



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
United Nations Security Council
2021-2022

MINISTERIAL OPEN DEBATE: ACCOUNTABILITY AS PREVENTION:
ENDING CYCLES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
STATEMENT BY AMB. MARTIN KIMANI-PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE

WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2022 (10:00 AM)

- 1. Thank you, Mr. President.** It is particularly fitting that you should chair this debate given your role as the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. We thank your delegation for bringing this issue to the Council. I also thank SRSG Pramila Patten and the other briefers for their insights.
- 2. Ms. Nadia Murad,** thank you for your extraordinary bravery, determination and service to the Yazidi people, to women, and to all humanity.

3. Kenya strongly condemns gender-based violence, and its manifestation in all contexts, and as it takes place in the brutality and inhumanity of the conflicts in Syria, Ukraine, Ethiopia and other wars.
4. Mr. President, war itself is the crime that opens the door to the kinds of war crimes we are discussing today. War, even when it purports the opposite, and particularly when it is prolonged, almost inevitably leads to the breakdown of law, order and moral conscience.
5. We must redouble our efforts to prevent and stop war. We must be rid of the illusions of limited or precision-guided war which in the last twenty years have shown their serious limits. We must turn our knowledge and experience of mediation to innovation and boldness of vision to stop the present wars.
6. Thank you Hilina Berhanu for your words and recommendations to the A3 and the African Union. We hear and feel the pain of the Ethiopian people, and especially the suffering of the people of Tigray.
7. We urge for cooperation and openness to mediation that enables full humanitarian access, ceasefire and, eventually to peace with justice. In the last year, the A3 has sought to stand with the

people of Ethiopia as brother has taken arms against brother, and we will continue to do so.

- 8.** We have spoken up with strong recommendations, we have embraced the democratic aspirations of your country, we have urged humanitarian access, and pushed for the Council's support for African Union and regional mediation. The A3 once, in this Chamber, urged ceasefire observing that there is no lasting victory in crushing one's countrymen and countrywomen. I know this is still the position of the A3. As your neighbours, as your brothers and sisters to get beyond the pain you are causing each other and reach for the peace we are praying and hoping for you.
- 9.** Mr. President, we are here in search of implementing commitments and existing frameworks. Kenya as a country has enacted strong laws and policies to combat sexual and gender-based violence will champion these efforts, inside and outside it.
- 10.** Our focus for today is on sexual violence perpetrated by terrorist groups. The Secretary-General's current Report on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) underscores, once again how sexual violence continues to be a tactic of war and terrorism.

11. We are concerned that there is too little effort to ensure accountability for sexual violence perpetrated by terrorists. The Security Council should undertake strong efforts to list those responsible, including their chains of command.
12. It should call for cases of sexual violence to be also prosecuted within the context of terrorism. This should include the recommendation by Ms. Mariana Karkoutly on sexual violence in prisons. We urge in that regard that the Security Council takes steps to list and sanction administrators of prisons and their chain of command if their facilities are party to systemic and systematic sexual violence against prisoners.
13. **Mr. President**, I will propose three areas of action that I hope offer further opportunities for practical implementation:
14. **First, on Member States' responsibility:** States must escalate prosecution for gender-based violence and enhance efforts in preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.
15. All effort must be put to address stigmatisation, discriminatory laws and other cultural barriers that stand in the way of reporting and accountability. These should be reinforced by a gender-responsive and inclusive national security sector and the needed reforms to achieve it.

16. Accountability and prevention demand localised identification of gaps and that communal infrastructure be operationalised for social awareness and sensitisation programs as well as access to justice mechanisms and medical and psychosocial care to victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).
17. **Second on the role of the Security Council:** We note that the current Report underlines that the series of Council resolutions has helped to raise the cost of what has long been perceived as the cheapest weapon of war.
18. We believe that the bar should be even higher. There is an urgent need to move from commitments to compliance; from resolutions to results. Beyond listings and incorporation of SGBV as a separate listing criterion in the relevant sanctions' regimes, the Council should also take specific steps and deterrent measures to also increase the costs of acts of conflict-related sexual violence.
19. Stronger integration and investment in the WPS-Counter-terrorism-and Countering Violent Extremism agendas will also contribute to increase the cost of these atrocities.
20. For example, the implementation of resolution 2242 (2015) which recognises that acts of sexual and gender-based violence are part of the strategic objectives and ideology of certain

terrorist groups including Al Qaeda, ISIS, Al Shabaab and Boko Haram should be linked to other resolutions that touch on countering terrorism including 2354, 2178, and 2331.

- 21. Third on cross-border cooperation:** The intersecting elements of rising militarisation, coups d'état and conflicts with a transnational character, call for enhanced coordinated action especially where such contexts lead to increased refugee and IDP situations with potential aggravation of conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking.
- 22.** We call for more effective cross- border coordination between border security personnel, early warning mechanisms, national and regional Women Protection Advisers (WPA), and humanitarian actors to minimise prevention and reporting gaps in alignment to resolution 2467 (2019) that speaks to cross-border dynamics.
- 23.** Given the importance of this cross-border and regional coordination, Kenya supports strategies for advancing implementation of the mandate and the integration of WPA positions into the UN annual budgets of peace operations, particularly during transition processes, in line with resolution 2594.

24. In this regard Kenya looks forward to SRSG Patten's launch of her Report in June. We also look forward to the international adoption of the Murad Code.

I thank you.