 2010, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council deeply regrets the loss of life and injuries resulting from the use of force during the Israeli military operation in international waters against the convoy sailing to Gaza. The Council, in this context, condemns those acts which resulted in the loss of at least ten civilians and many wounded, and expresses its condolences to their families.

"The Security Council requests the immediate release of the ships as well as the civilians held by Israel. The Council urges Israel to permit full consular access, to allow the countries concerned to retrieve their deceased and wounded immediately, and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance from the convoy to its destination.

"The Security Council takes note of the statement of the UN Secretary-General on the need to have a full investigation into the matter and it calls for a prompt, impartial, credible and transparent investigation conforming to international standards.

"The Security Council stresses that the situation in Gaza is not sustainable. The Council re-emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of Resolutions 1850 and 1860. In that context, it reiterates its grave concern at the humanitarian situation in Gaza and stresses the need for sustained and regular flow of goods and people to Gaza as well as unimpeded provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza.

"The Security Council underscores that the only viable solution to Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an agreement negotiated between the parties and re-emphasizes that only a two-State solution, with an independent and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours, could bring peace to the region.

"The Security Council expresses support for the proximity talks and voices concern that this incident took place while the proximity talks are underway and urges the parties to act with restraint, avoiding any unilateral and provocative actions, and all international partners to promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the parties and throughout the region."

iii) Emergency Relief Coordinator's statement on flotilla incident

Statement of John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, on the 'Free Gaza' Flotilla Crisis (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

(New York, 31 May 2010): As Emergency Relief Coordinator, I condemn this dreadful waste of life over a humanitarian issue. Whatever the truth about what happened, which the full investigation called for by the Secretary-General should establish quickly, such an incident should never have happened or needed to happen. The blockade of Gaza by Israel has been unacceptable, unnecessary and counterproductive from its beginning in 2007. It has worsened conditions of life for one and a half million Palestinians, deepened poverty and food insecurity, prevented reconstruction, and increased aid dependence by destroying livelihoods and economic activity. It has helped only the extremists. I call for this disaster to be the occasion for this collective punishment of the people of Gaza to be lifted once and for all.

iv.) Reuters wire service stories

Israel flotilla action criticized by friends and foes
Mon, May 31 2010

DUBAI (Reuters) - Israel's storming of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla set off a diplomatic furor, drawing criticism from friends and foes alike and straining ties with regional ally Turkey, which called off planned joint military exercises. The United Nations Security Council called an emergency session for later Monday following the killing of 10 of the mostly international activists aboard a six-ship convoy that tried to break Israel's blockade of Gaza. U.S. President Barack Obama told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu he deeply regretted the loss of life and urged him to collect all the facts about the incident as soon as possible, the White House said. Obama, in a phone call to Netanyahu, also said he understood the prime minister's decision to cancel their White House talks set for Tuesday to return home from Canada, and they agreed to reschedule a meeting "at the first opportunity." "The president expressed deep regret at the loss of life in today's incident, and concern for the wounded," the White House said. "The president also expressed the importance of learning all the facts and circumstances around this morning's tragic events as soon as possible." Netanyahu told reporters in Canada: "Regrettably, in this exchange, at least 10 people died. We regret this loss of life." Turkey, Israel's strongest Muslim friend in the region, summoned Israel's ambassador and said it would recall its own. "This action, totally contrary to the principles of international law, is inhumane state terrorism. Nobody should think we will keep quiet in the face of this," Erdogan told reporters from Chile, where he was cutting short an official visit to Latin

America to deal with the crisis. Israeli commandos intercepted the flotilla carrying 700 people and 10,000 tonnes of supplies for Gaza before dawn on Monday. Officials said they were met with knives when they boarded the ships, including a ferry flying the Turkish flag. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas described the killings as a massacre, and the United Nations and European Union both demanded an inquiry. Rights group Amnesty International said Israeli forces appeared to have used excessive force. Turkey, which had urged Israel to allow the ships safe passage, canceled planned joint military exercises with Israel. "Israel will have to endure the consequences of this behavior," Turkey's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. Television images from Ankara, whose ties with Israel had already soured somewhat since last year following Turkish criticism of Israel, showed dozens of people gathered outside Israeli Ambassador Gabby Levy's residence in Turkey's capital. France's Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner said the violence could not be justified. "I am profoundly shocked by the tragic consequences of the Israeli military operation against the Peace Flotilla for Gaza," he said in a statement. United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "It is vital that there is a full investigation to determine exactly how this bloodshed took place. I believe Israel must urgently provide a full explanation." Iran, one of Israel's biggest foes, said the killings were "inhuman" and would help lead to the Jewish state's demise, and some 200 Iranians staged a demonstration near the United Nations building in Tehran to protest against the storming. "All these acts indicate the end of the heinous and fake regime and will bring it closer to the end of its existence," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told state broadcaster IRIB. Iran is under international pressure over its nuclear program. In the Arab world, the incident was viewed as an overreaction to an attempt to challenge Israel's Gaza blockade that could put the brakes on any further efforts at normalization and may derail the peace process. "Israel's attack indicates Israel is not ready for peace. Israel attacked the liberty fleet because it feels it is above the law," Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said. "There is no benefit in dealing with Israel in this manner and we must re-assess our dealing with Israel," he said.

Thousands protest flotilla deaths, clashes in Athens
Mon, May 31 2010

ATHENS (Reuters) - Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in Europe and the Middle East Monday, clashing with police as they protested against the Israeli storming of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla during which 10 activists were killed. In Athens, some 3,500 protesters rallied outside the Israeli embassy, chanting "Hands off Gaza" and "Free Palestine." Several hundreds clashed with police, throwing chunks of marble, stones and bottles. Police fired teargas to disperse them. "Demonstrators set barricades on fire, police chased them, there were a lot of stones and teargas and a few people had blood on their heads," a Reuters witness said, adding he saw four people injured. Police said they detained five protesters. The Israeli marines' action in the eastern Mediterranean

sparked street protests and government ire in Turkey, long Israel's lone Muslim ally in the region, and thousands of followers of an anti-U.S. cleric took to the streets in Baghdad. Across Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, up to 8,000 Egyptians protested to demand the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador in Cairo and called on the government to open its Rafah borders with Gaza. The protests were organised by the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's biggest opposition group which is affiliated to Hamas, the Islamist group that took control of the Gaza strip in 2007. Two Brotherhood parliamentarians were on board the convoy ships. "Hamas you are the canon and the Brotherhood is your voice," chanted thousands of Egyptians protesting in Cairo. The Brotherhood routinely organizes protests demanding the lifting of the Israeli blockade on Gaza. Police used teargas in Paris when about 2,000 people demonstrated near the Israeli embassy, hurling stones, waving Palestinian and Turkish flags and brandishing banners saying "Long live free Palestine" and "Criminal Israel." Small, peaceful anti-Israel demonstrations were held in Rome and other Italian cities. "The Italian government needs to immediately call back its ambassador from Israel as other countries in Europe have done," said Paolo Cento, a leftwing politician among the demonstrators. "This is extremely serious and has no precedent whatsoever in the history of international diplomacy." Swedish police said more than 5,000 protesters marched from a central Stockholm square toward the Israeli embassy, carrying banners and shouting slogans. Chanting "Boycott Israel," they held banners saying "Free Gaza," "Put Israel on Trial," "Israel to The Hague" and "Gaza Bleeds."

Annex 2

i) Speech delivered by UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet on Human Rights Council Annual Day

Good Practices and Remaining Gaps in the Prevention of Violence against Women

UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet
Geneva
10 June 2011

Distinguished Delegates, Colleagues and Friends,

It is my pleasure to join you today. Let me thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for convening this dialogue. We are particularly grateful that the focus of this discussion is on prevention. The best way to put an end to this universal human rights violation is to stop it happening in the first place. A focus on primary prevention enables us to reinforce the critical — and somewhat revolutionary — notion that violence against women is *not* inevitable; it can be systematically addressed, reduced and, with persistence, eliminated. Violence, like gender discrimination, is culturally conditioned, and therefore can be changed, with the right mix of policy tools, programmes and educational

approaches. At UN Women, promoting primary prevention is a priority strategic direction. Gender-based violence has tremendous consequences for women's and girl's lives and for the health and wellbeing of families and communities. It is a deterrent to gender equality and women's empowerment and undermines efforts to deliver gender justice. It serves as a control mechanism over women's freedoms, bodies and choices. And, in turn, the global pandemic of violence against women also translates into major economic and productivity costs, to billions of dollars drained from public budgets, and to erosion of efforts to further poverty reduction and development — costs which can all be averted through primary prevention. What do we understand by primary prevention? We approach this at two levels: on the one hand, overall investments in women's empowerment is an important long-term path to prevention; on the other, there are also more practical and focused approaches specific to prevention of gender-based violence. Unfortunately, there is no one-time intervention to end violence against women; it is a long-term project that involves transforming gender relations. But there are key strategic investments in women's empowerment that can also serve as "protective" and preventive factors against violence. These include: ensuring that girls complete secondary education; delaying age of marriage; furthering women's reproductive health and rights; ensuring women's economic autonomy and security; and increasing women's participation in decision-making positions and political power, in order to influence policies and institutional practices that perpetuate impunity and tolerance for violence against women. At the same time, experts agree that there are an increasing number of practical steps to promote the prevention of violence against women. Primary prevention includes universal strategies that can reach large population groups — for instance, school-based life skills training for all children. It is also important to take into account strategies for groups considered to be at higher risk for violence, such as programmes targeting children from households with domestic violence. WHO has documented that early childhood intervention is effective. Other promising approaches include revising school curricula to eliminate gender discriminatory content, ensuring safety for girls in and around schools, and introducing codes of conduct against sexual harassment. To stop the intergenerational transmission of violence against women, we must support expanded efforts to work with young people of both sexes to address gender equality and violence prevention, sustain social mobilization campaigns, and build commitment and capacity in the mass media to change the way that they portray women and report on issues of gender-based violence. Community mobilization that engages young people, men and shapers of customary values and public opinion, is particularly important. Real change will have to take place at local levels, where violence occurs, where community norms govern gender relations. Nonetheless, even though primary prevention is a most strategic and cost-effective investment in the long run, it is still largely underdeveloped and underfunded in many countries. Programmes are often of limited scope and duration. Few countries have critical masses of expertise in key areas such as communications for social and behavioural change adapted to the field of

violence against women. Primary prevention is a new frontier in the field of violence against women. We have room for optimism. Our analysis at UN Women is showing the emergence of a positive shift towards focusing on prevention. Leading community-based programmes are showing promise for reducing violence levels — such as the well-known Stepping Stones, Raising Voices, SASA! and IMAGES initiatives originating in Africa; programmes working with young men, such as Program H in Brazil; and the use of soap operas and mass media showing the harmful effects of violence against women. We have been privileged to support and learn from many of these programmes through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women. The Uganda-based organization Raising Voices, or SASA!, is now working in 10 African countries. SASA! emphasizes prevention by focusing on the benefits of non-violence and gender equity to both men and women. It also supports a deeper analysis of the impact of violence and the underlying causes of gender inequality, showing how violence not only hurts women, but also reduces trust and respect among family members. And the programme stresses that violence does not arise out of anger, but because of an imbalance of power between men and women. Another cutting-edge initiative using savvy communications, social media and community education that we have supported through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, almost since its inception, is the Ring the Bell campaign in India. This programme, run by an NGO, Breakthrough, has spurred social mobilization against domestic violence through a 360-degree media campaign to “bring domestic violence to a halt.” Harnessing the power of technology, and the support of private sector advertising agencies, Bell Bajao reaches Indians living in both the cities and the most remote, rural areas. To date over 124 million people have been reached by this campaign. The numbers of examples of primary prevention initiatives from every region of the world are growing. The numbers of men’s groups, of advertising companies, of religious leaders and local council members that have joined in are growing as well. In addition to hosting the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, UN Women also supports the Secretary-General’s UNiTE Campaign to End Violence against Women and Girls through its Say NO! social mobilization platform, on which governments, organizations and individuals from around the world have posted more than 2 million actions that they are taking to end violence. UN Women is a founding member of the 13-agency UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and hosts the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls. We are acutely aware that many positive shifts are occurring, whether through greater numbers of male leaders involved in the effort to end violence against women, or many more countries with legislation to protect women from gender-based violence or prosecute those who inflict it. But, in comparison to the scope of the problem of violence against women and all of its manifestations — from intimate partner violence to trafficking and sexual violence in conflict — these numbers are far too low. We have yet to see the resolve and resources required to make the needed impact in reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to these multiple forms of violence. As just one indicator, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women — which UN

Women manages on behalf of the UN system — received more than US\$1 billion of requests for its 2010 call for proposals, and has less than US\$30 million to make in grants. Numbers like these tell us that the demand for support from women’s rights advocates to put a stop to this egregious human rights violation has far outpaced the resolve of the development assistance community to respond. This is a gap that we have to close. I appreciate the commitment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize these important dialogues and look forward to working with national and UN partners, with men and women alike, to prevent violence against women and girls.

ii) Secretary-General’s report on: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

2 August 2010

Sixty-fifth session

Item 28 of the provisional agenda*

Advancement of women

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In resolution 63/155 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly reaffirmed the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and recognized that violence against women was rooted in unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women constituted a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-fifth session, a report with information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the resolution. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. The report is divided into four parts: section I contains the introduction; section II covers the background; section III outlines the measures reported by Member States; and section IV contains the conclusions and recommendations.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/155 of 18 December 2008 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly urged States to end impunity for violence against women, and to continue to develop their national strategy and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach in the fields of legislation, prevention, law enforcement, victim assistance and rehabilitation. The present report is

submitted in accordance with the Assembly's request, in that resolution, and is based on information received from Member States. It covers the period since the last report (A/63/214 and Corr.1) up to 27 May 2010.

II. Background

2. The General Assembly has dealt with the issue of violence against women for a number of years. In recalling all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, the Assembly was concerned in 2008 about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, noting that such violence seriously impaired or nullified women's enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, constituting a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities. The Assembly also recognized that, conversely, women's poverty, lack of empowerment and marginalization placed them at increased risk of violence.

3. To protect women from such violence and break the cycle of violence, the General Assembly, in resolution 63/155, strongly condemned all acts of violence against women and girls, whether perpetrated by the State, private persons or non-State actors (para. 8); stressed that it was important that States refrained from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to elimination of violence against women (para. 9); stressed also that States must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims (para. 10); and urged States to end impunity for violence against women by ensuring that women had equal protection of the law and equal access to justice (para. 11).

4. The General Assembly then put forward in the same resolution specific measures to be undertaken by States to end such violence, including, inter alia: improvements of legal framework, including the prohibition of sexual violence from amnesty provisions (para. 13); protecting and assisting victims, and investigating and punishing violence against women (para. 11); development of national strategies (para. 16); partnerships with civil society (para. 16 (t)); empowerment of women and awareness-raising among women of their rights (para. 15); training of all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women (para. 14); assistance to victims (para. 16 (m), (p) and (q)); data collection and monitoring (para. 16 (e)); and resource allocation (para. 16 (g) and (h)). The Assembly also called upon the entities of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work (para. 21).

5. Based on inputs received from Member States in response to a note verbale, the present report summarizes measures taken by States to address violence against women in relation to (a) international instruments, legislation and the criminal justice system (addressing in particular resolution 63/155, paras. 11, 12, 13, 16 (b), (c), (d), (k), (l) and (m) and 18)); (b) national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms and collaboration (in particular para. 16 (a), (f), (g), (j), (n), (q) and (t)); (c) prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building (in particular paras. 14, 15, 16 (b), (h), (i), (j), (o) and (s)); (d) protection, support and services for victims/survivors (in particular paras. 15, 16 (l), (m), (p), (q) and (r)); and (e) data collection and analysis (in particular para. 16 (e)).

III. Measures reported by Member States

6. As of 27 May 2010, 54 Member States had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/155.¹ Information was provided on a range of measures taken to address violence against women, including strengthening legal frameworks, adopting dedicated policies, reinforcing prevention action and efforts to prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims.

A. International instruments, legislation and the criminal justice system

7. The international legal framework obligates and guides States in the adoption of their own laws to address violence against women. Member States drew attention to their adherence to a range of international instruments, including the international human rights treaties, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The suffering of women living under situations of occupation and the importance of respecting international humanitarian and human rights law in that context were also raised. Many States indicated their adherence to relevant regional instruments, such as the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Some States made reference to work under way in the Council of Europe on drafting a convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

8. Legislation provides the foundation for a holistic and effective approach to addressing violence against women. Many States have strengthened their national legal frameworks to prevent and address violence against women. However, lack of full and effective enforcement of the law remains a continuing challenge. An increasing number of legal frameworks acknowledge violence against women as a form of gender-based discrimination and a violation of

women's human rights. The right to a life free of violence has been incorporated in some constitutions, such as in the Constitution of Ecuador (article 66 (3)), which was revised in 2008. A noteworthy trend has been an increase in the adoption of comprehensive laws, which not only criminalize violence against women and call for the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators, but also include measures related to the prevention of violence, the support and protection of victims/survivors, and implementation of the law (Argentina, Colombia, Georgia, Paraguay, Portugal, Spain and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). Other States have separate laws or legal provisions to protect and assist victims, covering, for example, compensation for damages (Austria and Switzerland) and support and services (Bulgaria, Japan, Norway, Philippines, Slovakia and Sweden), as well as to mandate prevention measures, such as education on the prevention of violence against women in schools and public awareness-raising measures on domestic violence (Republic of Korea and Serbia). Some of these laws address multiple forms of violence, while others focus on one form of violence, such as domestic violence.

9. Member States have amended their penal codes and/or adopted other laws to address violence against women. Definitions of violence against women have been expanded. For example, in many laws, definitions of domestic violence include physical, sexual, psychological and other types of violence, and extend to violence committed within relationships other than marriage (Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Georgia, Paraguay, Portugal and Switzerland). The definition of rape has been broadened in several countries, to include a greater range of constitutive acts, focusing also on consent rather than physical force; and applicable penalties increased (Bulgaria, Chile, Mauritius, Portugal and Senegal). A growing number of States are criminalizing marital rape (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile and Cyprus). Sentences and fines have been increased in relation to domestic violence (Cyprus, Mauritius, Norway and Tunisia), and aggravating circumstances have been introduced, such as the witnessing of violence by minors (Norway), and the victim's age and violence resulting in death of the victim (Portugal). Laws or special provisions have been increasingly adopted on sexual harassment (Bulgaria, Chile, China, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Mauritius, Portugal and Tunisia), some of which prohibit it not only in workplaces but also in educational institutions and other areas of public activity. An emerging trend is the adoption of legislation to specifically criminalize stalking (Italy). Several States have amended or are in the process of amending discriminatory provisions in criminal or personal status laws in relation to adultery, rape and polygamy (Iraq, Lebanon and Tunisia). States have incorporated provisions related to the protection of women from violence in laws on gender equality or equal rights (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Philippines), protection of women in general (China) and crime prevention (Belarus). Some new or amended laws have focused on the protection of children from sexual violence and abuse (China, Portugal and Sweden). Efforts are under way in several States to elaborate and/or adopt laws to address violence against women (Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Cameroon, Italy, Iraq,

Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Paraguay and Russian Federation) or the protection of children from violence (Syrian Arab Republic).

10. Civil protection orders, which provide for the removal of perpetrators from a joint place of residence in cases of domestic violence, and the imposition of restrictions upon their behaviour, are available or are under way in an increasing number of States (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and Switzerland). Some States have strengthened the remedy of protection orders, including by expanding the period of time covered by the order (Austria); extending the application beyond married couples (France) and to cases of child abuse (Netherlands) and stalking (Austria and Italy); and extending the right to apply for a protection order to persons other than the victim/survivor (Austria and Bulgaria). The Netherlands reported that approximately 2,100 temporary restraining orders against perpetrators of domestic violence were imposed in 2009. A special centre registering protection orders was established in Chile, and in Finland instructions have been elaborated to strengthen police procedures related to protection orders.

11. A noteworthy trend has been the adoption of legislation regarding harmful practices. A number of States have adopted or are in the process of adopting such legislation, including in relation to female genital mutilation/cutting (Cameroon, Djibouti, Iceland and Norway), early and forced marriage (Bulgaria and Norway), and demand for dowry (Cameroon). The Syrian Arab Republic repealed the defence for so-called "honour" crimes from its criminal code, while Iceland increased penalties for aggravating circumstances in respect of female genital mutilation/cutting. Legislation on harmful practices, particularly with regard to female genital mutilation/cutting, may create extraterritorial jurisdiction, in the light of the fact that these forms of violence may be committed across borders.

12. States have adopted or amended criminal procedure codes or related laws to better protect and assist victims/survivors of violence during legal proceedings. Such measures include the possibility to be heard by an official of the same sex in all stages of proceedings (Switzerland); the provision of legal and psychological assistance (Austria, Dominican Republic, Kenya, Mauritius, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain and Sweden); the availability of information to victims/survivors related to the progress of their cases and their rights to damages and the obtaining of a protection order (Iceland, Georgia, Norway and Sweden); the removal of the perpetrator from court during the testimony of the victim and the exclusion of the public from court (Iceland); speedy judicial procedures (Portugal); special measures to support victims in giving evidence (Canada, Cyprus, Sweden and Switzerland); and the participation of non-governmental organizations in judicial proceedings as a civil party (Djibouti). The lack of free legal aid for women victims of violence was

identified as a particular barrier in some States to the victim's/survivor's access to justice.

13. In order to enhance the capacity of law enforcement officials to deal with violence against women and effectively implement the laws, training programmes were carried out for police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers and security forces in many countries (Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Iceland, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda). Such initiatives were often carried out in cooperation with civil society and included a focus on investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, and enhancing knowledge of the causes and consequences of violence against women, national legislation and international standards. A range of training materials have been developed, and protocols and guidelines have been issued, including on investigation, prosecution and legal proceedings as well as cooperation between different authorities (Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Spain, Sudan, Sweden and Uganda). States have established specialized centres for investigations (Portugal); specialized police and prosecution units, or staff within those units (Bahrain, Chile, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and Uganda); specialized courts or units within courts (Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Mauritius, Paraguay and Spain); and specialized units within ministries (Djibouti, Mexico and Samoa).

14. Evaluation of the effectiveness and implementation of laws is critical in order to identify areas for improvement. Several States have undertaken studies to review and evaluate their legislation (Australia, Belize, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain and Sudan). Some States, such as Argentina, Colombia, Mexico and Spain, have put in place specific mechanisms to monitor the implementation of their legislation. These reviews and evaluations are often carried out in consultation with civil society. The effectiveness of specialized police and prosecutor units/staff and their contribution to more uniform practice and quality control was highlighted.

B. National action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms and collaboration

15. National action plans and strategies on violence against women provide an overarching framework which can enhance coordination among relevant sectors and provide timelines for activities. Numerous countries have adopted dedicated policies on violence against women in general (Bolivia, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Iceland, Paraguay, Slovakia, Spain,

Sweden and Tunisia), or on a particular form of violence, such as domestic violence (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Lithuania, Mauritius, Netherlands and Norway), female genital mutilation/cutting (Belgium, Djibouti, Kenya and Senegal), forced marriage (Belgium and Norway) or sexual violence (Ecuador and Republic of Korea). These plans commonly include measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute violence against women; support and assist victims/survivors; develop laws; undertake research and collect data; train police, legal, health and other personnel; and promote cooperation among those involved in addressing violence against women. Some countries which have adopted or are developing their second or third national action plan have dedicated attention to new areas of focus, such as different forms of violence, including forced marriage or female genital mutilation/cutting, the justice system or children witnessing violence against women (Belgium, Iceland, France, Netherlands and Portugal). Indicators and timelines to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national action plans have been included in some plans, such as in Portugal. Some States have in place special institutions or mechanisms to regularly evaluate their national action plans, policies and activities (Belize, Norway, Spain and Sweden). Several States reported on strategies and programmes in other areas which can help to reduce women's vulnerability to violence, including those related to poverty reduction (Norway and Yemen), homelessness (Australia and Sweden) and unemployment (Belarus), and activities aimed at women's economic empowerment (Cameroon, Djibouti, Mauritius, Samoa and Senegal). A number of States are in the process of developing national action plans and/or dedicated policies on violence against women in general (Argentina, Australia, Italy, Kenya, Senegal, Uganda and Venezuela), or on a particular form of violence, including female genital mutilation/cutting (Finland and Senegal), forced marriage (Sweden), stalking (Italy) and domestic violence (Belgium and Cyprus). Some States have or are developing plans of action and policies at the local level (Iceland, Mexico and Sudan). The need to translate strategies into concrete programmes and actions was stressed.

16. Incorporating targets and activities related to ending violence against women in national action plans on other issues reaffirms the important message that without addressing violence against women, other areas of national progress will suffer. Several Member States have incorporated, or are in the process of incorporating, in their national action plans on human rights provisions related to violence against women (Philippines), gender equality (Bolivia, Chile, Finland, Georgia, Japan, Portugal, Serbia, Spain and Switzerland), advancement of women (Bahrain and Syrian Arab Republic), security (Finland) and reproductive health (Ecuador, Paraguay and Switzerland).

17. Dedicated national mechanisms have been established to tackle violence against women in general or a particular form of violence, such as domestic violence (Finland, Georgia, Lithuania, Mauritius and Portugal) or female genital mutilation/cutting (Djibouti, Kenya and Norway), and to improve coordination

among different stakeholders (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Spain and Tunisia). These mechanisms often include multisectoral task forces and commissions, specialized units within ministries, or expert groups, and in many cases they consist of representatives of governmental bodies, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations. Efforts to enhance collaboration and coordination among different stakeholders also include cooperation arrangements between different governmental authorities, national and regional conferences, training, events, and national working groups and networks (Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Iceland, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and Yemen). A number of States highlighted the collaboration between the Government and civil society, in particular women's non-governmental organizations (Canada, Finland, Lithuania, Samoa, Spain and Sweden). Several States reported that there has been an increase in funding allocated for the implementation of national action plans and policies, and that collaboration among different governmental authorities has been strengthened (Australia, Iceland, Italy, Norway, Republic of Korea, Samoa and Sweden).

C. Prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building

18. In order to eliminate violence against women, States must not only punish perpetrators, but also undertake measures to prevent such violence. Engaging all stakeholders is necessary in order to change societal attitudes that condone violence against women and perpetuate gender inequality. An increasing range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, religious and community leaders, the media, the private sector, youth, men and boys and high-level government officials are increasingly engaged in initiatives to end violence against women (Belarus, Congo, Cyprus, France, Mauritius, Philippines, Serbia and Switzerland). Campaigns to sensitize community and religious leaders were carried out in several States, including Cameroon, the Congo and Mauritius. States have used a range of methods to increase public awareness of, and sensitivity to, the issue of violence against women, and are increasingly basing these efforts on research findings or assessments, such as in Australia and Canada. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Colombia, efforts were based on a specific communication strategy. A significant number of countries have organized national campaigns on awareness-raising and zero tolerance of violence against women (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Iceland, Paraguay, Slovakia, Spain and Syrian Arab Republic), including on domestic violence specifically (Bulgaria, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland). Several campaigns were carried out in connection with annual commemorations of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Belarus, Belize, China, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Japan, Lebanon,

Mauritius, Philippines and Samoa). Some campaigns on domestic violence were inspired by the regional Council of Europe campaign (Azerbaijan and Cyprus). Campaigns on violence against women have been carried out at local levels, for example, in the Russian Federation. In several States, funding has been provided to non-governmental organizations and local authorities to carry out awareness-raising campaigns and prevention activities (Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Netherlands and Sweden). A number of States referred to international, regional and national conferences, seminars, trainings and other events that had been organized, often in collaboration with United Nations entities, to raise awareness of violence against women, national laws and international standards (Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Canada, China, Netherlands, Philippines, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen). Training and seminars on gender issues, including violence against women, have been conducted for targeted groups, including peace-keeping personnel (Iceland and Sweden), parliamentarians, civil servants and non-governmental organizations (Cameroon, Djibouti and Kenya). Publications, brochures, websites, audio-visual material, social media, television/radio spots, and debates have been utilized in awareness-raising and information programmes. It was stressed that a single campaign is not sufficient to raise awareness and that the message has to be regularly repeated (Netherlands).

19. Several States undertook initiatives to inform victims/survivors and women at risk of violence of their rights, including helplines and websites, to encourage victims to seek assistance (France, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Portugal and Serbia) and legal clinics informing women of their rights (Belize). In Finland, Iceland and Norway, materials were translated into several languages. Some of these efforts aimed to reach particular groups of women, such as immigrants (Finland), internally displaced persons (Azerbaijan), indigenous women (Mexico) and foreign domestic workers (Lebanon).

20. Educational curricula and institutions provide an important opportunity and forum within which attitudes that perpetuate violence against women can be addressed and women's rights promoted. In several countries, training has been provided to sensitize teachers on violence against women, gender equality and human rights (Djibouti, Ecuador, Mexico, Slovakia, Spain and Turkmenistan). States have developed curricula and educational material on gender equality, respect for human rights and the elimination of violence against women (Iceland, Mexico and Spain), national principles for schools free of violence (Australia) and guidelines for teachers and parents (Republic of Korea). Awareness-raising days and programmes to heighten awareness of violence against women and help students develop skills in building and sustaining respectful and non-violent relationships were organized in numerous countries (Australia, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Congo, France, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Syrian Arab Republic, Sudan and Switzerland).

21. The media is an important conduit of public opinion and can influence societal attitudes. Training journalists to report on violence against women in a gender sensitive manner can help to dispel myths and create awareness of the issue among the general public. In some States, journalists have received training on violence against women (Bahrain, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay and Syrian Arab Republic). Special commissions and bodies to monitor the impact of gender and sexist stereotypes in the media on violence against women have been established, for example, in France and Spain.

22. The role of youth and men and boys in addressing violence against women has been recognized as a critical component of prevention efforts. An increasing number of Member States have undertaken efforts to sensitize and mobilize men, boys, teenagers and young adults on violence against women (Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Chile, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Samoa and Spain). These initiatives have included national campaigns, seminars, programmes and workshops, including on developing skills to resolve conflicts in a non-violent manner, training of non-governmental organization personnel, creation of networks of male advocates, cooperation with the White Ribbon Campaign, and the participation of high-level officials in the Network of Men Leaders of the Secretary-General's global campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women.

23. A growing number of States have in place intervention programmes for perpetrators of violence against women aimed at changing their attitudes and behaviour (Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, Iceland, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Samoa, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland). These programmes often include a diagnosis at an early stage and follow-up monitoring of perpetrators. In several States, guidelines have been developed for institutions in charge of such programmes (France), and funding has increased for their implementation (Belgium and Sweden) and for relevant research (Australia). Training programmes have also been carried out for staff dealing with the rehabilitation of perpetrators (Belize, Mauritius and Philippines).

24. States drew attention to some of the factors that perpetuate violence against women, including discriminatory laws, attitudes and practices. It was noted that although prevention measures had been intensified, their implementation continued to lack effectiveness. Some efforts have been made to identify gaps in prevention and to elaborate promising practices (Canada). In Norway, a special committee has been established to recommend prevention measures in relation to sexual assault.

D. Protection, support and services for victims/survivors

25. Victims/survivors of violence against women require timely access to support services that respond to short-term injuries, protect them from further violence, provide them with support, including legal advice, counselling and psychological care, and address long-term needs, such as finding accommodation and employment. Support services are increasingly available to victims/survivors. A promising trend in service provision has been the establishment of centres, including mobile ones (Mexico), which provide a range of services for victims/survivors of violence against women in an integrated and coordinated manner in one location (Bahrain, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Georgia, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Switzerland). Recognizing that civil society organizations, in particular women's non-governmental organizations, have significant experience and expertise in providing services to victims/survivors of violence, a number of Member States have supported and financed the work of such organizations in providing services for victims/survivors of violence (Bulgaria, Iceland, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden and Uganda). Referral mechanisms have been established in several States (Colombia, France and Netherlands). Efforts are under way in some States to enhance collaboration among stakeholders dealing with individual cases of violence (Finland, Lithuania and Netherlands). The Dominican Republic and Mexico have developed an inventory of support services, shelters and centres for victims/survivors, and Argentina is in the process of mapping out such services. Many support services are, however, only available in central locations.

26. Shelters and safe houses are more widely available for victims/survivors of different forms of violence and for different groups of victims/survivors, such as domestic workers, women with disabilities, women migrants and children victims/witnesses of violence (Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, France, Lebanon, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). National hotlines or help lines that provide information, often in several languages, counselling, support and referral services for victims/survivors of violence are in place in a growing number of countries (Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mauritius, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). In several countries, support services include financial assistance (Mauritius and Republic of Korea), and assistance in finding long-term housing (Australia, Chile, Portugal and Republic of Korea) and employment (Mauritius). Other developments in service provision include the provision of child care (Republic of Korea), vocational training (Congo, Senegal and Serbia), post-violence kits and

prophylaxis (Sudan), medical treatment and psychological support at hospitals for victims/survivors of violence (Congo and Kenya), free legal aid (Cameroon, Chile, Congo and Uganda), establishment of support groups at community level (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), specialized services for indigenous women victims of violence (Mexico), and efforts to improve assistance to internally displaced women victims of violence (Colombia).

27. In some countries, evaluation or studies concerning shelters for women victims of violence were carried out (Finland, Netherlands and Switzerland). Spain has put in place a system of quality control in respect of health and social services for women victims/survivors of violence.

28. Training and projects to build capacity and raise awareness of staff dealing with cases of violence against women, including medical and health staff, were organized in numerous States, and training materials, including handbooks and manuals, were also elaborated (Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sudan, Switzerland and Syrian Arab Republic). Such initiatives often involved a wide spectrum of stakeholders, and some focused on the needs of different groups of women victims of violence, such as women from ethnic minority groups, while others facilitated the exchange of experience among neighbouring countries. In order to support the work of social services and staff working with victims/survivors, a number of States developed standard operating procedures, guidelines and tools on case management and good practices, and also issued protocols and regulations (Bulgaria, Canada, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Mauritius, Norway, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovakia, Sudan and Sweden).

E. Data collection and analysis

29. Solid data on violence against women are critical to the development and implementation of sound laws, policies, strategies and prevention measures. Some Member States indicated that cases of domestic violence reported to police had increased (Cyprus and Portugal). Attention was drawn to certain groups of women who continue to be exposed to higher levels of violence, such as young women (Italy), or ethnic minorities (Norway). A number of States emphasized the continuing challenge of the lack of data on violence against women, including the lack of uniform data collection systems and lack of disaggregated data (Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Iraq, Senegal, Switzerland and Yemen).

30. The collection of data must be systematic, disaggregated by demographic factors such as sex, age and ethnicity, and conducted in a gender-sensitive

manner by interviewers familiar with the nature of violence against women. The most comprehensive manner of collecting data on such violence is by conducting a dedicated population-based survey on violence against women. Several Member States have undertaken dedicated surveys on violence against women, some of them on a regular basis, and with a permanent funding, in relation to the prevalence, reasons and consequences of violence against women, and attitudes of the population towards such violence (Australia, Canada, Djibouti, Iceland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland and Syrian Arab Republic). Several Member States have collected data on violence against women through a module attached to other population-based surveys, such as national demographic and health surveys (Philippines and Switzerland) and crime and victimization surveys (Canada, Paraguay and Sweden).

31. Administrative statistics, such as numbers of cases reported to police and charges laid, or the number of admissions to hospitals or shelters of victims/survivors of violence, also provide a source of information on the prevalence and severity of violence against women. Several States reported on measures taken to enhance the collection and analysis of administrative data by police, prosecutors and other relevant authorities (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Colombia, Finland, Portugal, Serbia and Switzerland). A promising trend in the collection of administrative data has been the creation of national databases/registries and unified data collection systems on violence against women, as is the case in several countries (Cyprus, Ecuador, Mexico and Philippines).

32. States have strengthened efforts to develop national capacity to collect accurate data on violence against women, including specialized training events for statisticians and the adoption of guidelines and rules for data collection. In a number of countries, observatories have been established to collect and analyse data and information on violence against women, to identify gaps and propose new policies (Argentina, Congo, Paraguay and Spain). National indicators on violence against women, safety of women and children, and access of victims/survivors to justice have also been developed (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Colombia, Finland and Republic of Korea). A seminar on data collection techniques for cases of sexual violence was held in the Congo, while in Sweden a methodology to collect data on violence against women in national crime victim surveys was developed.

33. Studies and research on violence against women provide important inputs into policy development processes. Some States have undertaken studies to assess the economic impact of violence against women (Australia, Portugal and Switzerland), with one estimate suggesting that violence costs the country \$13.6 billion per annum (Australia). A specialized centre engaged in research and development of guidelines and training has been established in Norway, and research and studies have been carried out in numerous States, including by

non-governmental organizations, and often with the support of United Nations entities (Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic and Uganda). A comprehensive study was carried out in Yemen in 2008 on the scope, causes and consequences of violence against women and its different forms, and included gaps in laws and policies and recommendations for further action.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

34. Many actions have been taken by Member States to prevent and address violence against women. States have strengthened their national legal, policy and institutional frameworks as well as the coordination among a range of different stakeholders. Good practices have been identified and should be replicated and used as the basis for designing and implementing better laws, policies and programmes. Implementation of all measures taken, including ensuring adequate resources, together with monitoring and evaluation of their impact, should be a main focus for further action.

35. Many States have carried out legal reform to address violence against women. States have introduced new criminal offences and increased penalties, broadened definitions of violence against women, and expanded the scope of protection and support for victims/survivors. A promising practice has been the adoption of comprehensive legislation on violence against women, which not only criminalizes such violence, but also mandates support and protection for victims/survivors, prevention measures, funding and the creation of institutional mechanisms. These efforts should continue and be reinforced in order to ensure that a comprehensive and consistent legal foundation exists to prevent and address violence against women and promote women's human rights. States should ensure that training for law enforcement officials, the judiciary and other relevant personnel on violence against women is systematic, and that criminal justice processes and procedures are gender-sensitive and protect the rights of the complainants/survivors and enhance their safety. States should continue to establish specialized police, prosecution units and other mechanisms and ensure specialized training for their staff. Civil protection orders, civil law suits and other legal remedies should be available to complainants/survivors to complement criminal measures. States should ensure that all barriers to the access of victims/survivors to justice are removed, including ensuring free legal aid, interpretation and court support in all legal proceedings. Accountability mechanisms should be put in place, such as penalties for non-compliance with the law.

36. States have adopted national action plans/dedicated policies on violence against women, or on a particular form of violence, and established institutional mechanisms to address violence against women and ensure coordination

among different stakeholders. States should ensure that such plans and policies are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope, incorporate measurable goals and timetables, monitoring and accountability measures, provide for impact assessments, and ensure coordination of action and clear roles and responsibilities among all stakeholders. Coordination mechanisms should continue to be strengthened. States should ensure that all policies and strategies on violence against women are translated into concrete action and adequately funded.

37. The availability of services for victims/survivors of violence has increased. A promising trend which should be replicated has been the establishment of centres that provide a range of services in one location, including counselling, shelter and medical and legal services. Such centres should be extended throughout the country, including rural areas. States should ensure that support and services are adequately resourced and available to all victims/survivors, including those in rural and remote areas. All professionals handling cases of violence against women should be systematically trained. Referral mechanisms should be reinforced and information about the availability of existing services should be broadly disseminated.

38. Efforts have been made to improve collection of data on violence against women, including a growing number of population-based surveys to assess the prevalence of violence against women and the creation of national databases. The availability of more and better quality information, including statistical data, is crucial. Such information allows policymakers to undertake effective legislative and policy reforms, ensure adequate provision of targeted and effective services, monitor trends and progress in addressing and eliminating violence against women, and assess the impact of measures taken. States should continue and reinforce their efforts. Statistical data should be gathered at regular intervals on the causes, consequences and frequency of all forms of violence against women, and on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and address such violence. Statistical data should be disaggregated by sex, race, age, ethnicity and other relevant characteristics. States should intensify their efforts to build the capacity of statisticians to collect data on violence against women in a gender-sensitive manner, and adopt guidelines and rules for uniform data collection. Qualitative research should be intensified to facilitate improved understanding and more effective strategies to eliminate violence against women.

39. Despite impressive efforts by numerous countries around the world, women continue to be subjected to many different forms of violence, and new forms are constantly evolving. Thus, a stronger focus must be placed on prevention, to complement more effectively the improved laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. These efforts should be rigorously evaluated to gain a better understanding of their impact and effectiveness, including when they form part of a comprehensive approach to

addressing violence against women. The information and awareness-raising campaigns, educational programmes and other initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women carried out by States should be reinforced to ensure that they are systematic, sustained and extended throughout all areas of the country, and target particular groups of women, such as immigrants, rural and indigenous women, women from ethnic minorities, and women with disabilities. Political commitment and leadership at all levels are vital and should be complemented by a broad range of partnerships and the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including Governments, civil society and in particular women's organizations, community and religious leaders, international organizations and the private sector. Environments and communities must be safe for women and girls, and efforts to end violence against women must be pursued with the full involvement of men and boys. Empowering women and strengthening their economic independence, and eliminating discrimination against them in law and in practice are critical. Educational curricula at all levels should promote gender equality and women's human rights and condemn violence against women. Advocacy campaigns and programmes, including with the participation of the media, should focus on increasing public awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women, raising women's awareness of their rights and available remedies and support, and tackling gender stereotypes that perpetuate violence and discrimination against women. Such campaigns and programmes should be directed at the general public as well as particular groups. Informational materials should be available in multiple languages, as needed. Prevention activities should extend to sports organizations/clubs, youth organizations and special programmes in schools and include efforts aimed at building skills in the development of respectful relations.

iii) DPI fact sheet on "Violence Against Women (November 2009)

Violence Against Women

The Situation

Violence against women takes many forms – physical, sexual, psychological and economic. These forms of violence are interrelated and affect women from before birth to old age. Some types of violence, such as trafficking, cross national boundaries.

Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished. Violence against women harms families and communities across generations and reinforces other violence prevalent in society.

Violence against women also impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations.

Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination against women.

Up to 70 per cent of women experience violence in their lifetime.

Violence against women in police custody is common and includes sexual violence, inappropriate surveillance, strip searches conducted by men and demands for sexual acts in exchange for privileges or basic necessities.

Women aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria, according to World Bank data.

Violence by an intimate partner

The most common form of violence experienced by women globally is physical violence inflicted by an intimate partner, with women beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused.

A World Health Organization (WHO) study in 11 countries found that the percentage of women who had been subjected to sexual violence by an intimate partner ranged from 6 per cent in Japan to 59 per cent in Ethiopia.

Several global surveys suggest that half of all women who die from homicide are killed by their current or former husbands or partners.

- In Australia, Canada, Israel, South Africa and the United States, 40 to 70 per cent of female murder victims were killed by their partners, according to the World Health Organization.

- In Colombia, one woman is reportedly killed by her partner or former partner every six days. Psychological or emotional violence by intimate partners is also widespread.

Sexual violence

It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime.

The practice of early marriage – a form of sexual violence – is common worldwide, especially in Africa and South Asia. Young girls are often forced into the marriage and into sexual relations, causing health risks, including exposure to HIV/AIDS, and limiting their attendance in school.

One effect of sexual abuse is traumatic gynaecologic fistula: an injury resulting from severe tearing of the vaginal tissues, rendering the woman incontinent and socially undesirable.

Sexual violence in conflict

Sexual violence in conflict is a serious, present-day atrocity affecting millions of people, primarily women and girls. It is frequently a conscious strategy employed on a large scale by armed groups to humiliate opponents, terrify individuals and destroy societies. Women and girls may also be subjected to sexual exploitation by those mandated to protect them.

Women as old as grandmothers and as young as toddlers have routinely suffered violent sexual abuse at the hands of military and rebel forces.

Rape has long been used as a tactic of war, with violence against women during or after armed conflicts reported in every international or non-international war-zone.

- In the Democratic Republic of Congo approximately 1,100 rapes are being reported each month, with an average of 36 women and girls raped every day. It is believed that over 200,000 women have suffered from sexual violence in that country since armed conflict began.
- The rape and sexual violation of women and girls is pervasive in the conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan.
- Between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.
- Sexual violence was a characterizing feature of the 14-year long civil war in Liberia.
- During the conflict in Bosnia in the early 1990s, between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped.

Violence and HIV/AIDS

Women's inability to negotiate safe sex and refuse unwanted sex is closely linked to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Unwanted sex results in a higher risk of abrasion and bleeding and easier transmission of the virus.

Women who are beaten by their partners are 48 per cent more likely to be infected with HIV/AIDS.

Young women are particularly vulnerable to coerced sex and are increasingly being infected with HIV/AIDS. Over half of new HIV infections worldwide are occurring among young people between the ages of 15 and 24, and more than 60 per cent of HIV-positive youth in this age bracket are female.

Female Genital Mutilation/Genital Cutting

Female Genital Mutilation/Genital Cutting (FGM/C) refers to several types of traditional cutting operations performed on women and girls.

- It is estimated that between 100 and 140 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM/C, mainly in Africa and some Middle Eastern countries.
- 3 million girls a year are thought to be at risk of genital mutilation.

Dowry murder

Dowry murder is a brutal practice where a woman is killed by her husband or in-laws because her family cannot meet their demands for dowry — a payment made to a woman's in-laws upon her marriage as a gift to her new family.

While dowries or similar payments are prevalent worldwide, dowry murder occurs predominantly in South Asia.

"Honour killing"

In many societies, rape victims, women suspected of engaging in premarital sex, and women accused of adultery have been murdered by their relatives because the violation of a woman's chastity is viewed as an affront to the family's honour.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the annual worldwide number of so-called "honour killing" victims may be as high as 5,000 women.

Trafficking in persons

Between 500,000 to 2 million people are trafficked annually into situations including prostitution, forced labour, slavery or servitude, according to estimates. Women and girls account for about 80 per cent of the detected victims.

Violence during pregnancy

Violence before and during pregnancy has serious health consequences for both mother and child. It leads to high risk pregnancies and pregnancy-related problems, including miscarriage, pre-term labour and low birth weight.

Female infanticide, prenatal sex selection and systematic neglect of girls are widespread in South and East Asia, North Africa, and the Middle East.

Discrimination and violence

Many women face multiple forms of discrimination and increased risk of violence.

- Indigenous women in Canada are five times more likely than other women of the same age to die as the result of violence.
- In Europe, North America and Australia, over half of women with disabilities have experienced physical abuse, compared to one-third of non-disabled women.

Cost and Consequences

The costs of violence against women are extremely high. They include the direct costs of services to treat and support abused women and their children and to bring perpetrators to justice.

The indirect costs include lost employment and productivity, and the costs in human pain and suffering.

- The cost of intimate partner violence in the United States alone exceeds \$5.8 billion per year: \$4.1 billion is for direct medical and health care services, while productivity losses account for nearly \$1.8 billion.
- A 2004 study in the United Kingdom estimated the total direct and indirect costs of domestic violence, including pain and suffering, to be £23 billion per year or £440 per person.

Annexes en français (pages 51 à 80)

Annexe 1

i) Déclaration du Secrétaire général relative à l'incident de la flottille

Kampala (Ouganda)

Le Secrétaire général condamne l'attaque contre un convoi à destination de Gaza dans une déclaration à la presse, lors de la Conférence de révision du Statut de Rome

Je remercie l'Ambassadeur [Christian] Wenaweser et le Président [Sang-Hyun] Song des efforts inlassables qu'ils ont déployés pour préparer cet événement historique, et de leur attachement à la justice pénale internationale. Cela a été pour moi un plaisir et un honneur de travailler avec eux. Comme je l'ai dit lors de mon intervention à la Conférence, l'ère de l'impunité est révolue. Lentement mais sûrement, nous assistons à la naissance d'une nouvelle ère de la responsabilité. La création de la Cour pénale internationale a représenté une victoire retentissante dans la lutte pour la paix, la justice et les droits de l'homme. À cette conférence, nous espérons mesurer le chemin parcouru par la Cour et la renforcer à l'avenir. Nous voulons faire bien comprendre que les atrocités et les crimes odieux ne sauraient rester impunis. Et nous voulons renforcer l'effet dissuasif de la Cour, pour que les auteurs de tels actes réfléchissent à deux fois avant de les commettre. J'exhorte tous les États à coopérer avec la Cour, et j'encourage ceux qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à ratifier le Statut de Rome. Pour que la Cour pénale internationale puisse jouer pleinement le rôle qui est le sien, elle doit jouir d'un appui universel. Sinon, nous ne faisons qu'enhardir ceux qui sont prêts à commettre des crimes odieux et ceux qui souhaitent l'échec de la Cour. L'ONU a joué un rôle clef dans la création de la Cour pénale internationale. Depuis qu'elle existe, nous avons été