

**Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children;
the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and the
Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**

Ref.: AL LKA 3/2026

(Please use this reference in your reply)

29 July 2026

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children; Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences and Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 61/8, 59/20 and 59/14.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning **the allegations that Sri Lanka is deploying forces to the Gang Suppression Forces in Haiti in the absence of a domestic screening mechanism that meets UN standards and of adequate accountability in relation to prior involvement of Sri Lankan personnel in human rights violations, including sexual violence, domestically and in international deployments.**

According to the information received:

Gang violence continues to adversely affect the enjoyment of human rights of the population in Haiti. Gangs use violence, including killings, injuries, kidnappings, trafficking in persons, including recruitment of children in gangs, rape and sexual exploitation to exert their dominance over a population that is deeply suffering from the crisis. Between 1 March 2025 and 15 January 2026, at least 5,519 people were killed and 2,608 others injured.¹ The consolidation of gangs' criminal control over significant portions of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, as well as their territorial expansion into other regions, notably the Artibonite, Centre and the South-East departments, continues to exacerbate the human rights and humanitarian crisis.

The United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 2793 in September 2025 authorizing Member States to transition the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to the Gang Suppression Force (GSF) for an initial period of twelve months following the adoption of the resolution.² The GSF is mandated to conduct either independently or as appropriate, together and in cooperation with the Haitian National Police (HNP) and the Haitian Armed Forces (FAd'H), intelligence-led targeted, counter-gang operations to neutralize, isolate, and deter gangs that continue to threaten the population, commit human rights abuses, and undermine Haitian institutions, among

¹ [A/HRC/61/74](#)

² [S/RES/2793 \(2025\)](#)

others.³

The Security Council decided that the GSF shall have an authorized personnel ceiling of 5,550 consisting of 5,500 uniformed personnel, comprised of both military and police personnel, and 50 civilians, and welcomed the willingness of Member States to contribute to stability and security in Haiti by contributing personnel, equipment, and other resources to the GSF.⁴

The Government of Sri Lanka has reportedly announced that it will contribute a contingent of 1,132 personnel drawn from the Sri Lankan Army and the Police Special Task Force to the GSF. The contingent is reported to comprise 900 army personnel drawn from various regiments, 189 officers from the Police Special Task Force, and, for the first time, 43 female army personnel reportedly trained in demining and explosive ordnance disposal.

An advance team of the contingent reportedly has already arrived in Haiti in July 2026, totaling approximately 350 personnel based on available information.

The deployment was reportedly described by the Government as the largest deployment of Sri Lankan personnel to United Nations Security Council-authorized operation to date, demonstrating Sri Lanka's enduring commitment to the protection of human rights internationally.

Sri Lanka's contribution is reportedly considered central to the operational effectiveness of the GSF. Nevertheless, lack of accountability for past and present human rights and international humanitarian law violations, including international crimes, particularly in cases allegedly involving members of Sri Lanka's security forces, together with the lack of a domestic screening process in line with UN human rights screening standards, raise serious concern.

Sri Lankan forces have previously been implicated in allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse while deployed as peacekeepers in Haiti. In 2007, the UN repatriated more than 100 Sri Lankan peacekeepers serving with the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) on disciplinary grounds, following the conclusion of the OIOS' preliminary investigation. It was alleged that, between 2004 and 2007, members of the contingent sexually abused several Haitian children in exchange for food, money and other items.⁵ To date, however, there is no information available that indicates that any of those Sri Lankan peacekeepers have been prosecuted or criminally sanctioned in relation to those allegations.

Furthermore, based on available information,⁶ in 2024 and 2025, four Sri Lankan uniformed personnel serving in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) were allegedly involved in acts of sexual exploitation and abuse. The UN reportedly repatriated three of the alleged perpetrators and the Government of

³ [S/RES/2793 \(2025\)](#)

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ [SG/SM/11254 \(2007\)](#); [A/HRC/58/52](#).

⁶ <https://conduct.unmissions.org/en/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse>.

Sri Lanka reportedly imposed disciplinary sanctions, in the form of demotions. While these measures are important, any sanctions imposed should be commensurate with the nature and gravity of the conduct. Available information does not indicate whether any additional actions, including possible criminal proceedings, were initiated under applicable national law.

Without wishing to prejudge the veracity of these allegations at this stage, and without implying any definitive conclusion, we express our concern for the alleged deployment of the Sri Lankan forces to GSF in the absence of a UN compliant domestic screening mechanism and of adequate accountability process in relation to past and future violations.

We are aware that, in response to these concerns and to facilitate Sri Lanka's deployment to the GSF, the UN implemented an exceptional transitional human-rights screening arrangement for the initial deployment of approximately 350 personnel. We note, however, that such an arrangement is not a substitute for Sri Lanka's national responsibility to conduct human-rights screening in accordance with the UN Policy on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel (2012),⁷ which places primary responsibility on Member States to ensure that all nominated personnel have not been involved in violations of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, including crimes, serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, or other conduct incompatible with service in an international operation.

We are also concerned that, if substantiated, the reported failure to establish and implement an independent, credible and effective domestic screening process prior to deployment, following the end of the previous mechanism in 2024, may be inconsistent with Sri Lanka's obligations arising from Security Council resolution 2793 (2025), including the requirement that participating States ensure the standards of transparency, conduct and discipline and take all necessary measures to prevent human rights violations and abuses, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by personnel deployed to the GSF.⁸

We urge Sri Lanka to share information on any steps taken to establish a national human-rights screening mechanism and on its compliance with United Nations standards. The mechanism needs to be capable of identifying those against whom there are criminal convictions or allegations establishing that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the individual has been involved, either directly by act or by omission (as a superior or commander) in the commission of a violation of international human rights or humanitarian law, or serious misconduct that raise concerns regarding their suitability for deployment.

In this context, we are particularly concerned by allegations that previous incidents involving Sri Lankan personnel deployed in peace operations, including allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse in Haiti and the Central African Republic, have not resulted in appropriate accountability despite the gravity of the alleged conduct. The apparent lack of information concerning criminal investigations,

⁷ https://police.un.org/sites/default/files/policy_on_human_rights_screening_of_un_personnel_december_2012.pdf.
⁸ [S/RES/2793 \(2025\)](#).

prosecutions and sanctions raises concerns regarding the lack of effective accountability and measures designed to prevent the recurrence of similar conduct in future deployments.

We are additionally concerned about a significant gap in Sri Lanka's domestic legal framework that may impede effective accountability for the sexual abuse of children. Under United Nations standards and the applicable international legal framework, every person under the age of 18 is considered a child, and any sexual activity with a child is prohibited and constitutes sexual abuse, irrespective of the locally applicable age of consent. Sri Lankan law, however, reportedly establishes the age of consent at 16 years. Consequently, this raises serious concern that acts involving sexual abuse of children aged 16 or 17 may not be adequately addressed or attract necessary criminal penalties under domestic law, commensurate with the gravity of the act. This gap must not operate to shield perpetrators from effective criminal accountability or leave serious violations involving children to be addressed solely through administrative or disciplinary measures. Such an outcome would gravely undermine the rights of child victims and perpetuate impunity. We are therefore deeply concerned that, unless Sri Lanka reviews and, where necessary, amends its domestic legal framework, children aged 16 or 17 who are subjected to sexual abuse by Sri Lankan personnel deployed to United Nations missions or non-United Nations operations, including the GSF, may be denied effective protection, access to justice and an effective remedy, perpetuating a serious accountability gap and undermining efforts to combat impunity.

We are further concerned that the deployment of a large contingent in a context characterized by widespread violence, displacement, insecurity, and heightened vulnerability of women and children may create a heightened risk of human rights violations and abuses if adequate preventive, disciplinary, monitoring and accountability measures are not in place. In situations of fragility and humanitarian crisis, effective safeguards against sexual exploitation and abuse, discrimination and other forms of misconduct are of particular importance.

We wish to recall that States contributing personnel to international security operations have a responsibility to exercise due diligence to ensure that their personnel are appropriately selected, trained, supervised and held accountable for misconduct. Effective screening constitutes a critical safeguard to prevent the deployment of individuals who may pose a risk to the rights and safety of affected populations and to uphold the integrity and legitimacy of international peace and security efforts.

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law and other relevant frameworks** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments, standards and frameworks relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.

2. Please provide information on the measures taken to ensure compliance by your personnel with the human rights, conduct and discipline, and accountability requirements set out in Security Council resolution 2793 (2025).
3. Please provide information on the domestic screening process applied to all Sri Lankan personnel nominated for deployment to the GSF, including whether such personnel were screened for prior or standing allegations, investigations, disciplinary measures, or convictions relating to violations of international human rights law, international humanitarian law, including crimes, serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, or other conduct incompatible with service in an international operation; the authority responsible for such screening; the sources of information for screening; and the decision-making standards and processes.
4. Please indicate whether any nominated personnel were excluded from deployment following the screening process and, if so, on what grounds.
5. Please provide information on the screening process applied to all Sri Lankan personnel nominated for deployment to any United Nations Security Council-mandated or authorized operations, since the end of 2024, following the reported end of operation of the domestic screening mechanism.
6. Please provide information on the steps taken to establish and operationalize a new domestic screening mechanism, including its envisaged composition, sources of information, and decision-making standards and processes.
7. Please provide information on the training provided to deployed personnel on human rights, including the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as child protection.
8. Please provide information on measures adopted, in light of previous allegations against Sri Lankan personnel, to prevent and detect sexual exploitation and abuse, including measures to strengthen command and control, oversight, and monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
9. Please provide information on the measures in place to ensure that allegations of misconduct by Sri Lankan personnel deployed to international peace operations are promptly reported, independently and impartially investigated, and that protections against retaliation are available to personnel who report such allegations, including where reports concern colleagues or superiors.
10. Please provide information on any investigations, sanctions, criminal proceedings or other accountability measures undertaken in relation to allegations concerning Sri Lankan personnel previously deployed to

MINUSTAH during 2004-2007 and if no accountability measures have taken place, the basis for such decisions.

11. With regard to allegations of sexual exploitation by Sri Lankan peacekeepers deployed to MINUSCA during 2024-2025, please provide information whether the sanctions imposed reflected the severity of the acts and whether criminal proceedings remain possible and were pursued.
12. Please provide information on the legal framework applicable to allegations of sexual abuse committed by Sri Lankan personnel deployed in international peace or security operations, particularly against children (ie. persons under the age of 18), including whether such conduct may give rise to criminal liability under Sri Lankan law, and the measures taken to ensure accountability in such cases.

This communication, and any response received from your Excellency's Government, will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) at the 60 days mark. Should Your Excellency's Government respond within 60 days, both the communication and the response, may be published before the 60 days mark. The communications and responses will also be made available in the subsequent periodic report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to address the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence.

We may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency's Government's to clarify the issue/s in question.

Please note that a copy of this communication is also sent to the Government of Haiti as well as the Governments of the Bahamas, Canada, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kenya and the United States as the Standing Group of Partners⁹ for information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Ai Kihara-Hunt

Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children

Reem Alsalem

Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences

Claudia Flores

Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

⁹ [A/2025/537 \(2025\)](#)

Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to draw the attention of your Excellency's Government to the relevant international norms and standards that are applicable to the issues brought forth by the situation described above.

Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which your Excellency's Government ratified on 12 July 1991, states a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

Article 3(1) of the CRC affirms that in all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

Article 19 of the CRC provides for the right of the child to be protected from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child. Article 34 also states that States Parties undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

Article 39 of the CRC affirms States Parties' obligation to take all appropriate measures to promote physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of: any form of neglect, exploitation, or abuse.

Articles 1 and 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, ratified by Sri Lanka on 22 September 2006, provides that States Parties shall prohibit the sale of children (any act or transaction whereby a child is transferred by any person or group of persons to another for remuneration or any other consideration), child prostitution (the use of a child in sexual activities for remuneration or any other form of consideration) and child pornography (any representation, by whatever means, of a child engaged in real or simulated explicit sexual activities or any representation of the sexual parts of a child for primarily sexual purposes).

Moreover, article 9 of the Optional Protocol provides that States Parties shall take all feasible measures with the aim of ensuring all appropriate assistance to victims of such offences, including their full social reintegration and their full physical and psychological recovery. The article also calls on States to ensure that all child victims of the offences described in the Protocol have access to adequate procedures to seek, without discrimination, compensation for damages from those legally responsible.

In its review of Sri Lanka in 2018, the Committee on the Rights of the Child ([CRC/C/LKA/CO/5-6](#)) was gravely concerned about the low rate of conviction for sexual abuse of children by members of the Sri Lankan military contingents deployed as a part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The

Committee urged Sri Lanka to bring members of the armed forces who sexually abused and exploited children while serving with MINUSTAH to justice expeditiously and ensure reparation for child victims (paras. 23-24).

The Committee also recommended that Sri Lanka continue to conduct specific training sessions on the Convention and its Optional Protocols for relevant groups of professionals, including the military personnel (para. 11).

Furthermore, we wish to recall your Excellency's Government's obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ratified by Sri Lanka on 5 October 1981. Under articles 2 and 3 of the Convention, States parties are required to condemn discrimination against women in all its forms and to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating such discrimination. They are also required to ensure that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with this obligation and to take all appropriate measures to ensure the full development and advancement of women, with a view to guaranteeing their exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

We further wish to recall that, in its general recommendation No. 19 (1992), as updated by general recommendation No. 35 (2017), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women clarified that gender-based violence against women constitutes discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention. The Committee stated that States parties are responsible for acts and omissions of their organs and agents that constitute gender-based violence against women, including those of officials in the executive, legislative and judicial branches. States parties are required to adopt and implement effective measures to prevent such violence, to investigate allegations promptly, thoroughly, impartially and effectively, to prosecute and punish those responsible, and to provide effective reparation to victims. The Committee further emphasized the obligation to prevent recurrence, including through appropriate institutional measures, training, monitoring and accountability (CEDAW/C/GC/35, paras. 22, 23, 29 and 30).

We also wish to refer to the Committee's General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, as further elaborated in the Addendum relating to the Women and Peace and Security agenda (CEDAW/C/GC/30/Add.1). The Committee emphasized States parties' obligations to prevent and address gender-based violence, combat impunity and ensure access to justice and effective reparation. It further underscored the responsibility of personnel-contributing States to prevent, investigate and ensure accountability for sexual and gender-based violence committed by personnel deployed in international peace and security operations.

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (General Assembly resolution 48/104) recognises that women and girls are entitled to the equal enjoyment and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and calls upon States to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women and girls.

In situations of armed conflict, States must also comply with applicable rules of international humanitarian law, including the obligation to protect civilians, particularly women and children, from rape and other forms of sexual violence. Serious violations may constitute war crimes under international law.

The obligations above are further reinforced by the Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, including resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2467 (2019) and 2493 (2019), which recognise conflict-related sexual violence as a threat to international peace and security and call upon States to prevent such violations, combat impunity, strengthen accountability, and ensure survivor-centred responses.

In its [resolution 2793 \(2025\)](#), the Security Council requests the Member States participating in the GSF to ensure the highest standards of transparency, conduct and discipline for their contingents operating in the framework of the GSF, to establish a robust compliance mechanism, building on the compliance mechanism created under the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to prevent, investigate, address and publicly report violations or abuses of human rights, including tackling sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, related to the GSF; and to establish an oversight mechanism to prevent human rights violations or abuses, in particular sexual exploitation and abuse, to deploy dedicated Child and Women's Protection Advisers, as well as to ensure that the planning and conduct of operations during deployment will be in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, as applicable; with the appropriate mechanisms to detect such incidents when they occur and ensure a safe survivor-and victim centered response in cases of such conduct involving their personnel, including through providing safe and accessible complaint and referral mechanisms and timely investigations of all allegations of misconduct, holding perpetrators accountable, and repatriating units when there is credible evidence of misconduct, including widespread or systemic sexual exploitation and abuse by those units.

The Security Council in [resolution 2272 \(2016\)](#) urges all non-United Nations forces authorised under a Security Council mandate to take adequate measures to prevent and combat impunity for sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel and calls upon Member States deploying non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate to take appropriate steps to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, hold perpetrators accountable and repatriate units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation or abuse by those units.

The [United Nations Policy on Human Rights Screening of UN Personnel](#) (2012) states that Member States have primary responsibility for screening individuals from their country before nominating them for service with the United Nations, and for ensuring that these individuals meet the highest standards of integrity, including respect for and commitment to human rights.

In the Bulletin on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse ([ST/SGB/2003/13](#)), the United Nations Secretary-General defines "sexual exploitation" as any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.

Similarly, the term “sexual abuse” means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions. The Bulletin further emphasizes that sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18) is prohibited regardless of the age of majority or age of consent locally. Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defense.

The United Nations General Assembly resolution [73/153](#) calls upon States to enact, enforce and uphold laws concerning a minimum age of marriage, to monitor their application and to progressively amend laws with lower minimum ages of marriage and/or ages of majority to 18 and engage all relevant authorities to ensure that these laws are well known. In line with this, OHCHR's Guidelines on Child, Early and Forced Marriage ([A/HRC/62/26](#)) highlight the importance of ensuring a national legal framework in line with international human rights standards, including regarding the age of majority and the legal age for marriage, protective of the rights of adolescent girls and boys, prohibiting forced marriage and requiring birth and marriage registration.

We wish to draw your attention to the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children's report on *Sexual abuse of children in peacekeeping and humanitarian contexts* ([A/HRC/58/52](#)), whereby the Special Rapporteur highlighted that the sexual abuse of children perpetrated by United Nations staff and related personnel in conflict or crisis settings is not and should not be considered a mere disciplinary matter. It is a fundamental protection failure, a serious crime and a grievous violation of the human rights of one of the most vulnerable groups of people by those mandated to serve and protect them.

The Special Rapporteur further stated that the deployment of personnel who have committed, or are at risk of committing, serious human rights violations, including sexual exploitation and abuse, undermine the very purpose of peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. Therefore, it is important to undertake rigorous and strict vetting and screening mechanisms with a view to excluding individuals who have committed human rights violations and deterring anyone who may present a risk to children and their communities from working in peacekeeping.

The Special Rapporteur also emphasized that robust and effective accountability measures are indispensable to prevent sexual abuse of children. It is only by seeing that such crimes will be met with accountability measures, including criminal prosecution, that contingent members will begin to take the zero-tolerance policy seriously. Additionally, where accountability processes of a contributing country are delayed or lack transparency, and victims and affected communities receive little or no information on progress or outcomes, this can undermine trust and lead to a distinct perception that perpetrators can act with impunity, thereby discouraging victims from reporting allegations of sexual abuse in the future.

We wish to recall that the Special Rapporteur on the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children in her report on *Reparation for child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation* ([A/HRC/52/31](#)) has expressed regret that despite the significant work carried out in the area of victim-centred approaches to reparation and transitional justice, child victims and survivors of sale and sexual exploitation have hardly ever been afforded due reparation for violations committed against them as enshrined under international and regional human rights instruments. Reparation

measures can include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, which can be symbolic, material, individual or collective in character. Reparation should be proportional to the gravity of the violations and the harm suffered by the child victims and survivors. The report also recognizes that while children may be entitled to remedies or reparations under law and policy, victims and survivors have been left waiting for reparation, and without access to comprehensive services, medical treatment, psychological care and livelihood support, until the conflict ends. The Special Rapporteur encourages the development of transitional processes and the implementation of interim relief measures in such situations.

We also wish to draw your attention to the Report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka (OISL) ([A/HRC/30/CRP.2](#)) whereby OHCHR recommends the Government to ensure that no member of the Sri Lankan security forces is sent on a United Nations peacekeeping mission without vetting to establish that the individual, including commanders, have not in any way been involved in human rights violations or criminal acts. Any allegations of abuses by Sri Lankan peacekeepers while on peacekeeping duties must be fully investigated by the authorities. (p. 248)

Furthermore, we wish to refer to the report of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls on discrimination against women on health and safety ([A/HRC/32/44](#)). The Working Group emphasized that violence against women, in both the public and private spheres, including in conflict situations, is a major component of women's physical and mental ill-health and the deterioration of their well-being, and amounts to a violation of their human rights. It further stressed that the State has the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil women's right to health in law and in practice, and recommended that the principles of equality, non-discrimination and women's empowerment provide the framework for all interventions concerning women's health and safety.

We also wish to refer to the Working Group's report on women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health rights in crisis ([A/HRC/47/38](#)), in which the Working Group highlighted that the threats and risks to the sexual and reproductive health and autonomy of women and girls before and during crisis-related events are underpinned and exacerbated by systemic disadvantage and discrimination. It called for women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health rights to be fully integrated into crisis prevention, response, assessment, management, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction plans. The Working Group further recommended strengthening monitoring and accountability and increasing the representation and effective participation of women and girls in decision-making processes at all levels, including in crisis prevention, management and recovery.