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From: General Secretariat of the Council
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To: Delegations

Subject: Progress Report on the Implementation of the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical Actions at EU Level' in the Period July 2016 – June 2017

Delegations will find attached the Progress Report on the Implementation of the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical Actions at EU Level' in the Period July 2016 – June 2017, as endorsed by the Political and Security Committee on 22 November 2017.

Progress Report on the Implementation of the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical Actions at EU Level' in the Period July 2016 – June 2017

1. Executive Summary

The present yearly progress report covers the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, and it focuses on the following countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Georgia, Kosovo¹, Mali, Niger, Libya, Palestine², Somalia and Ukraine. In these countries, the EU continued or commenced the implementation of 43 multi-year projects, of an overall value of EUR 43 million, that addressed conflict-related sexual violence. In addition, two relevant multi-country programmes, of an overall value of EUR 8.5 million, also targeted some of the countries under review.

As regards conflict prevention, an EU-supported project on enhancing early warning and effective early action in 34 target countries or situations of conflict/potential conflict includes capacity building in gender-sensitive conflict analysis.

A decision has been taken on an action entitled 'Preventing Violent Extremism: A Gender Sensitive Approach', to be implemented by UN Women.

Revised Generic Standards of Behaviour, applicable to both CSDP civilian missions and military operations, were developed in line with the EU's commitment to a 'zero tolerance policy' regarding misconduct and abuse³. Under the newly-adopted EU policy on training in CSDP, mandatory and standardised pre-deployment training for all personnel will reflect the EU's basic principle on combatting sexual violence.

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

³ This is in line with the United Nations' zero tolerance policy on all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, as confirmed, inter alia, in UN Security Council Resolution 2272 (2016) on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

In 2016, the EU allocated over EUR 27 million in humanitarian aid to prevent gender-based violence and to provide comprehensive services, reaching 3.4 million beneficiaries. In 2017, more than EUR 9 million has already been allocated for the above purposes. The EU has also taken over from Sweden the lead of the global initiative Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies.

In the UN Security Council, the EU delivered three statements in open debates concerning conflict-related sexual violence. UN Security Council Resolution 2331 (2016) on trafficking of persons in conflict situations was co-sponsored by all EU Member States. The EU continued its close collaboration with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

2. Introduction

Following three six-monthly progress reports presented to the Political and Security Committee in July 2015⁴, February 2016⁵ and November 2016⁶ on implementing the actions set out in the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level'⁷, a yearly reporting process has been envisaged to render the progress reports more focussed and relevant.

In the meeting of the CONUN working party on 21 June 2017, the EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender/UNSCR 1325 delivered an update on preparations for this first yearly progress report, and Member States took the opportunity to provide further guidance on its expected focus. As regards the areas of action envisaged in the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level', Member States expressed support to focus reporting on those actions that are relevant and topical for the reporting period. There was also an understanding on the suggestion of the European External Action Service (EEAS) to concentrate reporting on partners where the EU has an operational engagement on the ground, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Georgia, Kosovo, Mali, Niger, Libya, Palestine, Somalia and Ukraine.

Finally, Member States reconfirmed the need to streamline and synchronise this reporting process with relevant parallel reporting procedures, such as reporting⁸ on the Comprehensive Approach to the EU implementation of UNSCRs 1325 and 1820⁹ and reporting on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan 2016-2020¹⁰.

⁴ Political and Security Committee meeting document MD 95/15, 27 July 2015

⁵ Political and Security Committee meeting document MD 17/16, 18 February 2016

⁶ Progress report on the implementation of the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level' for the period January – June 2016, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 14329/16, 10 November 2016

⁷ Political and Security Committee meeting document MD 155/14, 25 November 2014

⁸ In 2017, the present report will be presented to the Political and Security Committee together with the Third Report on the EU indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 on Women, Peace and Security.

⁹ Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 on WPS, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 15671/1/08, 1 December 2008

¹⁰ Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 annexed to the Council Conclusions on Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 13201/15, 26 October 2015

For the purposes of this report, the definition of conflict-related sexual violence follows the definition applied in the United Nations Secretary General's yearly report on conflict-related sexual violence¹¹.

Developed along the above lines, the present yearly progress report covers the period of 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. In accordance with previous practice, this report was drafted by the EEAS and includes inputs from relevant Commission services.

¹¹ Conflict-related sexual violence is defined as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage, and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict. This link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator (often affiliated with a State or non-State armed group, including a terrorist entity or network), the profile of the victim (who is frequently an actual or perceived member of a persecuted political, ethnic or religious minority, or targeted on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity), the climate of impunity (which is generally associated with State collapse), cross-border consequences (such as displacement or trafficking) and/or violations of the provisions of a ceasefire agreement. The term also encompasses trafficking in persons when committed in situations of conflict for the purpose of sexual violence/exploitation. Definition imported from the United Nations Secretary-General' Report on Conflict-related Sexual Violence, S/2017/249 (15 April 2017), available from undocs.org/S/2017/249.

3. Progress in implementing the actions envisaged in the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level'

3.1 Towards a holistic approach

During the reporting period, the **Council continued to discuss EU action on addressing sexual violence in conflict**. At policy level, a tangible outcome of discussions has been the re-adjustment of the present reporting process.

The **EU informal Task Force on Women, Peace and Security** also held an exchange on combatting sexual violence in conflict to share information, best practices and lessons identified on actions taken at national and regional levels.

The '**Third Report on the EU indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 on Women, Peace and Security**' has been produced during the reporting period¹². This report gives account of progress in EU and Member States' activities to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, measured against a new indicator¹³ adopted by the Council in 2016¹⁴. The report also describes, based on four new sub-indicators adopted by the Council in 2016¹⁵, progress at EU level in preventing and responding to possible cases of sexual harassment, gender-based discrimination, abuse or violence by staff participating in CSDP missions.

¹² Joint EEAS – Commission services non-paper: Third Report on the EU indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to the EU Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 on Women, Peace and Security (September 2017)

¹³ A new indicator on 'Support of the EU and its Member States to peace building and peace keeping activities addressing the issue of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict situations'.

¹⁴ Revised indicators for the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UNSCR 1325 & 1820 on WPS, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 12525/16, 22 September 2016

¹⁵ Idem

3.2 Prevention, support, protection and accountability

In the countries under review, the EU continued or commenced the implementation during the reporting period of **43 multi-year projects which addressed the action area of prevention, support, protection and accountability**¹⁶. The estimated overall value of EU contribution to these ongoing projects is **EUR 43 million**.

A breakdown of project numbers and overall scales of EU contribution by country are set out below, together with illustrative examples of ongoing projects.

Three projects in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** at an approximate value of EUR 2.4 million.

The project **Stronger Voice of Girls and Boys against Gender-Based Violence** in Bosnia and Herzegovina intends to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence through engaging boys and girls as supporters and promoters of gender equality. The project aims in particular at enhancing the capacities of 300 young boys and girls to become proactive youth leaders in raising awareness on different forms of gender-based violence, enabling 30 boys and girls in target communities to become peer-to-peer educators on a gender transformative approach, and raising public awareness about the importance of violence prevention.

Five projects in the **Central African Republic** at an approximate value of EUR 4.7 million.

The overall objective of the project **Pour la lutte contre l'impunité en Centrafrique** is to support the fight against impunity in the Central African Republic for an enhanced respect for human rights and democratic principles by national actors. A specific component of the project aims at the documentation of human rights violations in crisis situations, including widespread sexual violence crimes, and provides legal assistance for related pursuits in national courts and other jurisdictions. It also provides for the protection of victims and stakeholders in the fight against impunity.

¹⁶ Projects which include as an objective or an activity any one of the 11 actions set out in the 'Non Paper on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict - A Guide to Practical actions at EU level' under the action area 'Prevention, support, protection and accountability'.

Twelve projects in **Georgia** at an approximate value of EUR 5.2 million.

The project **Enhancing Sustainability of Holistic Services for War-affected and Ill-treatment Victims in Georgia** places special priority on women and children with experience of any forms of violence, in particular victims of the 2008 conflict in Georgia. The main activities under this project include a multi-disciplinary treatment and rehabilitation programme, a crisis intervention and forensic assessment programme and a legal assistance programme

Six projects in **Kosovo** at an approximate value of EUR 2.7 million.

Under the **Protection and reintegration of victims of gender-based violence in northern Kosovo** project, protection and reintegration services are provided to women survivors of gender-based violence and awareness raising activities on gender-based violence are targeted at all communities residing in northern Kosovo. Concrete support activities for women survivors include psychosocial counselling and psychotherapy, free legal aid and facilitating access to shelter and in-shelter support. Reintegration services provided under this project include facilitating access to training and education opportunities for women survivors and their children.

Two projects in Mali at an approximate value of EUR 700.000.

The project **Amélioration de l'accès des femmes à la justice et plaidoyer pour l'élimination du mariage forcé des filles** targets Bamako and four regions, and includes direct assistance, orientation and support to impoverished women in court proceedings. The project also includes capacity building for female leaders on the application of legal aid provisions as well as public information, advocacy and sensitisation activities on abandoning the practice of early and forced marriages and on women's rights.

Three projects in **Niger** at an approximate value of EUR 5 million.

The project **Lutte contre les mariages d'enfants à Tillabéry pour une meilleure protection des droits des filles au Niger** promotes a protective environment for girls through contributing to the reduction of child marriages in the Tillabéry region. Concretely, the project aims at sensitising religious and traditional leaders in villages and reinforcing communal child protection mechanisms as well as enhancing civil service delivery to avoid child marriages.

Four projects in **Libya** at an approximate value of EUR 15 million.

The **Mental health, psychosocial rehabilitation and socio-economic integration for vulnerable and at-risk groups in Libya** project promotes resilience among vulnerable and at-risk populations through a community-based approach. Among other outcomes, the project aims for an increased and more equitable access and utilisation of psychosocial support and mental health services by vulnerable and at-risk groups, including women victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Three projects in Palestine at an approximate value of EUR 3.9 million.

The **Strengthening the Capacities of Palestinian Civil Society Organisations for the promotion and protection of the rights of women victims of gender-based violence** project specifically targets the Gaza Strip. The main activities under the project include capacity building for Palestinian civil society and women's grassroots organisations and supporting community reform; the strengthening of services provided to women victims of gender-based violence; research and monitoring the accomplishment of international standards and obligations; and supporting national awareness raising and campaigning against gender-based violence.

Three projects in **Somalia** at an approximate value of EUR 2.8 million.

The **Somaliland Terminating Oppression of Women and Girls Programme (STOP)** specifically aims at improving access to multi-sectoral and coordinated sexual and gender-based violence services and information for women and girls in three pilot areas of Somaliland. The programme intends, inter alia, to build national and grassroots civil society capacities to provide quality legal, medical and psychosocial support to victims of sexual and gender-based violence and to improve coordination among and the capacities of multi-sectoral state actors to address sexual and gender-based violence in the target populations.

Two projects in **Ukraine** at an approximate value of EUR 500.000.

The **Mobilization among Internally Displaced Women for Addressing Domestic and Gender-Based Violence** project aims at implementing a sustainable and effective mechanism for addressing domestic and gender-based violence in internally displaced families from the conflict area in Ukraine. The project includes expanding social and psychological assistance opportunities to women who have experienced violence, including providing them with temporary shelter. The project also entails support to 'women's initiative groups' formed by internally displaced women for systematically preventing and countering domestic and gender-based violence and for providing assistance to people affected by it.

In addition, **Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo** are among the target beneficiaries of the recently launched **Ending violence against women in the Western Balkan Countries and Turkey: Implementing Norms, Changing Minds** programme. With an overall EU contribution of EUR 5 million, this programme aims at ending gender-based violence and discrimination, with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged groups of women in six Western Balkans countries and Turkey. It will promote the adoption of international normative standards (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Istanbul Convention), their implementation as well as the strengthening of women's organisations in order to hold governments accountable for their commitments.

Finally, **Kosovo** is also among the target beneficiaries of the **Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice Programme**. With an overall EU commitment of EUR 3.5 million, the overarching goal of this programme is to increase the effectiveness of transitional justice processes to contribute to a more just and stable society, by prioritising victims and taking into account the different needs of conflict-affected populations. As regards Kosovo, the results of the programme thus far include the Government of Kosovo's implementing of recommendations to deliver transformative reparations to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and the completion of the legislative framework for a government commission on the recognition and verification of the status of sexual violence victims of the conflict in Kosovo.

3.3 Cooperation in multilateral fora

In the **UN Security Council**, the EU persistently and consistently promoted the agenda of countering conflict-related sexual violence.

In the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on 25 October 2016, the EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender/UNSCR 1325 delivered an EU statement¹⁷, which described the ways in which the EU has prioritised action against sexual and gender-based violence in conflict.

¹⁷ Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States by H.E. Ms. Mara Marinaki, European External Action Service Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security, at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security: "Implementing the common agenda", United Nations, New York, 25 October 2016

On 20 December 2016, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2331 (2016) on trafficking of persons in conflict situations. This Resolution has been co-sponsored by all EU Member States, and an EU statement¹⁸ was made in the corresponding UNSC Open Debate by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator. UNSCR 2331 recognises that acts of human trafficking during armed conflict as well as sexual and gender-based violence could be part of the strategic objectives and ideologies of certain terrorist groups. It calls upon Member States, among other things, to investigate, disrupt and dismantle networks involved in trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict. The EU statement delivered in the UN Security Council Open Debate noted the nexus between conflict and post-conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking, and their cross-border dynamics. It was also highlighted that trafficking is gender-specific and that the most recent EU data showed that trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation was still the most widespread form and the majority of its victims were women and girls.

On 15 May 2017, the UN Security Council held an Open Debate on 'Sexual Violence in Conflict as a Tactic of War and Terrorism'. An EU statement¹⁹ was delivered by the EEAS Principal Adviser on Gender/UNSCR 1325. The EU statement emphasised the continued importance of a holistic approach, which addresses sexual violence in conflict as part of the broader women, peace and security agenda, recognising that "sexual and gender-based violence are also the results of gender inequalities and of women's subordinated positions in too many parts of the world". The EU statement argued for avoiding fragmentation and selective approaches, and tackling all forms of sexual and gender-based violence holistically, may it be in peace, conflict or times of crisis. Finally, it was asserted that "the EU is determined to remain a global leader in ending sexual and gender-based violence, including in conflict-related situations" and that "policy implementation remain at the centre of gravity, where our main efforts continue to be placed".

¹⁸ Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States by Dr. Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, European Commission, at the Security Council Ministerial Open Debate on "Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations", United Nations, New York, 20 December 2016

¹⁹ Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States by H.E. Ms. Mara Marinaki, European External Action Service Principal Adviser on Gender and on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, at the Security Council Open Debate on Women Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Conflict, United Nations, New York, 15 May 2017

Throughout the reporting period, the EU continued its close cooperation with and support to the work of the **UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict**, the UN Team of Experts and UN Action to enhance coordination of international efforts against sexual violence and the effective investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes.

In October 2016, the EEAS hosted a roundtable discussion with an official from the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative. As a concrete follow-up, the EEAS was invited to participate as an observer in the Conference on the fight of African armed forces against sexual violence in conflict, held in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire in November 2016. The conference was organised by the Côte d'Ivoire armed forces in cooperation with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative, UNDP and the African Union, and saw the high-level participation of several armed forces' representatives from African states, UN Peacekeeping Operations and other relevant actors, including training providers. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange information and experiences on the fight against sexual violence in armed conflict, with a view to agreeing a set of common guidelines for the countries in focus (and possibly for wider dissemination at a subsequent stage), but also to sensitise armed forces to existing tools and instruments and put in place mechanisms of cooperation between them.

Furthermore, in early 2017, the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative submitted a list of project proposals to the EEAS, in particular for activities to be undertaken by the UN Team of Experts in the Central African Republic, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Guinea and in Iraq. In coordination with the Commission, the EEAS has been exploring funding opportunities for the envisaged project activities, in particular in Iraq.

On 19 June 2017, a **Joint Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**²⁰ was released by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, the Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management and the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality.

3.4 Conflict Prevention

The **Harnessing independent early warning expertise to bridge the warning response gap and enhance conflict prevention** project targets 34 countries or situations of conflict/potential conflict²¹, benefitting from an EU contribution of EUR 2.5 million. The project involves four complementary and integrated activities, whose overall objective is to support the EU to better act, alone or with others, to prevent the emergence, re-emergence or escalation of violent conflict around the world, establishing conditions for long-term peace and security. One of four specific objectives under the project is to translate early warning information into early action/response, informed by local analysis and perspectives and responsive to gender dimensions. To achieve this objective, the project includes capacity building in gender-sensitive conflict analysis to facilitate the practice of applying a gender lens to conflict analysis, policy and programming.

²⁰ Joint Statement on the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict made by Federica Mogherini, High Representative/ Vice-President, Johannes Hahn, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Christos Stylianides, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, and Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Brussels, 19 June 2017

²¹ Iraq, Syria, Israel, Palestine, Yemen, North Africa (Algeria, Tunisia, Libya), Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Lake Chad (Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan), Russia, Europe's eastern neighbourhood (Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Turkey, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, South China Sea, Myanmar, Thailand, Venezuela

A decision²² has been taken on an action entitled '**Preventing Violent Extremism: A Gender Sensitive Approach**', to be implemented by UN Women in two pilot countries in the Middle-East and in Asia. Among other elements, the project will seek to strengthen in-country capacities to better understand and deal with the gender dynamics underpinning violent extremism and support initiatives to tackle sexual and gender-based violence caused by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

3.5 Crisis response

In the context of **CSDP**, ending sexual violence in conflict is addressed as part of the broader framework of gender and human rights. The efforts to strengthen the integration of Women, Peace and Security and gender perspectives into CSDP also contribute to strengthening efforts to address sexual violence in conflict.

Several **CSDP missions and operations** provide advice, capacity-building and training that is directly relevant to addressing sexual violence in conflict. Some of the most relevant examples are the systematic inclusion of international humanitarian law, human rights and gender elements in the training provided to the Malian army and internal security forces by EUTM Mali and EUCAP Sahel Mali as well as the work conducted by EUCAP Sahel Niger. In May 2017, EUTM CAR launched a pilot project on a training package for the Central African Republic Armed Forces, integrating international humanitarian law and the prevention of sexual violence.

The EU is continuously working to improve its procedures and practices in CSDP missions and operations. Emphasising the EU's commitment to a '**zero tolerance policy**' regarding **misconduct and abuse**, the revised Generic Standards of Behaviour, applicable to both civilian missions and military operations, were drafted during 2016-2017 and will be presented to the Political and Security Committee in September 2017. Best practices were exchanged with the UN DPKO and the UN Special Coordinator on improving United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse during the drafting process.

²² Commission Implementing Decision of 26.6.2017 on the annual action programme 2017 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace - Conflict prevention, peace-building and crisis preparedness component to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

Further strengthening preventive measures, the **EU policy on training for CSDP** was adopted in March 2017, establishing mandatory and standardised pre-deployment training for all personnel. According to the new training policy, all CSDP training should reflect the EU's basic principles including as regards human rights, gender, International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law, Women, Peace and Security and combatting sexual violence.

The **Baseline Study on Integrating Human Rights and Gender into CSDP**²³ was completed and sent to Member States in December 2016. The final report with its findings and recommendations were presented to the Political and Security Committee and discussed in relevant working groups in spring 2017. The CSDP structures are carrying out the implementation of the recommendations. The annual meeting of the human rights and gender advisers and focal points in CSDP missions and operations at the end of June 2017 provided the advisers and focal points the opportunity to comment and contribute to the implementation of the Baseline Study findings.

3.6 Humanitarian aid

In terms of targeted actions, it is estimated that in **2016** the EU allocated over **EUR 27 million** in humanitarian aid to prevent gender-based violence and to provide comprehensive services, reaching **3.400.000 women, men, boys and girls**²⁴, in amongst others Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Iraq, and Somalia. In **2017**²⁵, more than **EUR 9 million** has already been allocated for the above purposes, including in Nigeria, Chad, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Yemen, and Uganda.

²³ Report on the Baseline Study on Integrating Human Rights and Gender into the Common Security and Defence Policy, Council of the European Union, Brussels, 15726/16, 20 December 2016

²⁴ Estimated total number of direct beneficiaries of results where sexual and gender-based violence is a subsector.

²⁵ This is a preliminary estimate. The final amount will only be known once all final reports of funded projects are completed.

In June 2017, the EU took over from Sweden as the lead of the global initiative **Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies**²⁶. During its leadership, the EU will reinforce awareness, uptake and implementation of the Call to Action by the humanitarian community, in particular at field level, with a focus on specialised gender-based violence prevention and response during each phase of an emergency.

Since 2014, the EU has also allocated more than EUR 1 million yearly to **support global capacity-building projects on gender and gender-based violence** from the humanitarian aid budget. In 2016, the EU allocated EUR 1.8 million to support the implementation of the Call to Action Roadmap, including EUR 600.000 to UN Women for the revision of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Gender Handbook and EUR 1.2 million to the International Rescue Committee for the development of tools and approaches to conduct gender-based violence case management in hard-to-reach areas.

²⁶ The European Commission has been an active member of the Call to Action since its launch in 2013 and has pledged six individual commitments under the Roadmap. The commitments entail the continued implementation and dissemination of the Commission's humanitarian gender policy; the adoption and implementation of the Commission's new Protection Policy; the use of DG ECHO's Gender-Age Marker as mandatory for all EC funded humanitarian actions; the full implementation of the EC framework for "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Transforming the Lives of Girls and Women through EU External Relations 2016-2020", where DG ECHO will report on funding allocations for gender-based violence on a yearly basis. The Commission reports on progress under its commitments annually.