

Concept Note

Signature of a Framework of Cooperation between the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

and

Launch of OSRSG-SVC's Model Legislative Provisions on the Investigation and Prosecution on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and its associated Legislative Guidance

Virtual event, 18 June 2021, 9–10 a.m. EST
Live webcast available at: <http://webtv.un.org/>

Background

Over the past years, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) has developed a strong partnership with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to raise awareness among national parliaments about the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence. On 18 June 2021, the OSRSG-SVC and the IPU will formalize this partnership through the signature of a Framework of Cooperation, thereby demonstrating the commitment of both entities to join forces in the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

Recognizing the pivotal role of parliamentarians in domesticating the robust normative framework established at the international level to address conflict-related sexual violence, as well as the role of parliamentary action in addressing the root causes of sexual violence, including structural gender-based inequality and discrimination, poverty and marginalization, the Framework of Cooperation sets out the following priorities:

- (i) Promoting the adoption, review and implementation of national legislation to promote and protect the rights of women, girls, men and boys affected by, or at risk of, conflict-related sexual violence, in line with international standards and Member States obligations under relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions;
- (ii) Providing technical support to member national parliaments in drafting new domestic legislation and/or reviewing substantive legal provisions and rules of procedure with the aim of overcoming all obstacles in ensuring accountability for conflict-related sexual violence by incorporating into their domestic legal systems the highest standards;
- (iii) Raising awareness of member national parliaments on the importance of empowering survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other grave crimes through survivor-centered justice;

- (iv) Exchanging information regarding countries covered by the OSRSG-SVC and the IPU, including countries with which the SRSG-SVC has signed Joint Communiqués and Frameworks of Cooperation on the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence;
- (v) Cooperating in the promotion of the sexual violence in conflict mandate as part of the Women, Peace and Security agenda through the conduct of joint research and advocacy;
- (vi) Using various UN and IPU fora to increase awareness of national parliaments in the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence; and
- (vii) Sharing information on relevant activities, initiatives and strategies about the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

On this occasion, the OSRSG-SVC will nominate the Secretary-General of the IPU, **Mr. Martin Chungong**, as a Global Champion for the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The OSRSG-SVC will also launch an English version of **Model Legislative Provisions on the Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and its associated Legislative Guidance** (“Model Legislative Provisions”). This new tool, developed by the OSRSG-SVC, aims, inter alia, at assisting parliamentarians in enacting new and/or amending existing legislation on conflict-related sexual violence, in line with international norms and standards, in order to bring survivor-centered justice, as well as supporting national jurisdictions in overcoming obstacles to ensure accountability for conflict-related sexual violence. The Model Legislative Provisions benefited from input from several UN entities through a “peer review” process. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as an important contributor in this process and as a member of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict network, will share its experiences on gender, sexual violence and criminal law and procedure, including but not limited to in the context of trafficking in persons and terrorism, as well as working with parliamentarians on these issues.

Event Format

The event will be held virtually and consist of remarks by the following participants:

1. **Ms. Pramila Patten**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC);
2. **Mr. Martin Chungong**, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;
3. **Ms. Lesia Vasylenko**, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Inter-Parliamentary Union;
4. **Ms. Ghada Waly**, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;
5. **Ms. Maxine Marcus**, Founding Director, Partners in Justice International; and
6. **Ms. Chloe Marnay-Baszanger**, Team Leader of the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (as moderator).

In addition to the remarks, there will be a virtual signing of the Framework of Cooperation between the SRSG-SVC and the Secretary-General of the IPU. Both the Framework of Cooperation and the Model Legislative Provisions will be available on the OSRSG-SVC website thereafter. There will be no remarks from the floor.