



SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMAL EXPERT GROUP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

AFGHANISTAN

July 13th 2016

Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015):

OP 5. Recognizes the ongoing need for greater integration of resolution 1325 (2000) in its own work in alignment with resolution 2122 (2013), including the need to address challenges linked to the provision of specific information and recommendations on the gender dimensions of situations on the Council's agenda, to inform and help strengthen the Council's decisions, and therefore in addition to elements set out in resolution 2122 (2013), and in accordance with established practice and procedure: (a) Expresses its intention to convene meetings of relevant Security Council experts as part of an Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security to facilitate a more systematic approach to Women, Peace and Security within its own work and enable greater oversight and coordination of implementation efforts.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Women's participation and representation in key processes and institutions

In all relevant Security Council decisions about Afghanistan, including about UNAMA's mandate, and the Council's interactions with the Government and mission leadership, the Security Council should:

- **Support women's meaningful participation in the negotiating team(s)** in any future talks with the Taliban, as well as **all decision making bodies involved in the peace process** (including during informal and formal peace negotiations)
- **Call on the Government and all parties to the conflict** to ensure that the human rights of women and girls are promoted and not compromised in the pursuit of other interests and make **the protection and empowerment of women central considerations in any peace processes**;
- Support and increase efforts to **implement the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325** promoting the protection of women's rights and meaningful participation in all decision making processes, including political and security transitions, and in the implementation of the peacebuilding agenda, **through institutional and legal reforms and national budget allocation**.
- **Support the work of the Working Group on Women, Peace and Security** and their coordination in the implementation of the NAP, strategic advocacy vis-à-vis the High Peace Council and the National Security Council to increase the number of women.
- **Ensure implementation of the Female Police Gender Integration Strategy**, including by ensuring that funding committed at the Warsaw NATO summit has a clear allocation, and effective tracking and reporting systems, for support to women in police and army.
- **Strengthen the gender advisory expertise and dedicated capacity within UNAMA Human Rights Unit**, in line with the 2014 merger between the Gender and Human Rights Units, in order to effectively implement WPS commitments.
- **Request systematic reporting** on the differentiated impact of conflict on women, men, boys, and girls and analytical information on **gender-specific trends and developments**; and ensure that **sex and age disaggregated data** is included in all reports and briefings to the Council.
- **Request stronger monitoring and data collection** efforts to assess **consequences of violent extremism** on the restrictions of women's rights and **gendered drivers of radicalization**.

Conflict-related violations of women's rights and women's protection issues

Support the independence and effectiveness of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) to monitor, investigate, document, make recommendations and report on the human rights abuses and sexual harassment committed by military personnel and in detention centers.

Prioritize support and resources to Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRD) in insecure areas of the country; including by ensuring that accountability processes are monitored effectively by the Ministry of Interior and by building the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to respond to WHRDs at risk, including by providing assistance with temporary or permanent relocation.

Engage in advocacy with parties to the conflict to immediately cease any restrictions on women's human rights, including freedom of movement, access to education, health care and work; ensure the safety of service providers and human rights defenders and monitors; and address the lack of accessible services for women and girls.

Assist effective implementation of legal frameworks protecting women from violence, including but not limited to the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law, the EVAW Presidential decree and the anti-harassment regulation, and by ending impunity for perpetrators of these crimes.

Call on the GoA to ensure that **sexual and gender-based violence** is clearly defined and **criminalized in the Penal Code** and swift adoption of legislation **prohibiting the practice of *bachah-bazi***.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The following is relevant information on two key aspects of implementation of women, peace and security in Afghanistan: **women's participation and representation in peace negotiations, the security sector, and other key processes and institutions**, including through the implementation of the national action plan launched in 2015; and **conflict-related violations of women's rights and women's protection issues**.

Women's participation and representation in peace negotiations, the security sector, and other key processes and institutions

Facts and figures

Number of women in the High Peace Council: 11 out of 50 members
Percentage of women in parliament: 27.7 per cent in the lower house and 26.5 per cent in the upper house
Percentage of women in the government cabinet: 4 out of 25 (16 per cent)
Number of women governors: 2 out of 34 (6 per cent)
Percentage of women in the Afghan National Army: 1,400 out 195,000 (0.7 per cent)
Percentage of women in the Afghan National Police: approximately 2,900 out of 157,000 (2 per cent)
Percentage of women in the civil service: Between 21 and 24 per cent (2011-2014)
Percentage of IDP women without civil documents: 82 per cent
Increase in conflict-related female casualties over the last year: 37 per cent
Reported cases of violence against women and girls in 2015: 4541 cases (March 2014-March 2015) registered with government institutions
Gender balance in UNAMA: Women are 13 per cent of overall staff (a 1 per cent increase vis-à-vis 2014).

1. For many years, women, peace and security actors in Afghanistan have insisted that **women must be represented in peace negotiations with the Taliban and other armed actors**, and that any gains on women's rights or gender equality cannot be traded away in the context of a peace deal.
2. **Currently 11 out of 50 members of the High Peace Council (HPC) are women**, including one women in position of leadership, one whom will be part of the government delegation in negotiations with the Taliban, and two women as advisors to the HPC. The High Peace Council has been adjusting its mandate, structure, and composition to the changing context, and its **strategy comprises the inclusion of women in its provincial committees** (the target is for women to be at least 25 percent of members in each provincial committee).
3. In recent negotiations with Hizbi-Islami, the negotiating team consisted of three members from the High Peace Council (two men and one woman) and two members from Hizbi-Isilami, who met for two months to pave the way for an agreement. The High Peace Council ensured that the draft agreement, which contains 26 articles, would not violate the

Constitution's provisions with regards to women's rights. The agreement has not been signed.

4. **The Warsaw Summit Declaration on Afghanistan** issued on July 9th commits Afghanistan, including with the continued support of NATO and its operational partners, to build on recent achievements in **empowering women to participate fully in all aspects of Afghan society**, including service in the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces; and political processes; **and fully implement Afghanistan's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325**. The declaration also reaffirmed that an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process, which respects the Afghan constitution and human rights, including notably the rights of women, is the pathway to a sustainable resolution of the conflict.
5. Last year, in line with the recommendation of the Special Electoral Reform Commission (Presidential decree Number 84 on September 6th 2015) the **quota of seats reserved for women was restored to 25 per cent for the provincial and district council elections**. This reversed changes in 2013 that had reduced the quotas to 20 per cent and zero, respectively.
6. In spite of the magnitude of the investment of the international community in the security sector in Afghanistan through the years, the integration of women and mainstreaming gender equality considerations in this sector has been challenging so far. There are currently **1,400 women out of 195,000 in the Afghan National Army**, and approximately **2,900 out of 157,000 in the Afghan National Police**. Women's representation in the police was 0.3 percent in 2005, 0.9 percent in 2013, and **2.0 percent in mid-2016**.
7. The Ministry of Interior established police women councils (associations where policewomen meet regularly and discuss challenges to find joint solutions) as a national strategic approach in December 2014. There are now **more than 80 police women councils throughout the country**. Much slower has been the provision of adequate facilities, uniforms, weapons, and vehicles for women, the roll out of adequate recruitment and awareness-raising campaigns targeting women as potential recruits, or the establishment of greater fairness and transparency in promotions and assignments. In spite of the signing of anti-harassment regulation last year, **anecdotal evidence of sexual harassment and assault within the security forces are widespread** although few complaints are lodged; a human rights-based complaints mechanism is pending for approval by the Ministry of Interior.
8. **The National Unity Government appointed four women to ministerial posts**, namely, Women's Affairs; Higher Education; Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled; and Counter Narcotics. Two women were selected to be the governors of Daikundi and Ghor provinces; the latter was removed from her position in December 2015 to become the Deputy Governor of Kabul province. A woman was nominated as a judge of the Supreme Court of Justice amid opposition from conservative sectors, including members of the Ulema Council. She was not confirmed, falling short by nine votes in the National Assembly (Wolesi Jirga). While these appointments comply with commitments made

during the London Conference on Afghanistan in December 2014, **the representation of women in leadership roles remains extremely low**, tends to be limited to the provincial capitals and is often symbolic.

9. **The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was launched in Kabul in June 2015 and in seven provinces.** Since then, several projects have been initiated, financial support from donors was ensured, a baseline mapping and indicators are being put in place, and the plan is being “localized” at the sub-national level. Implementation of the National Action Plan has been adopted as one of the objectives of the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework, which was approved by Afghanistan and the international community at the senior officials meeting in September 2015 in Kabul.
10. **In 2016, the Women, Peace and Security Working Group was reactivated and has held monthly meetings** since February, co-chaired by the Embassy of Finland and an Afghan NGO, and with UN Women as the secretariat. The forum represents a good practice and has proved useful to share information, and coordinate joint activities and strategic advocacy. It is attended by **close to 40 representatives** of government actors (key ministries, National Security Council, High Peace Council, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission), national and international NGOs, donors (including Finland, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Canada, USA, Australia, Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, UK), NATO, EU, and UN entities (including UN Women, UNAMA, UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, and Mine Action).
11. **UNAMA consolidated and merged the work of the Gender Unit within the Mission’s Human Rights Unit with effect from January 2014.** This action was taken following a decision by the Fifth Committee of the United Nations with regards to UNAMA’s 2014 budget. The new merged structure is expected to implement the Mission’s mandate, as stipulated in SCR 2145 (2014) and to meet its monitoring and reporting obligations, together with UN partners, on SCR 1325 and other resolutions on WPS and CRSV. The merger sought to ensure more focused inputs on gender equality through a larger network of existing resources, particularly through the strong presence of human rights officers across the country who were tasked to directly support gender mainstreaming of the mission’s work.
12. In the last year, UNAMA has strengthened internal senior accountability on gender commitments through the **establishment of the Senior Gender Dialogue**, a quarterly forum of UNAMA’s senior leadership chaired by the SRSG and devoted to discussions on Mission’s implementation of WPS mandate; written guidance for senior managers on practical tools (i.e., checklists and indicators) to integrate gender perspectives in strategic planning, staffing, reporting, monitoring and evaluation; and new in-country training on Women, Peace and Security resolutions and DPA commitments on UNSCR 1325 (2000). Last year, UNAMA facilitated nine Open Day events with over 370 women civil society representatives from across Afghanistan, and held 33 TV and 98 radio outreach programmes to **raise awareness on gender equality and Women, Peace and Security** in 25 provinces.

13. Despite timid improvements in augmenting the recruitment and retention of national female staff, their representation in 2015 remained minimal. This severely limiting UNAMA's outreach to over one-half of the population. Overall, the **presence of women in UNAMA in 2015 constituted 13 per cent of overall staff** (197 of 1,516 total staff), a one per cent increase compared to 2014. The ratio of female to male staff remains **acutely unbalanced in NPO positions where female staff account only for 7 per cent** (11 of 166 NPOs), although marking a two per cent increase vis-à-vis 2014 data. Analysis of UNAMA's senior positions shows the number of women employed in leadership posts in 2015 increased to 11 compared to 10 in 2014. Among **challenges in attracting eligible female candidates**, low literacy rates due to protracted conflict and entrenched discrimination place Afghan women in a disadvantageous position compared to their male competitors. Also, few vacancies arose over the reporting period as UN national staff salaries are significantly higher than the national average, and those that did were mainly filled by former staff members because of "ring-fencing". UNAMA will review policies that promote "ring-fencing" and amend if possible the mandated eligibility requirements to facilitate affirmative action for the recruitment of NPOs.

Conflict-related violations of women's rights and women's protection issues

14. Ground engagements continued to cause the most women casualties, as opposed to previous years when IEDs were the biggest cause of casualties among women and girls. Anti-Government Elements caused more than half of all women's deaths and injuries (61 per cent), with Pro-Government Forces causing 26 per cent of all women casualties. **Women civilian casualties attributed to Pro-Government Forces increased by 71 per cent in 2015**, mostly due to the use of mortars in civilian-populated areas.
15. The **casualty rate of women and girls has grown significantly and cumulatively over the last three years**. In the first quarter of 2016, this number grew by 5 percent compared to the same period in 2015. UNAMA documented a 37 percent increase over the year 2015, compared to 2014, in which the number had already increased by 21 percent. 2014 was at the time, the highest number of women's deaths and injuries since UNAMA began to document civilian casualties systematically and was preceded by a 61 percent increase in conflict-related casualties in 2013. Furthermore, **attacks against high profile and activist women, including police women, senior officials within the Ministry of Women's Affairs, human rights defenders, and politicians, have been a salient characteristic of this conflict**.
16. From January 2015 to the end of November, UNAMA/OHCHR documented 838 alleged cases of violence against women across Afghanistan, including 98 murders, 46 cases of forced immolation, 24 "honour" killings, 41 rapes, 398 cases of battery and laceration, 73 forced marriages and 27 underage marriages. Those incidents that reach law enforcement and judicial authorities or receive public attention due to their egregious nature represent the tip of the iceberg of incidents of **violence against women throughout the country**.
17. In 2015, two cases in particular sparked widespread national and international public condemnation: the murder of a young woman by a mob in Kabul city on 19 March over

false allegations that she had burnt a copy of the Quran; and the stoning to death of a woman on 25 October in Ghor province as a punishment by anti-Government elements for alleged adultery.

18. **The scope and prevalence of sexual violence in Afghanistan remain unclear due to the insecurity and chronic underreporting.** In addition to the stigma associated with sexual violence and the limited capacity of the rule of law institutions to address sexual violence, the rising insecurity throughout Afghanistan has also hindered survivors' access to reporting institutions and data-collection. Victims of sexual violence face risks for reporting the crime and are often subjected to more violence as a result of reporting. Under the law, there remains a **conflation of rape with adultery, under *zina* (sexual intercourse outside of marriage)**, which means that the complainant herself may face a criminal charge. Lack of legal comprehensive definition on rape and other forms of sexual violence under national law makes it extremely difficult for survivors to pursue the charges legally, thus, **prosecution in cases of sexual violence is rare and a culture of impunity prevails.** With the rise of insecurity women are compelled to lead highly restricted lives in militarized zones, in eastern Afghanistan. National institutions are ill-equipped to respond to cases of sexual violence, and **women represent less than 2 per cent of the Afghan national police.**
19. **In 2015, UNAMA has documented 55 incidents of sexual violence against women and girls,** 7 of which were committed by parties to the conflict, including the police, anti-Government elements, members of a pro-Government group and the Taliban. Between March 2014 and March 2015, national institutions recorded 169 cases of rape. Despite the severe access and security constraints impeding documentation, credible allegations of an abduction of a woman and the killing of two women have been reported by UNAMA.
20. **Fear of sexual violence in Afghanistan is a driver of displacement.** In December 2015, UNAMA released a special public report documenting violations and abuses following the Taliban's attack and control of Kunduz city (28 September - 13 October 2015). Taliban commenced house to house searches using pre-prepared lists of human rights defenders, in particular women's rights activists, NGO workers, journalists, UN staff members, Government employees and other civilians. Fear of violence by armed men or opportunistic criminals, fueled by initial reports of **abductions of women and the systematic searches targeting women rights defenders, was a key factor in the mass displacement of women from Kunduz City** and also the suspension of some essential services for women, including shelters and health care in several adjacent provinces. The emergence of ISIL affiliates in eastern Afghanistan also caused some families to either flee or confine women and girls to their homes. Multiple sources have expressed concerns about sexual violence, and continued monitoring and investigation are required.
21. The United Nations remains concerned about boys recruited by armed groups in Afghanistan, who may be at risk of sexual abuse, and by ongoing reports of the **practice of *bachah-bazi*, involving "dancing boys", which may include sexual violence and the enslavement of boys by men in positions of power.** In 2015, the Government undertook a number of initiatives aimed at preventing, protecting against, and responding to sexual

violence whether perpetrated by private or public actors. In particular, Afghanistan's First National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325 (2000) launched in June 2015 foresees – within its Protection pillar – a review of existing laws to conform them with UN resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, including those specifically addressing conflict-related sexual violence. **The NAP also commits to strengthen the capacity and accountability of justice system to provide redress of survivors of violence.**

22. In the last two years, the Taliban have issued multiple public statements on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including on the protection of women's rights, especially the right to education, health, livelihood, and marriage, "within the scope of Sharia and Afghan traditions." However, **UNAMA field monitoring revealed a sharp increase in parallel justice system executions and corporal punishments imposed by the Taliban on women and girls for alleged immoral behavior.** In all incidents, the killings or corporal punishments were carried out for alleged infractions of Sharia principles. In all cases, the female victims were accused of engaging in immoral behavior such as *zina*, prostitution or entertaining a friendship with a man.
23. **The increased prevalence of death sentences and corporal punishments imposed on women and girls for perceived moral offences raises concern that the Taliban intends to systematically impose an extremist interpretation of Islam.** As a State Party to the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Afghanistan is legally bound to take necessary actions to prevent, protect against and respond to violence against women, regardless of whether it is perpetrated by private or public actors. Furthermore, although non-State actors – such as the Taliban – are not party to CEDAW, **General Recommendation 30 prescribes that where an armed group with an identifiable political structure exercises significant control over territory and population it is bound to respect international human rights.**
24. **As a traditional conflict resolution mechanism, mediation remains highly prevalent in settling disputes of violence against women.** Mediation is perceived as offering women survivors of violence an accessible, faster, cheaper, and culturally acceptable solution to seeking justice and remedies, even though it often violates human rights and due process. Preference for mediation was influenced by perceived deficiencies of the criminal justice system, including allegations of corruption, abuse of power, and lack of professionalism. Nevertheless, traditional conflict resolution mechanism, such as mediation services need to be professionalized and improved in terms of quality.
25. More women prefer access to civil recourse mechanisms. As such, it is **imperative to strengthen effective civil remedies available to women experiencing violence** (e.g., availability of restraint and protection orders, considerations in matters regulating custody of children, right to maintenance after dissolution of marriage and right to reside in the marital home), accompanied by measures to support women's economic empowerment and integration into society. UNAMA/OHCHR findings indicated that rather than seeking the imposition of criminal sanctions, the majority of women interviewed were primarily concerned with obtaining civil redress, such as divorce, fair alimony and custody settlements, or living in a violence-free environment.

26. **National and international actors have resisted – often times effectively – several attempts by conservative lawmakers at rolling back legislation that is favorable to women**, including proposals to forbid relatives from testifying or being considered witness. This includes **specific provisions under the 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women Law**, particularly provisions related to women's right to shelter, minimum age of marriage, women's right to consent to marriage, polygamy, physical violence, and inheritance. Another significant achievement was effectively stopping the impending plans to allow stoning in the draft criminal code and to issue regulations on women's shelters that would put survivors at risk.
27. The broader social and economic impact of the conflict on the lives of women includes an **increase of female-headed households and women left as sole income providers** when their husbands are killed or injured, with **poverty forcing many women to give their daughters for marriage** in exchange for debts or to take their children out of school often to work. **Widowed women are then highly vulnerable to other forms of violence and abuse** by family and community members.
28. **82 percent of IDP women do not have civil documents.** The refugee population continues to be **at risk of GBV and child protection violations**, with specific challenges due to status as non-citizens, notably a lack of access to education, transportation for single females, legal assistance, and psycho-social support. Inaccessibility of services and legal justice further affects females, particularly divorced/separated women and widows in terms of property ownership, expulsion, or forced remarriage.

ANNEX: Relevant excerpts of Security Council Resolution 2274 (2016):

Emphasizing the Kabul Process towards (...), **sustainable development and better protection for the rights of all Afghan citizens, in particular women and girls**, and *welcoming* specifically the commitments made by the Afghan Government,

Affirming that sustainable progress on security, political stability, governance, fiscal sustainability, human rights, especially **women's rights**, rule of law and development as well as the cross-cutting issues of counter-narcotics, anti-corruption and accountability are mutually reinforcing (...)

Welcoming the Afghan government reform programme entitled “Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership” that contains strategic policy priorities for Afghanistan towards realizing self-reliance in the Transformation Decade for improving security, political stability, economic and fiscal stabilization, advancing good governance, including (...) **promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights, particularly in relation to women and girls** (...)

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process in Afghanistan to support reconciliation for all those who are prepared to reconcile as laid forth in the 20 July 2010 Kabul Conference Communiqué on dialogue for all those who renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the constitution, **including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women** (...)

(...) *Stressing* the long-term commitment of the international community to support, throughout the Transformation Decade (2015-2024), the further development, including training, and professionalization of the ANDSF, and the **recruitment and retention of women to the ANDSF**

Reiterating its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the region based violent extremist activities by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs, and the strong links between terrorism activities and illicit drugs, **resulting in threats to the local population, including women**, (...)

Expressing its grave concern with the **high number of civilian casualties in Afghanistan, in particular women and children**, the increasingly large majority of which are caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, *condemning* the suicide attacks, often in civilian-populated areas, and the **targeted and deliberate killings, in particular of women and girls, including high-level women officials and those promoting women's rights**, as well as journalists, *reaffirming* that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to **ensure the protection of affected civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, including from sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence must be held accountable**,

Recalling its resolutions (...) **1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015) on women and peace and security**,

7. *Decides further* that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (...) will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts (...) with a particular focus on the priorities laid out below:

(e) continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, (...) to assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, **in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**;

13. (...) *requests* that, upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA provide assistance to the relevant Afghan institutions to support the integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, including measures to **enable the full and safe participation of women, welcomes the participation of women in the electoral process as**

candidates, registered voters and campaigners, and *further calls upon* members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate;

14. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government to advance the peace process (...) to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned dialogue on reconciliation and political participation (...) for all those who as part of an outcome of such a process renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, including Al-Qaida, respect the Constitution, **including its human rights provisions, notably the rights of women** (...)

17. *Stresses* the role of UNAMA in supporting, if requested by and in close consultation with the Government of Afghanistan, an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, while continuing to assess, including in collaboration with the AIHRC, **the impact of the aforementioned peace process on human rights and gender**, including on the promotion and protection of human rights and on the **participation of women**, and *encourages* the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, politically and financially;

18. *Welcomes also* the measures taken by the Government of Afghanistan, including the publication, in June 2015, of the **National Action Plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)**, and encourages it to continue to **increase the participation of women** as well as minorities and civil society in outreach, consultation and decision-making processes, *recalls that women play a vital role in the peace process*, as recognized in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions, therefore *reiterates* the need for the **full, equal and effective participation of women at all stages of peace processes**, and *urges* their **involvement in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies** in order to take account of their perspectives and needs as affirmed by the Bonn and Tokyo Conferences;

28. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the Afghan security sector through appropriate vetting procedures, **training including on women's and children's rights and on gender issues in support of the implementation of resolution 1325 and Afghanistan's 1325 National Action Plan**, mentoring, equipping and **empowerment efforts, for both women and men**, in order to accelerate progress towards the goal of self-sufficient, ethnically balanced and **women-inclusive Afghan security forces** providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country,

30. (...) *takes note* of the commitment by the Ministry of Interior and the Afghan National Police to develop an effective strategy for coordinating **increased recruitment, retention, training, and capacity development for women in the Afghan National Police**, as well as furthering the implementation of their **gender integration strategy**, and *welcomes* UNAMA's **continued support for women police associations**;

49. *Recognizes* the Afghan Government's continued efforts in pursuing legislative and public administration reform in order to tackle corruption and to ensure good governance, as agreed at the Bonn Conference, **with full representation of all Afghan women and men**,

51. *Recognizes* that despite progress achieved on gender equality, enhanced efforts, including on measurable and action-oriented objectives, are necessary to secure the **rights and full participation of women and girls** and to **ensure that all women and girls in Afghanistan are protected from violence and abuse**, that perpetrators of such violence and abuse are held accountable, and that **women and girls enjoy equal protection under the law and equal access to justice**, *welcomes* the publication, in June 2015, of the **National Action Plan for the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)**, *emphasizes* the importance of maintaining **adequate legislative protections for women**, and of ensuring that **women fleeing domestic violence are able to find safe and secure refuge**, *strongly condemns* discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular **violence aimed at preventing girls from attending schools**, and *stresses* the **importance of implementing Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015)** noting the mainstreaming commitments introduced therein, and *welcomes* in this regard the establishment in January 2016 of a new **Trust Fund for Victims of Violence against Women by the Government of Afghanistan to support victims of violence against women**;

52. *Welcomes* the Afghan Government's commitment to strengthen the **participation of women in the Afghan political life and in all Afghan governance institutions** including elected and appointed bodies and the civil service and *notes* the progress in this regard, *welcomes* its continued efforts to **protect and promote the full participation of women in the electoral processes** and *requests* the **Secretary-General to continue to include in his reports to the Security Council relevant information on the process of integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan**, *notes* the UNAMA report on the Implementation of the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women in Afghanistan, and *calls on* the Government of Afghanistan to urgently **develop a strategy to fully implement it, including services to victims and access to justice**, *welcomes* in this regard the launch in November 2014 by the Ministry of Public Health of the Gender-based Violence Treatment Protocol for Healthcare Providers, *recalls* that the **promotion and protection of women's rights are an integral part of development, peace, reintegration and reconciliation and that women play a vital role in the peace process**, *welcomes* the Afghan Government's commitment to **developing, implementing and monitoring the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security** and identifying further opportunities to support **participation of women in the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process**, and *welcomes* the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to develop a **Women's Economic Empowerment Action Plan**;