

## UN Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013)

### Women, rule of law and transitional justice

Gladys Mirugi-Mukundi

*The UN Security Council passed Resolution 2122 (2013) that aims to strengthen women's role in all stages of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. The resolution seeks to amplify women's voices at the peace negotiation table in societies emerging from conflict.*

The resolution applauds and encourages the critical contributions of civil society to conflict prevention, resolution and the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding, especially those of women's organisations and women leaders, including socially and/or economically excluded groups of women. The resolution further flags the importance of sustained consultation and dialogue between women and national, regional and international decision makers.

This resolution builds on the national, regional and sub-regional efforts by civil society organisations in the implementation of Resolution 1325 (2000). Resolution 2122 emphasises that UN entities should have collective and cohesive interagency cooperation and action, which will facilitate regular briefings and information sharing, to 'timeously analyse the impact of armed conflict on women and girls.' This would involve the

consideration of gender-related issues in the discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding.

The resolution expresses its intention to facilitate

meaningful participation and protection of women in election preparation and political process, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes, security sector and judicial reforms, and wider post-conflict reconstruction processes.

According to Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, the Executive Director of UN Women, this will ensure that gender responsive transitional justice strategies are implemented in an effort to 'ensure that crimes against women are addressed in ceasefire and peace negotiations'.

The resolution encourages member states, UN entities and financial institutions to support local civil-society net-

works and national institutions, in particular the judicial and health systems, to provide sustained assistance (paras 11 and 7b).

Resolution 2122 (2013) complements resolution 1325 (2000), which will be subject to a 2015 high-level review to highlight regional and global implementation challenges as well as emerging examples of good practice. The review will further focus on the emerging trends and priorities for women and girls in conflict prevention, resolution protection and peacebuilding.

In the words of Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Resolution 2122 places women at the centre of post-conflict reconstruction 'to reassert the rule of law and rebuild society through transitional justice.' The resolution has been hailed by various stakeholders as being useful to

strengthen the normative framework for empowering women and encouraging their full participation in all levels of decision making in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The resolution adds voice to the efforts at the national, regional and international level to:

address obstacles in women's access to justice in conflict and post-conflict settings, including through gender-responsive legal, judicial and security sector reforms (para 10).

During the debate on the resolution at the UN Security Council, stakeholders acknowledged that:

the respect of the rule of law, accountability and access to justice were critical in protecting women's rights in the aftermath of conflict.

The delegate from South Africa added his voice and suggested that in post-conflict settings,

space must be opened for women in the political and socio-economic domains as a pre-requisite for building sustainable peace'.

In conclusion, the Secretary-General of the United Nations reiterated that this is

a matter of gender equality and human rights, and crucial to achieving sustained peace, economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy.