



## STATEMENT OF RECOMMITMENT

to the

### UNITED NATIONS PROTOCOL ON THE PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

28 April 2025

1. Just over five years ago, on 12 December 2019, the United Nations entities collectively approved the *United Nations Protocol on the provision of assistance to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse* perpetrated by United Nations staff and related personnel or non-United Nations forces acting under a Security Council mandate (“the Protocol”).
2. The Protocol, that represents the culmination of more than a decade of tireless collaboration by peacekeeping and humanitarian actors, provides a common set of norms and a framework with delineated roles and responsibilities to ensure a coordinated, system-wide approach to the provision of assistance and support to victims in a manner that is victim-centered and rights-based.
3. Since the introduction of the Protocol, we have made important progress in placing victims at the centre of our collective prevention and response efforts. Together with our partners, building on existing gender-based violence and child protection prevention and response systems, we have strengthened referral mechanisms to ensure that the victims are not only heard, but also meaningfully supported and have access to the services they need.
4. The assistance offered— immediate safety and protection, psychosocial care, legal aid, medical support, education, livelihoods and basic material assistance—enables victims to rebuild their lives with dignity. This also includes critical support for children born as a result of sexual exploitation and abuse, whose future is our primary concern and deserves our attention and care.
5. Despite important progress, significant challenges persist. Crucially, we are unable to ensure that victims receive safety and protection and comprehensive assistance. Additionally, lengthy investigations, legal barriers and resource constraints hinder our ability to deliver timely justice.

6. Today's context, marked by growing conflict, humanitarian crises, insecurity, and stark inequalities, only compounds the vulnerabilities of victims, especially women and girls. With mounting financial pressures, and with reduced budgets increasing the risk of exploitation, many UN entities and partners are struggling to sustain the delivery of lifesaving support.
7. Yet it is precisely in this moment of heightened challenge that we must reaffirm our responsibility. Providing safe, comprehensive, and immediate assistance to victims is not an option, it is a moral and institutional imperative. Our response must be swift, sustained, and principled.
8. Today, we call on the United Nations system to renew its commitment to a victim-centred, integrated response that upholds the rights, safety and dignity of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. This commitment must be more than words. It must be reflected in our policies, our funding priorities, and our actions.
9. We also call on our partners across the peace, humanitarian, development community to join us in ensuring the continuity and improved coordination of resources for assistance to the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse. Together, we must ensure that victims are not left behind.
10. We recommit to placing the rights, needs, and dignity of victims at the forefront of all that we do. Together, we can – and we must- honor our promise to put victims first.