

## **Note on the launch of the National Strategy against GBV**

**November 2009**

1. On the 25 and 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2009, the GoDRC with the support of the United Nations launched the National Strategy against Gender Based Violence.

2. The National Strategy addresses all forms of gender based violence with a priority action plan addressing sexual violence through the implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy on Combating Sexual Violence. The priority action plan will be implemented in Eastern DRC as part of the Stabilization Plan.

3. The launch of the National Strategy included representatives of several institutions in DRC (Government, Parliament, Senate), embassies, UN agencies, NGOs and the civil society.

4. During the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, a ceremony opened the launch of the Strategy, including interventions of DSRSG Leila Zerrougui, the Minister of Gender, Family and Children, the vice prime minister in charge of Reconstruction, the vice Minister of Justice and the vice Minister of Defense.

5. During the afternoon of the same day, a working session chaired by Professor Mangu of the Ministry of Gender focused on the implementation of the National Strategy, including Q&A from provincial delegates from the Gender Divisions and civil society coming from the provinces.

6. The second day was focused on the implementation of the priority action plan against sexual violence in Eastern DRC and its coordination mechanisms. The Strategy component coordinators from UN agencies and DRC ministries presented the 5 components. The representative of the Dutch Embassy presented the point of view of donors (representing the Belgian and the Canadian governments) and highly complimented the coordination work done to develop the National Strategy and the priority action plan, bringing 'congratulations for the work done together'. These are the points made by the representative of the Dutch Embassy:

- Now there is a consensual Strategy, in 2008 this was a dream. In mid- 2008 there was a worrying situation regarding the coordination of activities on sexual violence: ministries were against each other, donors were not coordinated, UN agencies were not together.
- Now there is a common plan. The Ministry of Gender has the leadership and has involved all the other ministries and all donors agree. Everybody agrees on the actions to be implemented in the short and medium term and there will be longer term actions that we can start now but that will take longer.
- Donors believe that the NSGBV is a very balanced Strategy. Donors have already committed to the trust fund and hope more will commit to this mechanism.

- Three recommendations were proposed but the first had already been implemented. In fact, donors insisted on the appropriation of the Strategy by the Government but it was clear from the joint government-UN presentations that there is a good cooperation. The second recommendation provided that the work should be started at provincial level. The third recommendation provided that other donors join the trust fund.

7. The afternoon of the second day of the launch of the Strategy was focused on the discussion and clarification on the Strategy implementation in Eastern DRC with provincial and national delegates. Among the agreements:

- Agreement on the priority components to be implemented and the actions included in the priority action plan
- Agreement on the fact that the Strategy is finalized and it is now in the implementation phase
- Agreement on the implementation mechanisms
- Agreement that the Provincial Synergies will implement the component on data and will be part of the coordination mechanisms on data and information
- Agreement that the *Comite de Pilotage* will coordinate the implementation of the longer term actions linked to the National Gender Policy
- Agreement that monitoring and evaluation will be implemented by the GoDRC with the Sexual Violence Unit
- Agreement that at provincial level the Gender Divisions will implement the Strategy in coordination with the provincial ministries and the Provincial Governor chairing the CTCs

ENDS

Prepared in Kinshasa

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