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# COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

## Hundred and Tenth Session

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### Reporting under the UN Secretary General's reporting system for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

#### I. Introduction

1. This document is submitted to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to provide background concerning the Organization's adherence to the United Nations reporting system for allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, and to present an update and relevant considerations on the status of the Organization in this regard.

#### II. Background on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) within the UN

2. Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) is the term used to refer to measures taken by humanitarian and UN system entities to protect vulnerable people from sexual exploitation and abuse by their staff and associated personnel.

3. The 2003 UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on special measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse ([ST/SGB/2003/13](#)) sets out the basic principles upon which UN system activities on this issue are founded. The [six core principles relating to PSEA](#) are essential knowledge for all UN system personnel.

4. ST/SGB/2003/13 applies to all staff of the United Nations, including staff of separately administered organs and programmes of the United Nations. These organs and programmes are established pursuant to Article 22 of the United Nations Charter and they apply UN rules and regulations on administration and personnel. ST/SGB/2003/13 does not directly apply to FAO personnel.

#### III. Status of the Organization

5. The FAO is an autonomous specialized agency established by an intergovernmental agreement, and like any other specialized agency, it has its own governance, rules and policies, as well as an autonomous budget. It is in relationship with the United Nations pursuant to Article 57 of the

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United Nations Charter.<sup>1</sup> While it is not an organ or programme of the UN, the Organization takes into account the recommendations of the UN, and its strategies and policies are coordinated through, *inter alia*, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

6. The Organization has a policy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (“FAO PSEA Policy”), which is set out in Administrative Circular 2013/27. The FAO PSEA Policy establishes procedures for reporting and investigating allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving FAO personnel or any other personnel associated with the work of the Organization. It was issued subsequent to Director-General’s Bulletin 2012/70 on special measures for PSEA, which implemented PSEA at FAO in line with ST/SGB/2003/13.

#### **IV. UN reporting on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 57/306 and 70/286, the UN Secretary-General regularly reports to the UN General Assembly on measures taken to implement Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. These reports also provide data on allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse across the United Nations system for the specified reporting year.

8. The UN General Assembly document A/71/818 dated 28 February 2017 is the latest report of the Secretary-General on special measures for protection from SEA, covering 2016. The next report, covering 2017 to 2019, will be issued in February 2020.

9. Sexual exploitation and abuse is an area of high risk to all entities of the UN system and donors are very interested in ensuring that there is transparency regarding any allegations that arise, which must be dealt with in accordance with best practice standards. Therefore, in addition to the report of the UN Secretary-General, the UN has recently developed the [iReport SEA Tracker](#), a mechanism for comprehensive reporting that is available on the UN public website.<sup>2</sup>

10. The iReport SEA Tracker presents detailed information and is updated in real time. It contains case-by-case anonymous information on, *inter alia*, the date of incident and date of reporting, the type of victim (adult or child), the nature of the allegation, the support provided to the victim, the status of the investigation, the final action, and referral for criminal accountability. There are a number of UN specialized agencies who already report under this system.

#### **V. FAO reporting on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse**

11. To date, at FAO, reporting on sexual exploitation and abuse has been through the Annual Report of the Office of the Inspector General to the Finance Committee. This report, which is publicly available, contains very limited information that is not comparable to the timing and scope of the information provided in the UN iReport SEA Tracker.

12. In the interests of transparency and efficiency, the Organization intends to follow other UN specialized agencies (including ILO, IOM, UNESCO and WHO) which have also agreed to participate in reporting under the iReport SEA Tracker. It is considered that the Organization’s adherence to this reporting method, after consultation with its Governing Bodies, does not impinge upon its status as a UN specialized agency.

13. Accordingly, as anticipated to the Programme Committee at its 127<sup>th</sup> Session in November 2019, FAO will commence reporting under the iReport SEA Tracker from 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Relationship Agreement Between the FAO and the United Nations entered into force 14 on December 1946.

<sup>2</sup> [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

## **VI. Suggested action by the Committee**

14. The Committee is invited to review this document and make comments on the Organization's adherence to the United Nations reporting system for allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse as appropriate.