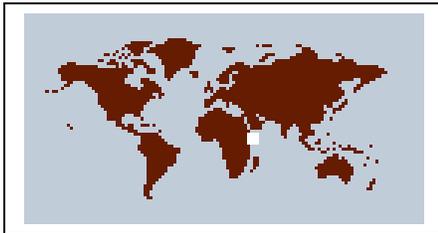




Gender Profile of the Conflict in *Somalia*

“Women’s status in Somalia should be the barometer of peace and security in the country.”

Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Director, UNIFEM



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Quick Facts:

Number of Dead: 500,000

Number of Displaced: 650,000¹

Head of State: Abdulkassim Salat Hassan (TNG)

Women Ministers: n/a

Women in Legislature: n/a

Women in Judiciary: n/a

Military Budget: n/a

Peace Process: n/a

Treaties: ICCPR, ICESCR, ICERD, BWC, NPT

Defense Spending: n/a

GDI Index: n/a

HDI Index: n/a

UN Head: Winston Tubman is the SRSG



Introduction

Somalia has been without a central government since its last president, dictator Mohamed Siad Barre, fled the country in 1991. Subsequent fighting among rival faction and clan leaders resulted in the killing, rape dislocation, and starvation of thousands of persons and led the United Nations to send peacekeepers in 1992.

Despite factional fighting, famine and general chaos in their country, Somali women achieved a great success at the Arta Conference in 2000 when women were allowed to represent themselves as a "sixth clan" at the negotiations, joining four major clans and a coalition of smaller ones. Two years later, UNIFEM helped women delegates prepare for the IGAD round of negotiations in Nairobi, which are ongoing. However, these achievements in the political sphere underscore the need to improve the basic well-being of Somali women who continue to face continuous "complex emergencies", pervasive violence and harmful traditional practices so women can continue to participate in the stabilization and reconstruction of Somalia at all levels.

In June 2003, the Secretary-General reported that, "in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, the United Nations has continued to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and women's human rights issues at the Conference and has provided a gender expert to work with the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) mediation team. The establishment of a women's resource centre for information, dialogue and negotiation has provided women delegates with the much-needed practical support to enhance their efforts. Somali women delegates developed and compiled a lobbying document on gender issues for discussion at the Conference. The key issues raised include affirmative action, special measures on women's representation, women's access to and control over resources, and the impact of war on women and girls." ¹

The Impact of the Conflict on Somali Women

Political and Security Impact

- Under Barre's regime, which lasted from 1969 to 1991, women became colonels, ambassadors and judges. Women's visibility in the public sphere lessened when the Barre regime was ousted. ²
- The consistent state of "complex emergency" in Somalia due to war and famine have made efforts at long-term development or women's empowerment difficult. Violence, food insecurity and other threats have rendered women vulnerable to political and economic insecurity. ³
- Militias and other gunmen reportedly rape women and girls of opposing clans and other vulnerable groups, particularly internally displaced people and the severally underprivileged Somali minorities such as Bantu, Midgan, Tumul, Yibir, Bravanese and also wealthier Benadiri



community.⁴ The conflict has led to decreased mobility for Somali women due to the threat and fear of rape.⁵

- According to the tradition of blood compensation -- otherwise known as dayeh, those found guilty in the death of a woman must pay only half as much to the aggrieved family as they would if the victim were a man.⁶
- In the absence of a central government, governance in Somalia has increasingly been characterized by Shariah and customary law, which mandates death by stoning for adultery.⁷ Shariah courts traditionally ruled in cases of civil and family law, but extended their jurisdiction to criminal proceedings in some regions beginning in 1994.⁸
- Traditionally, women cannot represent clans and are not even considered clan members, which limits their participation in political discussions. However, this neutrality has afforded women greater opportunities to engage in cross-clan coalition building. For example, at the Arta Conference, women from different clans came together to form the sixth clan so women could participate formally in the peace negotiations.⁹
- Peace and reconciliation conferences in Somaliland have remained male-dominated.¹⁰ However, at the Arta Conference, which established the TNG, women were recognized as the "sixth clan" and given space to participate in the negotiations.¹¹ Fifty female leaders were trained to participate in the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) peace processes, which began in October 2002. Although women originally demanded twenty-five percent representation in the transitional authority, they were granted only a twelve percent quota.¹²
- Women successfully lobbied at the IGAD Somali Reconciliation Conference, which has been attended by Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan and Djibouti. However, only 35 out of 362 delegates are women.¹³
- According to the Secretary General in a 10 June 2003 report on the Situation in Somalia, "A rapid assessment of women's access to justice in Somalia revealed that women are generally disadvantaged under all the three systems of law in Somalia, namely, civil, customary and Shariah. Each of them offers some measure of protection, but all remain inadequate and contradictory to an extent, leaving women vulnerable and insufficiently protected. Furthermore, the justice systems have an almost negligible number of women in service. It is imperative, therefore, to put in place interventions that support the recruitment and involvement of women in the justice system".¹⁴
- Women are increasingly being targeted for clan-related reprisals and attacks. As clans and warlords dominate public space, women have increasingly become pawns in their fighting, resulting in heightened physical insecurity. In December 2003, ten women were murdered in clan-related attacks. Maxwell Gaylard, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Somalia, condemned these murders and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.¹⁵

Humanitarian Impact



- According to the June 2003 report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, about 400,000 Somalis are refugees in neighbouring countries, while up to 370,000 others are internally displaced. Internally displaced people (IDPs) have absolutely no basic services such as water, health facilities or schools, and are often charged rent. more... Independent United Nations Expert, Chris Alnajjar, reported mission findings of 370,000 internally displaced persons living in Somali camps, most of whom live in conditions of extreme poverty under the iron rule of armed faction leaders. For example, in Puntland, there are 15,000 IDPs in Bossaso whom local authorities would like to transfer elsewhere, which risk posing security problems and trouble with access to work for these people.¹⁶ As women make up a larger proportion of the displaced population than do men, the problems and difficulties facing IDPs have a disparate impact on women.¹⁷
- Human Rights Watch reported widespread rape of Somali refugees in Kenyan camps, in a November 2002 report entitled "Living in Plain View."¹⁸
- Due to the already weak infrastructure of Somalia deteriorating further due to the conflict, the health of Somalis has deteriorated. Somalia has one of the highest maternal mortality and morbidity rates in the world, exacerbated by rates of Female Genital Mutilation rates of up to 98 percent.¹⁹
- Infibulation, the most harmful form of FGM, is practiced widely in Somalia. The practice was illegal in 1991, when the Siad Barre government collapsed, and in Somaliland it remains illegal under the Penal Code; however, the law is not enforced. While U.N. agencies and NGO's have made intensive efforts to educate persons about the danger of FGM, no reliable statistics are available on their success.²⁰
- The reintegration and resettlement of refugees and water and sanitation programmes of individual agencies are central to providing essential services to vulnerable communities. It is estimated that approximately 34,000 refugees from Djibouti and Ethiopia will be repatriated to Somalia in 2003. The repatriation began in May and will place additional burdens on existing basic social services, especially in the north-east and north-west.²¹
- Somali women have continued to struggle with chronic food insecurity, poverty, disease, drought and severely limited educational and employment opportunities. Somalia's is not even ranked on the human development index.²²
- Women are central the collection of water and other elements of family sustenance in Somalia Two good rainy seasons in 2002 have benefited rain-fed agriculture in the south of the country and improved conditions for livestock. As a result, overall cereal production reached a post-war high in March 2003, with an average 80 per cent increase nationwide. These developments have generally reduced acute food security problems, with some exceptions in the north-west, where drought conditions prevail, and in areas of the south, where conflict and lack of access are affecting the ability of some farmers to harvest their crops. The abundant rainfall has also reduced the incidence of cholera considerably.²³

Human Rights Violations, including Violence Against Women



- Key human rights problems remain for Somali women due to the lack of political rights in the absence of a central authority; some disappearances; harsh prison conditions; arbitrary detention; the judicial system's reliance in most regions on some combination of traditional and customary justice, Shariah law, and the pre-1991 Penal Code; infringement on citizens' privacy rights; some limits on the freedoms of assembly, association, and religion; restrictions on freedom of movement; discrimination against women; and the abuse of women and children, including the nearly universal practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). Abuse and discrimination against ethnic minorities in the various clan regions continued. There is no effective system for the protection of worker rights, and there are isolated areas where minority group members are forced to labor for local gunmen.²⁴
- Women are subordinated systematically in the country's overwhelmingly patriarchal culture. Polygyny is permitted, but polyandry is not. Under laws issued by the former government, female children could inherit property, but only half the amount to which their brothers were entitled. Similarly, according to the tradition of blood compensation, those found guilty in the death of a woman must pay only half as much to the aggrieved family as they would if the victim were a man.²⁵
- The UN Human Rights Commission Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women reported that rape and sexualized violence were widespread in Somalia. Aggressors attack women from rival clans and ethnic minorities. Such occurrences are even more prevalent in displaced persons camps.²⁶
- Militias and other gunmen reportedly rape women and girls of opposing clans and other vulnerable groups, particularly internally displaced people and the severally underprivileged Somali minorities such as Bantu, Midgan, Tumul, Yibir, Bravanese and also wealthier Benadiri community.²⁷
- Towards the end of 2002, women continued to be singled out for cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment for adultery, in circumstances where men involved remained unpunished.²⁸

Economic Security and Rights

- Illiteracy rates of Somali women in some areas is thought to be as high as eighty percent.²⁹
- Two generations of children have been "lost" as education infrastructure collapsed in 1991. Alarming, the gender gap in education is dramatically increasing. Twice as many boys compared to girls are entering primary school as cash strapped families choose to "invest" in sons over daughters.³⁰
- In the context of very low levels of development and wellbeing, Somali female heads of households suffer the most. Women in Somalia become heads of households due to death, abandonment or divorce under Shariah law. Alienation from male support renders female heads of households most vulnerable to economic insecurity and poverty.³¹



- Many men in southern Somalia consume qaat, a mild narcotic, and divert family funds towards its consumption.³²
- Somali women have become more productive as men join militias and go off to fight. In fact, women have assumed greater responsibility in the micro-economy due to the breakdown in socio-economic structures.³³
- In "Somaliland," a two-year drought has had severe ramifications for the economic security of women and girls. Women and girls, largely responsible for water collection, have to travel further and further as wells and water points dry out. The drought has forced up to 40 per cent of school children in the Togdeer region to drop out, with girls comprising a majority of the dropouts.³⁴

Women's Peace Building Activities in Somalia

- Fifty female leaders were trained to participate in the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) peace processes, which began in October 2002. Although women originally demanded twenty-five percent representation in the transitional authority, they were granted only a twelve percent quota.³⁵
- In June 2003, sixty women peace activists convened in Mogadishu to appeal for peace. The women represented various NGOs in the Mogadishu region and had been active in calling for factions to agree to a common administration. Although many participants represented different clans, they came together at a "women's forum" to push for reconciliation and stability.³⁶
- The Somali Women's Resource Center has set up a location at the Arta Conference. Somali women lobbying at the talks used the Center to produce a brochure about their agenda entitled "Women for Peace and Prosperity for All in Somalia".
- Save Somali Women and Children (SSWC) manages a human rights, peace and development center in Mogadishu. SSWC has sponsored a micro-credit programme for women and facilitated a reconciliation meeting between factions by mobilizing women from different clans and sub-clans to diffuse tensions. In 2001, SSWC organized an umbrella meeting for 120 women organizations designed to strengthen grassroots organizations through managerial and logistical support.
- In honor of International Women's Day in March 2003, thousands of Somali women demonstrated in Mogadishu, demanding that the factions comply with the peace agreement signed the previous year. The women, representing twenty NGOs, demanded leaders include women in any future authority.³⁷
- The National Organization for the Development of Women and Children (NOW) advises the Transitional National Government (TNG) on women's welfare needs, with a special focus on



female heads of households. NOW's focal point is establishing a comprehensive body of knowledge to be used as a tool for gender advocacy.

- SIFA Voluntary Organization advocates that women's contribution to peace building must equal that of men at every stage. SIFA conducts peace projects in several regions, providing training on conflict resolution and agricultural inputs. SIFA holds forums on the role of women in peace, the role of Islam in peace, the impact of peace of agriculture and human rights.
- Women's NGO Consortium (WONCO) supports, sustains and assists poverty stricken women, female heads of households, displaced and refugee women. WONCO also sponsors and disseminates a multi-media campaign against FGM.
- Women's Rights in Somalia (WoRiS) has established an advocacy pressure group to address women rights and gender equality by pressing the TNG to appoint more women.
- IIDA Women's Development Organization's programmes include education, training and peace-building through conflict management and resolution, demobilization, mediation and awareness raising plays. In 1996, IIDA received a Global Award from UNIFEM for the work they have done on peace-initiatives as well as support for displaced and otherwise victimized women.³⁸
- IIDA, formed on 25 May 1991, is a voluntary humanitarian non-governmental, non-profitable and non-political organization, established by a group of professional Somali women who became unsatisfied with how the women's role both in social and political life within their society, and how their rights have been deprived by the civil war, and how their plight has been ignored. IIDA means, celebration, a name given to a baby girl born during festivity days. It was formed at a crucial time when humanitarian assistance was very much required in the country. The sick and those wounded in the clashes and those whose husbands left the country, together with their children, set up camps in the looted government premises.
- The IIDA Women's Development Organization has actively tried to address the existence of many arms in the country as a major contributing factor to the futile attempts at achieving peace at the national level. The group decided to demobilize young men with guns, which were being used for ill purposes, which prompted IIDA to think of ways to offer these young men an alternative to a better life. IIDA as an organization has also participated in Somali reconciliation conferences, conferences by African Women from countries faced by political instability, and other international conferences.
- In January 2004, women's groups from several Horn of Africa countries, including Somalia, meet in Djibouti to launch a "Stop Violence Against Women" campaign. At the meeting, representatives participated in workshops on campaigning on issues of FGM, discriminatory laws and conflict-related violence against women. The meeting was held in collaboration with Amnesty International, who launched a global campaign on Violence Against Women in March 2004.

What UNIFEM is doing in Somalia



- To prepare for the October 2002 IGAD peace process in Somalia, UNIFEM trained fifty female leaders in mediation and negotiation from a gender perspective. UNIFEM held a seminar for female delegates to the Somali peace negotiations, providing them with the language of Resolution 1325 to be used in the negotiations.
- UNIFEM also funded peace dialogues for women and Somalia. The "African Women for Conflict Resolution and Peace" programme deepened support for gender sensitive and gender inclusive peace building and resolution strategies. Subsequently, UNIFEM facilitated four strategic meetings for Somali women leaders to design implementation plans for the programme's strategies. To cope with the lack of governmental cohesion in Somalia, UNIFEM supported community dialogues to involve local women in the peace process. UNIFEM also provided ten Somali NGOs with concrete training in strategic planning, conflict resolution and paralegal skills.
- In 2002 and 2003, UNIFEM trained thirty farmers and development workers in technology and leaderships skills. Guided by the Security Council's focus on food security in conflict zones, UNIFEM undertook the "Gender and Household Food Economy Assessment" to better understand women's active roles in food production and household maintenance in Somalia.
- In June 2002, UNIFEM held the first ever gender sensitive demobilization seminar in Somalia. The seminar was attended by female ex-combatants, ministers and members of civil society, and sought to strengthen gender awareness in demobilization, disarmament, reintegration and reintegration efforts.
- UNIFEM held a series of workshops and trainings throughout 2002 on HIV/AIDS and gender for sixty policy makers from Somaliland and Puntland. In March 2003, UNIFEM provided technical assistance to a three-day workshop for women delegates to the IGAD process. Delegates agreed to advocate for at least a twenty-five percent quota in all new institutions and the full inclusion of women in the process of building new institutions. In June 2003, UNIFEM participated in the high level plenary session of the IGAD talks, which focused on the implementation of resolution 1325. Other participants included, Mr. Winston Tubman and the South African Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Honourable Baleka Mbete. The appointment of a Gender Adviser to the IGAD process in 2003 coincided with the adoption of a twelve percent legislative quota in the draft Somali charter.

UN Country Team Gender Programming

UN Country Team Gender Programming in Somalia

Winston Tubman is the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Somalia

Maxwell John Gaylard is the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia

Members of the UN Country Team in Somalia: UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, FSAU, UNIFEM, OCHA, WHO, UNPOS, UNV, UNHCR. UNHCR

- **United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS):** UNPOS takes the lead in peace and security, peace conference and parliamentary support for Somalia.



- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):** UNDP projects in the area of rule of law have included the training of female police officers as essential to their programming. In the Manderu Police Training Center, female barracks were constructed to accommodate forty female trainees
- **World Health Organization (WHO):** WHO has conducted needs assessments surveys of the reproductive needs of women in Somalia
- **The UN Population Fund (UNFPA):** UNFPA conducted a reproductive health baseline survey, training traditional birth attendants and rape counselors and mobilized anti-FGM committees in refugee camps in Kenya and Ethiopia. UNFPA programming also supports HIV/AIDS testing and the promotion of condom use
- **The UN Education, Social and Cultural Organization (UNESCO):** UNESCO organized eight workshops to train members of local NGOs and community groups on conflict resolution, human rights and gender. UNESCO also trained trainers in these themes.
- **The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** UNHCR is coordinating the return of refugees to the "zones of recovery" in Puntland and Somaliland. UNHCR has strengthened the gender component of its returnee monitoring system in order to assist women to participate more fully in the management and leadership of their communities. UNHCR launched a public awareness campaign regarding the connection between HIV/AIDS and FGM. UNHCR supports the Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development in Puntland, so as to strengthen awareness of and respect for women's rights and gender equality.
- **The World Food Programme (WFP):** WFP supports orphanages in Somalia with food rations and other supplies. WFP also promotes women's participation in various committees and assists women in financial management and project development.
- **The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF):** UNICEF is assisting with the humanitarian needs of street children, sexually exploited girls and separated children. UNICEF has launched a project entitled "Towards the Total Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation." To that end, UNICEF has facilitation discussions with religious and clan leaders. UNICEF is developing a curriculum regarding FGM to teach in Islamic schools, underscoring the assertion that FGM is not an Islamic practice and that FGM is extremely detrimental to women's health and wellbeing. UNICEF supports a network of eighty maternal and child health center, which train traditional birthing assistants, attempt to reduce the incidence of water and sanitation related diseases among women and children and raise awareness about the dangers of FGM. UNICEF is attempting to influence policy through CEDAW and International Women's Day. UNICEF is mainstreaming gender issues to promote women and girls in governance and decision making to protect them against violence and foster girls' education.



Latest UN Documents

Security Council Resolutions

- **1519 (16 December 2003):** *Having considered* the report of the Panel of Experts dated 4 November 2003(S/2003/1035) submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 1474 (2003), *Welcoming* the mission of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) of 24 April 1992 (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee"), led by the Chairman of the committee, to the States in the region from 11 to 21 November 2003 as a step towards giving full effect to the arms embargo, *Reiterating* the importance of improving the implementation and enhancing the monitoring of the arms embargo in Somalia through persistent and vigilant investigation into violations of the arms embargo, and expressing its determination of holding those violators accountable, *Determining* that the situation in Somalia constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

- **1474 (8 April 03):** Noting with regret that the arms embargo of 1992 has been continuously violated, the Security Council reaffirms its strong support for the Somali national reconciliation process and commends Kenyan and IGAD efforts at the Eldoret Conference. The Security Council stresses the obligations of all states and other actors to fully comply with Resolution 733. The Security Council decides to reestablish a Panel of Experts to investigate violations of the embargo and provide a mid-term briefing to the Security Council. The Security Council calls on all regional organizations to assist the Somali parties in implementing the embargo. The Security Council expresses its determination to review the situation regarding the implementation of the arms embargo in Somalia on the basis of information provided by the Panel of Experts.

- **1425 (22 July 02):** Concerned with the continued flow of weapons into and through Somalia, the Security Council decides that the "arms embargo" includes any training, technical or financial assistance related to military activities. The Security Council establishes a panel of experts to investigate violations of the embargo and assess the capacity of neighbouring states to comply with the embargo. The panel of experts will recommend practical steps for strengthening the embargo.

- **1407 (03 May 02):** Pursuant to Security Council Resolution 733, the Security Council asks the Secretary-General to provide a plan of action detailing the resources and expertise for a panel of experts, which will investigate violations of the arms embargo. The Security Council urges states and other actors to fully comply with the embargo.

- **751 (24 April 92):** The Security Council establishes the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) to monitor the cease-fire in Somalia.

- **733 (23 January 92):** The Security Council votes for a unanimous arms embargo against Somalia, dispatches a technical team to monitor the embargo and recommends the establishment of UNOSOM as a peacekeeping mission to Somalia



Reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council

- **12 February 2004:** The Secretary-General reported that the Somali Reconciliation process reached an impasse in September over disagreements regarding the national charter. The process has also been hindered by financial problems resulting in an IGAD appeal for increased donor support. During the reporting period, security concerns were raised in Somaliland, a previously relatively stable region. The security situation in Mogadishu continues to be volatile, especially as different clans who are loyal to various participants in the reconciliation process control different parts of the city. Somalis, and pastoralists in particular, are facing extreme food shortages due to two years of drought. An assessment of the affected regions in October revealed that 60 per cent of livestock had been decimated. UN bodies in Somalia have continued activities to promote and support the peace process, including a UNICEF initiative to train interested youth in leadership and organizational skills. The UN system also began steps to initiate an HIV/AIDS monitoring system.
- **13 October 2003:** The Secretary-General reported that the plenary of the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference has endorsed reports by each of the reconciliation committees. In July 2003, the a federal government system was agreed upon, whereby women would comprise 12 per cent of parliament. The Secretary-General outlined other progress to date on National Reconciliation efforts and UN system efforts in Somalia. However, violence and instability continue to hamper humanitarian efforts. According to the Secretary-General, "technically, Somalia follows three systems of laws: secular law, Sharia and customary law. Although these three systems coexist, there is a lack of harmonization in the way they address crimes and other legal issues. The ability of Somali women to claim and defend their rights is affected by their social status and the prevailing legal environment, which consists mainly of a combination of Shariah and customary law and is applied differently in each region. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies and their partners completed assessments of the judiciary system and collated recommendations on possible ways to improve the justice system in Somalia as it affects women. Projects are under way to develop training manuals, advocacy tools and legal training toolkits to be used in the training of law enforcement and judicial personnel on gender issue within the three systems of law. Training is being provided to women's organizations for the formation of a women's national human rights advocacy network, the development of advocacy tools and training materials in both English and Somali, the integration of gender and human rights issues into existing legal systems, and the inclusion of a bill of rights in the future federal and regional charters."
- **10 June 2003:** In the area of judicial reform, activities continue to focus on the establishment of institutions and the development of capacity within existing institutions. In law enforcement, the establishment of a professional civilian police force that is able to effectively contribute to the restoration of peace and gain the trust of the community is a priority. The Secretary-General reported that "In accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 of 31 October 200-, the United Nations has continued to support the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and women's human rights issues at the Conference and has provided a gender expert to work with the IGAD mediation team. The establishment of a women's resource centre for information, dialogue and negotiation has provided women delegates with the much-needed practical support to enhance their efforts. Somali women delegates developed and compiled a lobbying document on gender issues for discussion at the Conference. The key issues raised include affirmative action, special measures on women's representation, women's access to and control over resources, and the impact of war on women and girls". The Secretary-General also reported that "A rapid assessment of women's access to justice in Somalia revealed that women are generally disadvantaged under all the three systems of law in Somalia, namely, civil, customary and Shariah. Each of them offers some measure of protection, but all remain



inadequate and contradictory to an extent, leaving women vulnerable and insufficiently protected. Furthermore, the justice systems have an almost negligible number of women in service. It is imperative, therefore, to put in place interventions that support the recruitment and involvement of women in the justice system".³⁹

- **26 February 2003:** During the reporting period, Somali leaders (except those from Somaliland) continued to participate in the Eldoret Reconciliation Conference in Kenya and progress was made towards setting up central institutions and in bringing women to the negotiation table as the sixth clan. Despite the signing of the Eldoret Declaration, inter- and intra-clan violence continued. Ongoing violence has made the delivery of humanitarian and reconstruction assistance difficult. Displaced persons continue to live in unsanitary conditions and are subjected to rape and other violations at the hands of armed combatants. UNIFEM's work in support of the reconciliation process. UNIFEM conducted a workshop for women participants at the Eldoret Conference. The Secretary-General expressed concern over the appalling situation of many vulnerable groups and the prevalence of sexual violence. Female training barracks were constructed to accommodate 40 female police students. The Secretary-General commended leaders of Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) States for agreeing to convene once a month to discuss progress in Somalia. The Secretary-General encouraged all participants in the reconciliation summit to refocus their efforts on building a sustainable stability in Somalia.

- **25 October 2002:** In the reporting period, no significant reconciliation efforts were undertaken at local or regional levels. The Transitional National Government (TNG) placed particular emphasis on the role of the international community in brokering peace. The Secretary-General reported that the security situation in Mogadishu continued to deteriorate as several UN staff members were kidnapped. The humanitarian crisis continued unabated as the relatively good harvest was offset by an escalation of fighting and restricted access to some regions. Plans for the IGAD peace initiative continued as the Technical Committee made allocations of representations for major political groupings, especially clans. Allocations were made for women to be accorded representation in the peace process. According to the Secretary-General, significant progress has been made towards ensuring women's participation. The Secretary-General highlighted UNIFEM's support of Somali women's leaders in the IGAD initiatives. The Secretary-General also outlined UNIFEM's support of three strategic planning meetings, which aimed to prioritize common visions for promoting peace.

- **27 June 2002:** The Secretary-General reported that various actors agreed to participate in the IGAD reconciliation conference and that preparation for the IGAD conference was progressing. However, violence and insecurity continued to plague Mogadishu and southern Somalia. The Secretary-General reported that the humanitarian situation remained dire, especially as access to vulnerable groups was truncated. The Secretary-General highlighted UNIFEM's work in promoting gender mainstreaming in all UN agencies and their support of inter-clan dialogue among women. The Secretary-General emphasized that the environment of suspicion must be defused in order to ensure a positive start to the IGAD conference. In light of the recent escalation of violence, the Secretary-General urged Somali leaders to refrain from military action and violence.

Human Rights Commission Reports and Resolutions

- Report of the Independent Expert on Human Rights: Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights: 31 December 2002⁴⁰



- Situation of Human Rights in Somalia: Report of the Independent Expert: 14 January 2002 ⁴¹
- Note by the Secretariat: the Situation of Human Rights in Somalia: 13 March 2001 ⁴²
- Situation of Human Rights in Somalia: Report of the Special Rapporteur: 26 January 2000 ⁴³

CEDAW

- Somalia is not a signatory to CEDAW.

ENDNOTES:

¹ *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia S/2003/636*, Distr.: General, 10 June 2003, Original: English, <http://ods-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N03/389/94/PDF/N0338994.pdf?OpenElement>

² Byrne, Bridget, Marcus, Rachel and Powers-Stevens, Tanya. Bridge Development Gender, Report 35. December 1995 (revised July 1996). *Gender, conflict and development Volume II: Case studies: Cambodia; Rwanda; Kosovo; Algeria; Somalia; Guatemala and Eritrea*. <http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/Reports/re35c.pdf> , p.92

³ UNICEF. *Somalia Facts & Figures, The Situation of Women and Children*. <http://www.unicef.org/somalia/factfig/chldwmen.html>

⁴ Africa News, *Abuse Continues Despite Peace Talks*, <http://allafrica.com/stories/200306240320.html>, June 23, 2003. Copyright 2003 AllAfrica Global Media

⁵ UNICEF Somali Support Center <http://www.unicef.org/somalia/>

⁶ AFROL Gender Profiles: Somalia, *Violence Against Women*. http://www.afrol.com/ms_index.htm

⁷ IRINNews. *SOMALIA: Women peace delegates lobby for their right*. 28 March 2003 http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=33113&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=SOMALIA

⁸ AFROL Gender Profiles: Somalia, *Family and Tradition*. http://www.afrol.com/ms_index.htm

⁹ IRINNews. *SOMALIA: Women peace delegates lobby for their rights, 28 March 2003*. http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=33113&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=SOMALIA

¹⁰ IRINNews. http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=33113&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=SOMALIA

¹¹ IRINNews. *SOMALIA: Women peace delegates lobby for their rights, 28 March 2003*. http://www.irinnews.org/report.asp?ReportID=33113&SelectRegion=Horn_of_Africa&SelectCountry=SOMALIA

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