

TALKING POINTS BY H.E. AMB. AMINA C. MOHAMED,
E.G.H., CAV, CABINET SECRETARY MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING
HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE, NEW YORK, USA,
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the United Nations Secretary General for convening this high level meeting on the prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

Our meeting here today is an important expression of the solidarity of the International Community in combating Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in peacekeeping missions while placing the rights and dignity of victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse at the forefront of collective efforts.

Kenya remains at the forefront in the fight against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and all other forms of violations against women.

During Kenya's Chairmanship in 2016, the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission adopted an advisory Gender Strategy to help guide its work on gender-related aspects of peacebuilding.

The Gender Strategy encourages the inclusion of and consultation with women in the design and implementation process of programmes for recovery and strategies for protection from sexual violence.

On Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Cases

Uniformed men and women from Kenya serve in thirteen (13) Missions as part of the global effort to build peace and prevent conflict. And I am pleased to say that we have not had any proven case of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse against our troops deployed on Peacekeeping missions.

Further, Kenya has a legal framework that expressly and explicitly provides for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse as misconduct attracting the harshest penalties upon conviction.

Kenyan Troops deployed to Peacekeeping missions are subject to the Kenyan laws and the Kenya Defence Forces Act which prescribes extra-territorial jurisdiction on offences touching on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The use of DNA to prove culpability is a legal requirement in Kenya and troops are deployed with medical officers who can conduct DNA tests should the need arise.

The Kenyan legal system also provides for an Ad-hoc court martial proceedings anywhere on need basis and troops are deployed with legal officers who are prosecutors to undertake such tasks whenever need arises.

On Compensation of Victims

The issue of compensation for victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse is not underpinned in our legal framework but can be addressed on a case by case basis.

Allegations against those troops who have since retired would be treated like any other civilian matter and therefore subject to the civil law.

On the Circle of leadership

Regarding the Circle of Leadership, Kenya supports the Secretary General's initiative on the prevention of and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Our Head of State has therefore joined the Circle of Leadership.

On the Voluntary Compact

In the same spirit, Kenya is committed to signing the voluntary compact. To this end, the document on the voluntary compact is under consideration by our legal experts.

On Trust Fund for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse victims

Similarly, the issue of the contribution to the Trust Fund is under consideration.

I thank you