

**14 AGENCIES COMMITTED TO ENDING  
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

Under-Secretary-General

**PRAMILA  
PATTEN**

Special Representative on  
Sexual Violence in Conflict

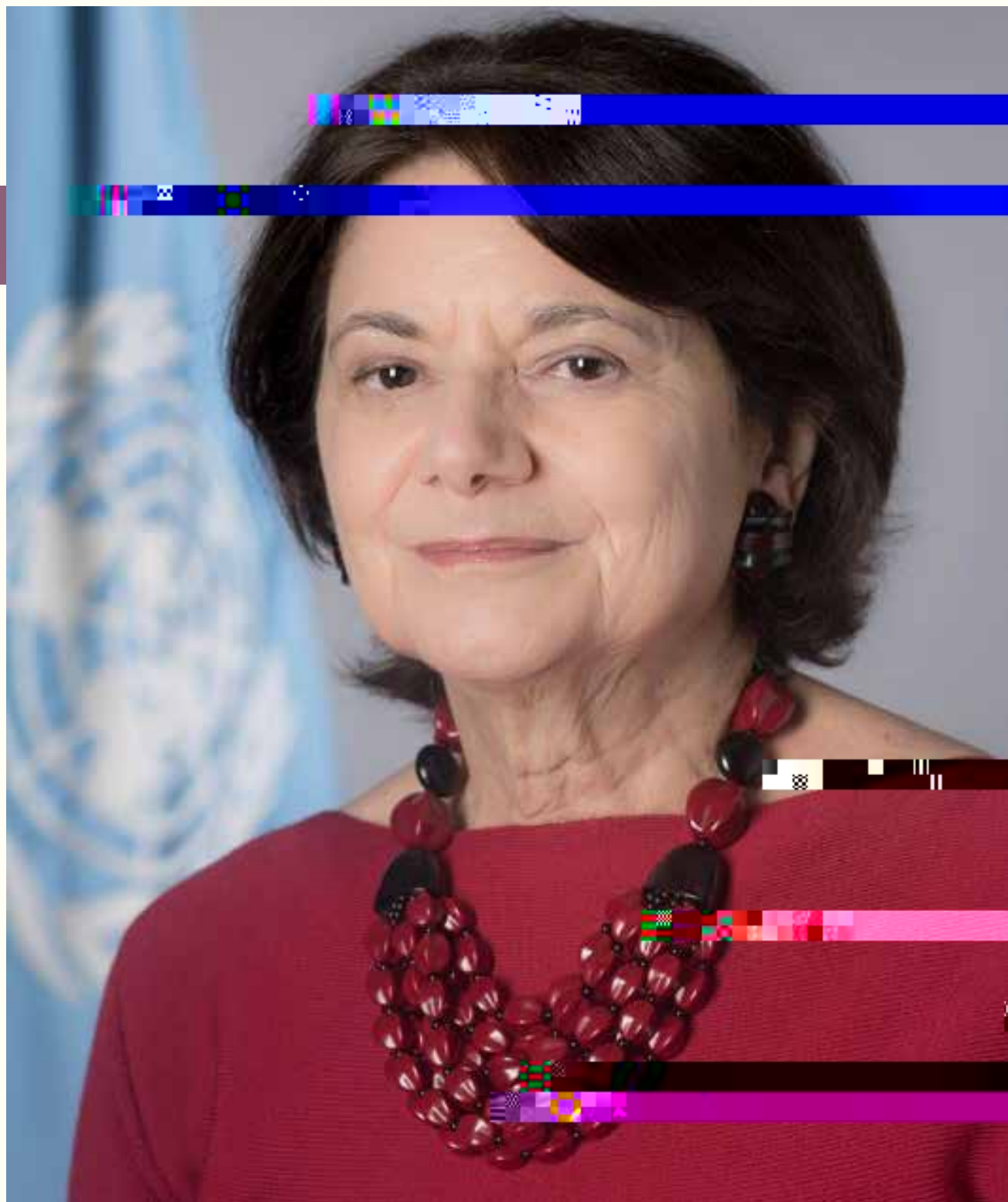
Over the past twelve years, United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) has been uniting efforts across the UN system with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of armed conflict. Launched in March 2007, the network currently embraces 14 UN system entities, namely: DPPA, DPO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, ODA and IOM. UN Action also works closely with the Office of the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) and is housed in the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC). Its work is supported by a coordinating Secretariat based in my office, in my capacity as Chair of the network.

UN Action was created in direct response to the “Calls to Action” of the June 2006 Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, held in Brussels. In June 2007, the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee endorsed UN Action as “a critical joint UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilization, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict”.

The story of UN Action is a story of how gross violations of human rights and international law sparked a movement that, for 12 years, has been contributing to prevention and a defining positive normativity(, UN)(t)-5(io)12.1(n) h)3(a)3(s) T]J0.007 Tw T(b)(e)-5(d b)1- 0 -1.09







Under  
Secretary-General

**ROSEMARY A.  
DICARLO**

Department of Political  
and Peacebuilding Affairs

For much of human history, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) has been treated as an inevitable consequence of war, as a spoil for victors, as a crime against a woman's father and a stain on the family's honor.

It is only in the last 20 years, that the Security Council has acknowledged the widespread occurrence of sexual violence in conflict, and in the past decade the Council has specifically recognized it as a tactic of war and terror requiring our dedicated attention and resources.

Since the establishment of the UN's mandate on sexual violence in conflict, the Department of Political Affairs now the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) – has been committed to playing its part in efforts to end CRSV.

This has been based on the Department's recognition that CRSV prevention, deterrence and response is fundamentally a political issue.

The gravity of rape in war goes to the heart of DPPA's conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding work. Each act of sexual violence represents a grave human rights violation with potentially intergenerational consequences for survivors, families and communities. It risks triggering acts of retaliation, vengeance and renewed violence.

For this reason, we have prioritized CRSV prevention and response in the Department's new Women, Peace and Security policy. We want to ensure that CRSV considerations are integrated throughout all stages of our work: from raising red flags on early warning signs, such as escalating violent and misogynist rhetoric, to mainstreaming risks throughout our gender-sensitive conflict analysis; from using our good offices to advocate with political and military leaders to prohibit sexual violence acts, to safeguarding against efforts to grant amnesty for violations in cease fire and peace agreements; and from strengthening deterrence by supporting

transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, to ensuring our peacebuilding efforts engage and reach survivors and their families.

To support this work, we have deployed dedicated expertise to some of our special political missions, for example in Iraq and Somalia. These officers are engaging survivor and advocate groups, monitoring and verifying acts of sexual violence, analyzing trends, advising leadership on prevention and response, and ensuring CRSV considerations are fully integrated into mission planning, analysis, and operational activities. The upcoming deployment of a Senior Women Protection Adviser to Myanmar is a welcome next step in these efforts, marking the first time that dedicated expertise will be sent to a non-mission setting<sup>1</sup>.

DPPA's partnership with UN Action has been transformative in advancing this agenda. Together, we have provided dedicated training on CRSV to over 300 DPPA officers as part of our gender training programme. We have jointly developed and published in seven languages Guidance for Mediators on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Cease fire and Peace Agreements, which sets out key principles and strategies to operationalize the CRSV mandate in peacemaking. DPPA has used UN Action catalytic funds to deploy Women Protection Advisers in situations requiring urgent action.

DPPA has benefited from UN Action's crucial role in providing a consultative forum to share priorities, coordinate activities and build consensus among entities on how to harmonize and strengthen the implementation of the CRSV mandate across the UN System. I look forward to our partnership continuing over the next 10 years to bring an end to conflict-related sexual violence.

Rosemary A. DiCarlo  
Under-Secretary-General for Political and  
Peacebuilding Affairs

<sup>1</sup>UNSCR 2467 (2019)



For the past decade, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which I now lead, has engaged closely with UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict as a critical part of our commitment to the protection of civilians (PoC).

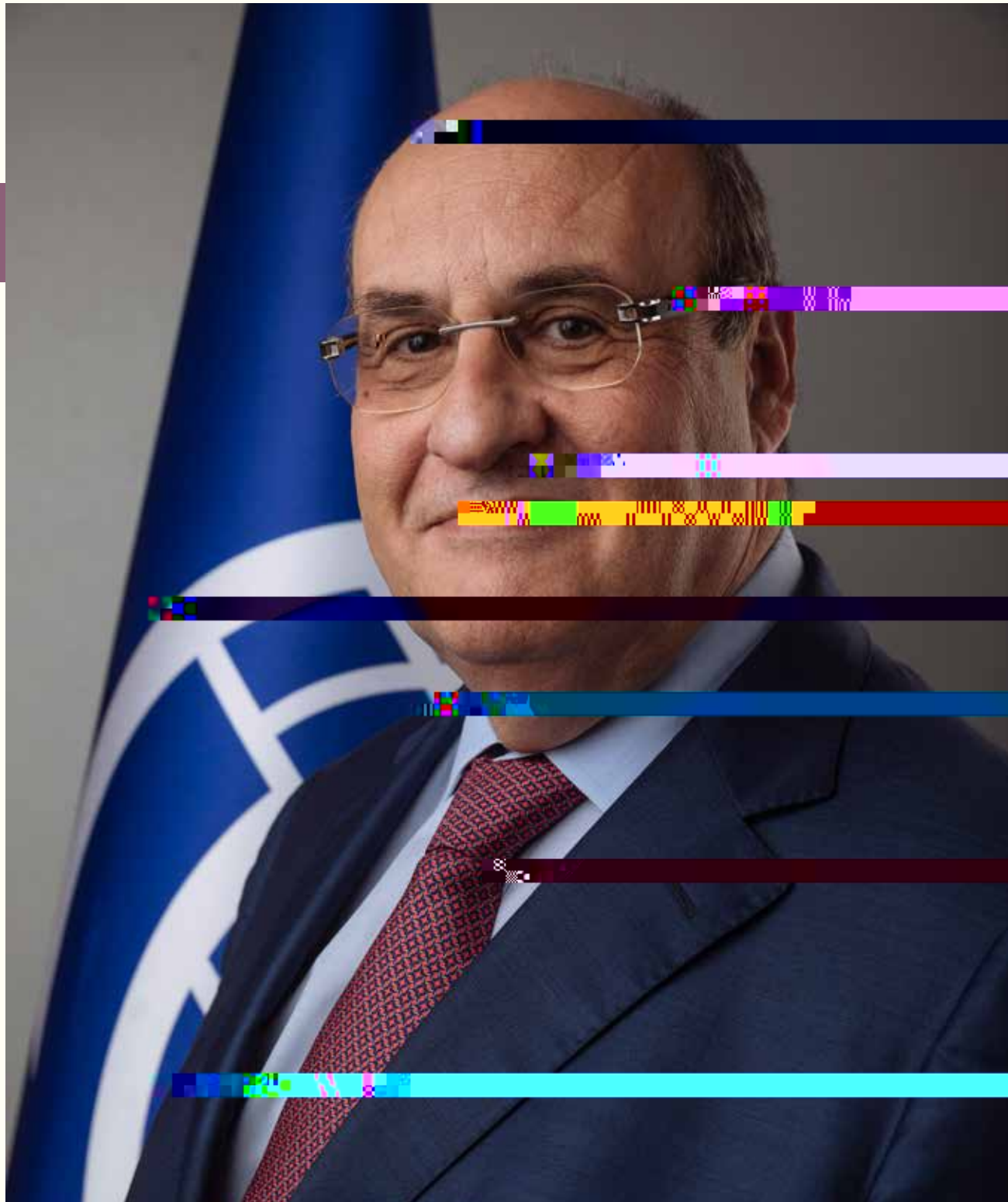
Drawing on inputs from crises across the globe, OCHA provides fact-based analysis for the Secretary-General's annual reports on Women, Peace and Security and systematically reports on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence in its regular briefings to the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, which makes important recommendations, including on UN mis7QQBT0 .-6(h)4(e C)-15(ow(a)9(ni)1d)-3(a)19(t)-50)-513(e)-4.1(era)(exu

Under-Secretary-General

**MARK  
LOWCOCK**

Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency  
Relief Coordinator





With 173 Member States, over 480 offices around the world and 96 per cent of staff based in the field, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) footprint reflects the unprecedented and growing scale of human mobility. In September 2018, IOM launched

Director General

**ANTÓNIO  
VITORINO**

International Organization  
for Migration



Under-Secretary-General

**IZUMI  
NAKAMITSU**

High Representative for  
Disarmament Affairs

Conflict-related sexual violence is enabled to a significant degree by the availability of illicit small arms in civilian hands, or by the misuse of government-owned arms. Acting as a power multiplier in the hands of perpetrators, small arms are a leading type of weapon implicated in acts of sexual violence.

To address this dynamic, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works with its partners to ensure weapons and ammunition stockpiles are secured effectively in accordance with international standards, prevent arms trafficking and reverse the excessive accumulation of arms. This includes supporting States' efforts to prevent the diversion of government-owned arms to unauthorized users, such as armed groups, terrorists or criminal networks, groups which are now responsible for the majority of incidents of sexual violence<sup>1</sup>.

Over the past years, the international community has increasingly recognized the link between arms control and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence. The Arms Trade Treaty, adopted in 2013, was the first legally binding global instrument to recognize and create obligations for States to consider the connection between arms transfers and gender-based violence as part of their export assessment. In the context of the Programme for Action on small arms and light weapons, States have adopted progressive language on gender in their outcome documents of the sixth Biennial Meeting of States (2016) and the third Review Conference (2018), acknowledging the gendered impact of small arms and recognizing that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence.

UNODA supports States to follow through on those global commitments including through increased focus on projects that support gender mainstreaming in policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse through systematic gender analysis and integration of gender perspectives,

women's empowerment initiatives and trainings, which contribute directly to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination. Empowering women, increasing their full and meaningful participation in socio-economic and political life and breaking down gender stereotypes surrounding weapons can address root causes of gender-based violence, which include patriarchal systems, gender-biased attitudes and violent aspects of traditional masculinity.

At the same time, we are seeing an increasing convergence between arms control and other frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. This positive development allows Member States, UN entities, civil society and other stakeholders to work closer together, to harness our collective expertise and to develop a streamlined and comprehensive approach towards our common goals.

As member of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, UNODA works with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other UN entities on preventing and eliminating conflict-related sexual violence in a holistic way, synergizing efforts made in arms control with those from humanitarian, human rights, development, peacekeeping and other political actors.

Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the mandate, we must recognize the continuous need for a coordinated, synergized effort of the UN system to preventing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict. UNODA remains committed to that vision and to the collective efforts developed through UN Action.

Izumi Nakamitsu  
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

<sup>1</sup>S/2019/280




Sexual violence causes deep wounds and its scars persist long after the fact. Survivors' dignity and integrity are

Under-Secretary-General

**MICHELLE  
BACHELET**

High Commissioner for  
Human Rights





Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) brutally harms individuals and divides communities. In many contexts, cases are underreported, impunity of perpetrators is common, and survivors do not have timely access to the services necessary for their full recovery.

Administrator

**ACHIM  
STEINER**

United Nations  
Development Programme



Conflict places people at increased risk of Conflict

Under Secretary-General

**NATALIA  
KANEM**

Executive Director





Under-Secretary-General

**FILIPPO  
GRANDI**



**HENRIETTA  
FORE**

UNICEF's commitment to addressing gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) is central to our mission to protect the health and well-being of children and women. We are one of the founding members of UN Action and have been an active contributor to the Network since its inception, including serving as the UN Action co-chair before a permanent UN Action secretariat had been established.

presence in multiple conflict-affected contexts, we work closely with governments, international NGOs and local civil society partners to provide quality

UNICEF consistently advocates for placing the safety, wellbeing and agency of survivors at the center of any actions taken to combat conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), which includes making survivor-centered response services one of the key priorities for the CRSV agenda as a whole. We join with other UN Action partners to anchor CRSV interventions within a broader framework of promoting gender equality and ending all forms of gender-based violence in emergencies. We also bring our unique expertise on child protection programming to help ensure CRSV interventions are tailored to the particular needs of child survivors and children born as a result of sexual violence, as well as bringing a focus to the unique risks adolescent girls face. Over the years, UNICEF has helped strengthen and professionalize the GBViE field by producing a wide range of interagency technical guidance, such as the Interagency Gender Based Violence Case Management Guidelines, Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse, and the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. In addition, we have contributed our technical expertise to all joint products developed by UN Action.

With support from the UN Action multi-partner trust fund, UNICEF has implemented programming to address CRSV at both global and field level, including in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal and South Sudan. Leveraging our extensive operational







Increased attention to the Women, Peace and Security agenda since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) has placed women's priorities for peace at the center of peace and security discussions. Recognizing Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) as a security issue, UN Women remains committed to its elimination and providing survivor-centered responses through UN Action and UN system-wide initiatives.

UN Women has worked to tackle CRSV through the provision of expertise on the development and implementation of **National and Regional Action Plans on Women Peace and Security**, tools to promote women's protection from gender-based violence and CRSV. UN Women also serves as a resource for the

Under-Secretary-General

**PHUMZILE  
MLAMBO-NGCUKA**

Executive Director of  
UN Women

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Under-Secretary-General

**VIRGINIA  
GAMBA**

Special Representative for  
Children and Armed Conflict

Rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in conflict is one of the six grave violations identified and condemned by the UN Security Council. With the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access, the six grave violations forms the basis of the Security Council's architecture to monitor, report and respond to abuses suffered by





**JENNIFER  
TOPPING**

UN Action Against Sexual violence in Conflict (UN Action) unites the work of 14 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings by improving coordination and accountability, amplifying programming and advocacy, and supporting national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.

