UNITING AS ONE
AGAINST GENDER-RELATED KILLING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
I. INTRODUCTION

The success of the new 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development will require stronger partnerships and greater collaboration between nations and institutions. In the UN System, cross-agency cooperation will be crucial to promote better coordination and cohesion and enhance synergies to ensure efficiency.

This report highlights the outcome of discussions on the topic of women, peace and security, which took place at the United Nations HQ in New York from 12-16 October 2015. These events included the UN Security Council sessions and consultations between academics, civil society organizations, State Representatives and United Nations Organizations.

The aim of this report is to summarize these activities and give the reader a broad insight into an extensive process of cooperation amongst various UN organizations, country Representatives, Civil Society and Academics on combating violence against women and girls.

The content of this report is based on public information obtained from UN platforms, remarks made by speakers as provided by them or transcribed from recordings of the meetings as well as notes taken during the discussions.
II. UN SECURITY COUNCIL SESSIONS

During the High Level Review on the 15th anniversary of the Resolution 13251, the UN Security Council held a series of sessions to discuss how to improve the implementation of the Resolution on women, peace and security. These discussions resulted into the adoption of Resolution 22422 on 13 October 2015 which became the eighth resolution on the women, peace and security agenda.

Both the content and the support of Resolution 2242 were striking and unprecedented. The Resolution was sponsored by 71 Member States and adopted unanimously. During the sessions, 133 Representatives of States were registered, making it the most popular UN Security Council meeting to date.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

In his opening remarks after the adoption of the resolution, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon praised Member States for their effort to advance gender equality for women. He said “At a time when armed extremist groups place the subordination of women at the top of their agenda, we must place women’s leadership and the protection of women’s rights at the top of ours.” He added “let us heed the call for action and work together to empower women and girls, protect their human rights and advance world peace for everyone.”

United Nations Women

UNWOMEN welcomed the agreement saying that the resolution “places the women, peace and security agenda as a central component of our efforts to address the challenges of the current global context, including rising violent extremism,

1 Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/#resolution
2 Resolution 2242 on improving the implementation of the landmark text on women, peace and security Agenda: http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/10/ed-statement-
climate change, and unprecedented numbers of displaced people”.

UNWOMEN further acknowledged the importance of the resolution that “addresses a number of substantive areas, including a commitment to integrate a gender analysis on the drivers and impacts of violent extremism and greater consultations with women’s organizations affected by this violence; it encourages ambitious new targets for numbers of female peacekeepers including through the use of incentives for troop-contributing countries; and states the need for more senior women leaders in all levels of decision-making in peace and security”.

**Congolese women’s fund**

Other speakers to address the Council included Representatives of civil society organizations. Ms. Julienne Lusenge, Director of the Congolese Women’s Fund who was speaking on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, referred to her remarks to the Security Council in 2008 describing the rapes and massacres in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At that time, she had asked for concrete actions to implement resolution 1325 (2000). She blamed the exclusion of women from social and political life as the reason “nothing had changed.” She added that “women must be included in all parts of the peace process at all levels.” Ms. Lusenge continued, stating “women were the first victims of war, but also held the key to peace.” Speaking about the role of Libyan women in resolving conflicts, Ms. Alaa Murabit of the Voice of Libyan Women, said her organization’s first national project in 2011 - Libyan Women’s Charter – whose work became the basis for the “Noor Campaign”, led by women, and built on their partnership with men and religious actors to build peace and security in Libya.

International organizations were also invited to the table including Representatives of NATO, the African Union Commission, EU, the League of Arab States, OAS and OSCE.
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

In his remarks, the Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Alexander, Vershbow expressed his organization’s pride in “its success in implementing resolution 1325 (2000).” He explained that “the root of its success was the result of deeply embedding gender perspectives within NATO and keeping the integration practical.” As a practical example, NATO “had made gender a key principle of its defense capacity building initiative with partners around the world.” Mr. Vershbow pointed to alliance’s implementation of its “first trust fund for gender training of Jordan’s armed forces” as further evidence for NATO’s leading example in empowering women.

African Union (AU)

Speaking on behalf of the African Union Commission, the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security the Chairperson, Mrs. Bineta Diop, said that, “with respect to the requirements of resolution 1325 (2000), the African Union had engaged in numerous actions, including conducting training with Member States, and had taken a strong stand on the issues of sexual abuse and exploitation.” She added that “female peacekeepers and police had been deployed in peace support operations such as in Somalia.” And “a hybrid court would be established in South Sudan to fight impunity.” Referring to women in leadership in Africa, Mrs. Diop gave examples of countries like Rwanda, Seychelles, Namibia, South Africa, and Senegal as being among “world champions when it came to women’s representation in parliaments.”

European Union (EU)

Mrs. Mara Marinaki, Principal Adviser on Gender and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of the European Union, said that, “while the women, peace and security agenda was a consideration in external policies, the boundary between internal and external policies was increasingly blurred in a complex world.” She continued that “from terrorism to intensified refugee and migrant flows, root causes must be tackled with firmness and fairness.” Mrs. Marinaki explained
the EU approach which “included promoting and protecting human rights, making conflict resolution more effective and protecting women in conflict situations.” Most crucially, the EU would also “mainstream gender into all its financial commitments and instruments, and allocate, over the next seven years, €100 million to gender equality and projects aimed for the empowerment of women and girls.”

League of Arab States (LAS)

Referring to the transformation Arab countries have been experiencing in women issues, Mr. Ahmed Fathalla, Permanent Observer for the League of Arab States, congratulated Tunisia on winning the Nobel Peace Prize by saying that “women had played an active part in the country’s democratic transformation.” Regarding the role of the Arab League, Mr. Fathalla said the organization “had launched a regional strategy for the eradication of violence against women which was intended to enhance the participation of Arab women in decision-making, protect women throughout the region and other key goals.” He also added the importance of highlighting the “repercussions of conflict and war on women and girls in the Arab countries.” As a particular emphasis, he mentioned that it was “critical to overcome the obstacles facing people living under foreign occupation, in particular the Palestinian people.” In such environments, he said that “Arab women in the occupied territories faced psychological, social, legal and economic suffering as a result of the Israeli occupation and the subsequent violations of their human rights.”

Organization of American States (OAS)

Speaking on behalf of the Organization of American States (OAS), Mr. Francisco Lainez described how the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) had been a “watershed moment for the women of the world in terms of how they were affected by, and participated in, all types of conflict and crisis.” He added that “while no countries in the region were defined as being ‘in conflict’, the Americas were plagued by high levels of citizen insecurity and violence against women, particularly the gender-based killing of women known as femicide.”
based killing of women known as femicide.” On OAS efforts to combating violence against women, Mr. Lainez said that “OAS had committed itself to undertaking advocacy efforts to promote the relevance of resolution 1325 (2000), in addition to related resolutions, particularly those addressing sexual violence in times of conflict and crisis.” Reiterating the role of governments, he called on States in the region to “consider the security situation of women and ensure their participation in decision-making structures; not to do so would be tantamount to ignoring 50 per cent of the population.”

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was represented by its Senior Gender Advisor, Mrs. Miroslava Beham. Her remarks highlighted the importance of the OSCE as “the world’s largest organization dealing with early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.” As such, “the women, peace and security agenda played a central role in its work, and a number of its policy documents explicitly referred to resolution 1325 (2000).” She recognized that 15 years on “progress had been made”, referring to the “27 of the 54 existing National Action Plans on resolution 1325 (2000)” being from the OSCE region. Explaining the current focus of OSCE in relation to Resolution 1325, she said that “the women, peace and security agenda included helping participating States to improve existing national action plans with a focus on creating coherence between domestic and outward looking implementation activities.” In addition, OSCE “had also strengthened its activities in combating violence against women and domestic violence in peace time as a prerequisite to preventing sexual and gender-based violence in conflict.”

The unanimous adoption of Resolution 2242 was indeed both historic and unprecedented. That must give everyone involved in fighting for equality hope for change. However, we have seen Resolutions passed time after time but the progress of implementation has been lacking. As the Executive Director of UNWOMEN mentioned, “more action and less talk is needed”.
III. CONSULTATION ON TAKING ACTION AGAINST GENDER RELATED KILLING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

Following a succession of Security Council and committee meetings, supporters of the fight against gender based killing of women and girls came together in a consultation organized by the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) together with the United Nations Women’s Guild; The Permanent Missions of Austria, Brazil, Croatia, Japan, Kenya, Turkey, Brazil, Austria to the United Nations; the Thai Institute for Justice; the United Nations Organization for Drugs and Crime; the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights and UCT. The aim of the consultation was to bring together representatives of the above mentioned institutions to discuss what can practically be done to implement Resolution E/CN.15/2015/L.83 “taking action against gender related killing of women and girls” which was adopted by the commission on crime prevention and criminal justice in May 2015 in Vienna. The Resolution expresses deep concerns about the global prevalence of the many different contemporary manifestations of femicide, conflict related sexual violence, the targeted mass kidnapping, rape, and killing of women and girls. It urges Member States to end immunity for those committing these heinous crimes.

The Resolution encourages Member States to collect, disaggregate, analyse and report data on gender related killing of women and girls, according to the international classification of crime for statistical purposes endorsed by the Statistical Commission and, where appropriate, and to the extent possible, involve civil society, academia, victims’ representatives and relevant international organizations and provide appropriate training to relevant personnel on technical and ethical aspects of such data collection and analysis. The resolution also encourages the UNODC to raise awareness regarding gender-related killing of women and girls and to

continue conducting and coordinating relevant research on gender-related killing of women and girls.

The consultation was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN, H.E. Ambassador Jan Kickert. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Kickert thanked the speakers and organizers and praised the co-sponsors of the Resolution E/CN.15/2015/L.8, including his own country, as well as Thailand, Croatia, Andorra, Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama and Philippines. He also commended the unanimous adoption of the Resolution 2242 on women, peace and security as positive step towards improving the implementation of Resolution 1325.

**UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women**

The first speaker was Mrs. Dubravka Simonovic, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women. In her remarks, Mrs. Simonovic started by highlighting the significance of 2015 for women rights. She said “this year, 2015, is a stock-taking year and also a vision-making year for women’s rights at the global level.” She added that “we have reaffirmed our commitments to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPA) adopted 20 years ago.” The Special Rapporteur also stressed that “the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the Security Council resolution 1325 (SCR 1325), which takes place this week, provides us with an important opportunity to move ahead the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.”

Mrs. Simonovic spoke of the 17 post-2015 development goals as “transformative sustainable development goals (SDGs) that seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” The Special Rapporteur added that “for the first time, we have a global gendered framework that calls for the realization of human rights of all –which encompasses women’s rights as human rights.” Further, she praised the framework as an agenda that “adds a specific stand-alone goal number 5 on the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls” and “provides that
substantive gender equality and empowerment of women and girls should be achieved by the elimination of all forms of discriminations and violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres.”

Presenting practical solutions to ending femicide, Mrs. Simonovic said that “it is necessary to adopt a holistic approach, including legal, administrative, policy, and other measures to address the social political, economic, cultural and other factors that perpetuate discrimination and violence.”

She concluded by saying “it is time to accelerate prevention of preventable femicides of women and girls.”

**Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN in New York**

As the main advocate for the Resolution since its beginning, Thailand Representative, H.E. Ambassador Virachai Plasai strongly encouraged Members States to study the four recommendations of the UN Secretary General reports in May and October and see how best to implement them in their respective countries. Speaking of Resolution E/CN.15/2015/L.8, which Thailand co-sponsored, Ambassador Plasai said “the resolution aims to curbing gender related killing of women and girls in certain circumstances through enhancing gender specific criminal justice policies and practices.” He added that “we hope that the UN GA will adopt the resolution by consensus and I encourage Member States to consider implementing it.” Reflecting on the significance of the celebration of 15 years of the SC resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, he said that “activities on this topic that have been intensified in the UN lately clearly show that there is clear momentum on strengthening human rights of women and girls in the criminal justice system in particular.” He continued that “it is now time for Member States to act on these existing practical recommendations and collaborate among them with the UN and the civil society.”

Presenting efforts in Thailand to fight against femicide, Ambassador Plasai spoke of his country’s adoption of two new items on gender equality – gender equality act and domestic
violence – which aim to aid the implementation of the UN Secretary General recommendations. Thailand is also collaborating with the civil society to address this problem, mainly through the Thailand Institute for Justice which was set up with the leadership of her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand. Further highlighting the support of Thailand, Ambassador Plasai pointed to the Thai Institute of Justice’s co-sponsorship of the fourth edition of femicide publication. This year, he said, “Thailand, through TIJ has initiated a campaign called ‘speak up, speak out’ which encourages women to speak up about problems they may have and for men to speak up about women injustices.”

Ambassador Plasai concluded by encouraging Member States and the civil society to increase collaboration in implementing the Resolution.

**Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN in New York**

Brazil was represented by H.E. Ambassador Antonio de Aguiar Patriota who began by thanking ACUNS for organizing the event which Brazil co-sponsored. Ambassador Patriota referred to the recently released report of the SG on gender related killing of women and girls which “alerts us to stark reality that 47% of female who are murdered worldwide were killed by family member or even partner.” Considering the past, he eluded that domestic violence was regarded as private business and “regrettably in some place it still is.”

Highlighting some facts about the situation, Ambassador Patriota informed the audience that domestic violence remains a serious public concern. As current statistics by UNWOMEN suggest, femicide constitutes the first cause of death for women and girls ranging from the ages 15 and 43 in the Caribbean. At the same time, the region has led comprehensive initiatives in cooperation with UNWOMEN to address gender related killings.

The regional UN WOMEN office together with UNOHR have drafted a Latin American model of Protocol\(^4\) on the investigation of femicide which has been recognized by the

Intergovernmental open-ended expert group meeting on this issue. In practice, over the past decades, Brazil has put in place policies that are transforming lives of Brazilian women. Moreover, in March 2015 a law that criminalizes femicide was passed. Brazil has also launched an initiative called ‘women life without violence’.

In February 2015, the first of the 27 Brazilian women’s houses began to operate. These were initiated by the government of Brazil in partnership with the state and municipalities to offer humanized services and shelter to assist women and help them to overcome the impact of violence.

The Ambassador recalled the statement of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to remind participants that “femicide is often the last stage of an extended and ignored continuum of domestic violence that has progressively escalated.” He continued, adding, “if we are to effectively address gender based killing of women, we have to challenge socially and culturally embedded discriminatory norms.”

Ambassador Patriota emphasized the importance of acquiring qualitative and quantitative data on gender related killing of women and to provide practical and financial resources for the prevention of these killings as well as assistance for victims of violence and their dependents.

He concluded by calling for more action at the international level to strengthen the legal framework to combat all forms or violence against women and girls.
“Violence against women is not a force of nature – it can be stopped.” “The Istanbul Convention⁵ is a convention that is set to bring about practical changes that should ultimately improve the lives of women and girls across Europe.” - Gauri van Gulik

Turkey was represented by H.E. Ambassador Y. Halit Cevik, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations. He began by expressing his thanks to the organizers of the consultation before focusing on the regional role on implementing policies against gender related killing of women and girls.

Of the Istanbul convention, Ambassador Cevik said that it “is the most far reaching international treaty in terms of dealing with violence affecting women and girls.” He went on to say that the Convention “sets forth to criminalize the greatest forms of violence against women including physical, sexual, psychological violence, and sexual harassment.” Ambassador Cevik talked about the four pillars Convention – prevention, protection, prosecution and policy. He went on to say that “Turkey is mindful of the convention and its four pillars and in that regard a new law was passed by the parliament in March 2012 to improve the legal framework for protection from violence which was largely based on the Istanbul Convention.” Ambassador Cevik concluded his remarks by reiterating Turkey’s commitment to continue “supporting the convention and encourages other countries to do the same.”

Permanent Mission of Croatia to the UN in New York

“Along with efforts to fight attitudes and social factors that foster, justify or tolerate any violence against women and girls, it is crucial to address discriminatory legal frameworks and practice, including gender-based discrimination in access to

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⁵ Istanbul Convention: Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence: https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168046031c
resources, education and employment, poor reproductive health care and exclusion from decision-making processes.”
- Vladimir Drobnjak, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations in New York

Representing Croatia at the consultation, Ambassador Drobnjak reiterated the country’s commitment to continue contributing to the empowerment of women regionally, nationally, and internationally. Croatia’s priority in this regard focuses on conflict and post-conflict societies as well as “activities aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, especially in the areas of prevention, provision of optimal protection for victims, and offering support through activities and programmes for their social inclusion.”

Ambassador Drobnjak highlighted Croatia’s proven record on empowering women by reminding participants that Croatia is the only country in the world with a female President, female Minister of Foreign Affairs and a female President of the Supreme Court.” This “testifying further to our commitment to promoting gender equality.” Similarly important is the position of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women which is occupied by Croatia’s Ambassador Dubravka Šimonović.

Looking ahead, Ambassador Drobnjak recognized efforts have already made clear that “further work is needed, in Croatia and globally, to combat entrenched gender stereotypes more vigorously, and to raise the level of public knowledge and awareness on gender equality.” He added that “we have to recognize the value of campaigns directed at educating men and boys and making them active participants in the advancement of women’s rights, such as the He for She campaign launched by UN Women.” Other initiatives such as the Barbershop Conference organized in New York in January this year by Iceland and Suriname are also important.

Among practical actions to be put in place, Ambassador Drobnjak emphasized that “along with efforts to fight attitudes and social factors that foster, justify or tolerate any
violence against women and girls, it is crucial to address discriminatory legal frameworks and practice, including gender-based discrimination in access to resources, education and employment, poor reproductive health care and exclusion from decision-making processes.”

**Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN in New York**

“When women and girls are empowered they are able to leave abusive relationships and be independent.” - Koki Muli Grignon, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN in New York

Ambassador Muli Grignon called femicide the “ultimate form of violence against women and girls” which “takes multiple forms including murders associated with inter-partner violence, dowry practices, honor crimes, sexual violence, political violence, gang activity, and female infanticide.”

She added that “femicide causes are rooted in the historically unequal power relations between men and women and in systemic gender-based discrimination.”

Kenyan Ambassador Muli Grignon reiterated that in her country, “traditional harmful practices of female infanticide, dowry killing practices and honour crimes are not practiced but violence against women and girls (and in fact, increasingly gender based violence perpetrated against men and boys) are prevalent and these sometimes lead to death.” Ambassador Muli Grigon praised efforts made to define femicide and deterrence in law but acknowledged that “implementation/enforcement and resources still remain a big challenge.”

In reference to what can practically be done to fight femicide, Ambassador Muli Grigon offered to share experience from Kenya, a country in which “sexual violence is one of the forms of Gender Based Violence which, is increasingly affecting children, as well, both female and male children.” Worryingly, there is a “trend of increasing rates of sexual violence in institutions of higher learning.”
Kenya has policy and legal frameworks at constitutional and institutional levels put in place to address femicide. On a constitutional level, these include a progressive bill of rights and the ratification of international instruments on the protection and advancement of women rights as well as the “legislation and Policy framework to address prevention and elimination of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and to improve access to justice for survivor.”

Institutionally, “special police stations and desks managed by women to address sexual violence cases, the establishment of special courts and tribunals dedicated to children and related matters and capacity building and training of special prosecutors and even investigating officers has also helped.”

Further practical actions include

- Anti-FGM Act establishes the Anti FGM Board, which conduct awareness and education campaigns, carries research and coordinates FGM activities.
- Working together with faith based organizations (religious leaders from all faiths in special programmes) and civil society organizations especially in the relevant parts of Kenya to educate, change attitudes, collect data, provide support mechanisms and to reconcile communities.
- Free Primary and Free Day Secondary education, mobile schools, bursary programmes; low cost boarding in Arid and Semi-arid Areas have tremendously increased access to education in the country, and also contributed to ending FGM and early/child marriages.

Other measures include gender responsive budgeting and women enterprise funds aimed at supporting women entrepreneurship.

As a result, some progress has been observed, for example, the prevalence of FGM was reduced from “32% in 2003 to less than 22% amongst women aged-15-49.”
“Although we have come a long way in terms of international commitments towards ending violence against women, the international community has only just begun to dedicate specific attention to the sad fact that different forms of gender-related killing continue to affect all our societies.” – Valérie Lebaux, Chief, Justice Section, UNODC

Ms. Lebaux who represented the UNODC at the consultation emphasized the engagement of the UNODC and its partners in “promoting global standards in supporting national action to prevent and eliminate the killing of women and girls and to provide women and girls with enhanced support and protection from the underlying and connected forms of gender-based violence.”

According to the recent UNODC Global Studies on Homicide (2011 and 2013), intimate and family-related violence is a major cause of female homicides worldwide.

Ms. Lebaux referred to the 2012 report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women to explain that “different forms of such killing increasingly occur all over the world, including killing related to accusations of sorcery or witchcraft, honour-related killing, or dowry-related killing, to name just a few.” The report also highlighted that impunity “has become a global concern: States are not always able or willing to exercise due diligence to prevent and investigate killings that may be gender-related, or to prosecute and punish the perpetrators.”

Shedding light on the role the United Nations has played to fight to end violence against women and girls, Ms. Lebaux pointed to the 2013 General Assembly resolution (68/191) which “placed the issue for the first time on the highest political agenda of the United Nations and urged Member States to end impunity and invited them to take specific measures to prevent and address such gender-related killing.”
Further elaborating on the contribution of UNODC, she highlighted how UNODC “spearheaded the development of recommendations\(^6\) for action against gender-related killing of women and girls,” which “were developed by open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting (in Bangkok on 11-13 November 2014) which UNODC convened in collaboration with UN Women, OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur.”

The UNODC also supports international efforts to improve and compare crime and criminal justice data and conducts studies on homicide. Regionally, UNODC has “complemented ongoing initiatives like the adaptation and implementation of the Latin American model protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, developed by UN-Women and OHCHR.”

In conclusion, Ms. Lebaux sounded optimistic about the future, thanks to “a set of clear and practical recommendations for action and will soon have 2 forceful General Assembly resolutions to provide further momentum for their effective implementations.” However, she was mindful that more needs to be done. More data is needed “to better understand the different manifestations of gender-related killing and their root causes,” and in addition to good policies, it is equally “important to allocate appropriate resources and to monitor and evaluate whether and why laws and policies are effective or ineffective.”

Finally, “coordination is absolutely crucial to effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women.” This, she added, “includes coordination and information-sharing between institutions at all levels of government and cooperation with civil society and coordination with other relevant sectors, including civil society, education, health and social services.”

\(^6\) Recommendations for action against gender-related killing of women and girls:

“More data is needed to better understand the different manifestations of gender-related killing and their root causes.”
"Femicide is a global issue that demands action.” Mr. Michael Platzer, Representative, ACUNS Vienna

“It seems we are returning to ancient times when women are kidnapped by armed forces, gang raped, sold in slave markets, and forced into marriage with strangers.” Citing the Minister of Justice of Austria, Mr. Platzer said "not since the second World War have such massive war crimes been committed."

Mr. Platzer recognized the important collaboration with Austria, Thailand, Brazil, Kenya, Turkey Croatia; the Special Rapporteur; UNODC; UN Women's Guild (Genoveva Wallach); UCT (Yi Ling); Dr Karen Burke Foundation; NGO Alliance; the ACUNS Vienna Femicide team (Milica Dimitrijevic, Claire Laurant, Gejsi Plaku, Andrada Filip, Simona Domazetoska, Maria Idomir, Khusita) and UPF. Mr. Platzer reminded participants that when states do nothing to protect women and girls, femicide occurs and in that case, the state is responsible when the killing of women and girls goes unpunished.

Furthermore, “when states do not have control over parts of their territories, extremist factions such as ISIL/Daesch, drug syndicates are allowed to exploit the opportunity and abuse people, especially the most venerable, women and girls.” When this happens, these extremists exercise “new forms of barbarism, enslavement, rape and sale of women, discrimination and practices condoned by religious interpretations.”

In order to act and deliver as one, cooperation is needed at all levels, from all stakeholders including the UN Inter-Agency Task Force, involving Department of Peace Keeping Operations, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNDP. Collaboration with Academic Institutions, Centers of Gender Studies, ACUNS and COST are some of the examples for partnering against femicide.

In conclusion, Mr. Platzer called on everyone to do something to raise awareness because “ending impunity and the killing of women and girls is everyone’s business.”
In his closing remarks as the Chair of the consultation, Ambassador Jan Kicker of Austria identified the following key takeaways:

1) Femicides are reaching alarming proportions and present in every region of the world, underlining the urgency to act as International Community more decisively – state representatives, international organizations and civil society in unison.

2) Femicides are the ultimate act of violence, experienced in a continuum of violence.

3) About half of all femicides occur in intimate and family settings.

4) They are preventable – thus more focus on prevention necessary, learning from analysing concrete cases.

5) Fight impunity – impunity due to prevailing gender inequality.

6) Thus there is need for societal change, to create awareness, wherein role of men is crucial (perpetrators also mostly men), femicide is not a women’s issue but an issue of society as a whole.

7) Concrete follow-up in short run: pass draft resolution in 3rd committee by consensus, ideally anchoring a follow-up role for the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

8) Normative and policy framework not enough, crux – like always – in implementation, changing things on the ground to the better. That necessitates a continued joint push in a cross-regional and inclusive effort.
IV. CIVIL SOCIETY MEETING ON TAKING ACTION AGAINST FEMICIDE

Prior to the Consultation with Member States, a civil society meeting took place on January 15th. The meeting was attended by Representatives of nine organizations including ACUNS, UNWG, UNODC, COST, Cherry Sisters Memorial Fund, UPF, IJJO, Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and UCT. The main outcome of the meeting was that Academic, NGOs and the UN (UNODC in particular) must work together as partners, not marginalize each other.

The focus was on the need to share evidence-based high quality data (achieved through capacity building on a national level) which requires greater collaboration between stakeholders. Among participants were academics already doing research in the field. One of the methods suggested for strengthening cooperation is holding joint workshops to get people to better understand the concept of femicide.

Regarding the role of the UNODC, it continues to work closely with UNOWOMEN on this issue. The next mandate for the organization is to conduct an analytical global study on this matter. Because UNODC is lacking funds to conduct the study, it will keenly rely on the support of the academic community for contribution. Based on previous experience in conducting such studies, UNODC is confident that the next mandate will be successful.

Further points raised included: the involvement of faith-based organizations as allies of the fight against femicide; take advantage of international days to publicize the issue (ACUNS for example organizes a symposium on November 25th); and to map all NGOs working on this issue and coordinate their efforts to ensure greater effect. The involvement of the younger generation, especially young scholars, was mentioned as another way of ensuring the sustainability of the initiatives on femicide. Moving forward, some of the proposals made include a possible conference of faith leaders on femicide. A conference on femecide which is organized by the European Parliament was mentioned as another event to follow closely.
Conclusion

The Security Council sessions and subsequent consultation were both productive and successful. Resolution 2242 was passed which gives hope that the implementation of women, peace and security agenda will be strengthened. Bringing six important Member States, UNODC, the civil society and academics who share the view for more practical work to eliminate gender-related killing of women and girls together was essential in sharing knowledge and expertise and creating partnership for action, uniting all efforts to promote women’s rights and empower women and girls everywhere. These events demonstrated the willingness from participating stakeholders to create instruments to make progress and improve the situation for women and girls. It is now to be seen whether those instruments will bear concrete actions to make a difference on the ground for many women and girls who, in some cases, are still treated as second class citizens, and in other cases their dignity and rights are denied through structural and cultural systems. The contribution of the academic community in gathering and providing reliable data will be a much needed support in order for UNODC and Member States to make sound decisions based on real scientific evidence. The civil society will be required to continue their important work on the ground to raise awareness and give a voice to the many voiceless affected women and girls around the world. Encouragingly, there are already good practices from countries who participated in this consultation: Thailand’s gender equality act and domestic violence, Brazil’s houses for women which is providing a safe places for abused women, Croatia’s women President, Foreign Minister and Head of the Supreme Court, Kenya’s education programs that led to the reduction of FGM, and Turkey’s commitment to improve the rights of women are examples of progress being made. UNODC’s support in training relevant state institutions and conducting studies will strengthen countries capacity to deliver.

Answering to a question about why he has 50% of women in his cabinet, the newly elected Prime Minister of Canada, Mr.
Justin Trudeau gave the simplest and obvious answer: “It is 2015.”

“Gender parity in the national cabinet is huge. It sends a great message to our daughters and sons.”

Justin Trudeau