

### **Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice**

On Wednesday June 30<sup>th</sup> the Permanent Mission of Australia in conjunction with UNIFEM, the UN Action Stop Rape Now campaign and DPKO hosted the launch of *Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice*. This 44-page publication will serve as a new tool for peacekeepers in addressing women's security concerns. Funded by the Australian Government's aid agency AusAID, the publication is a first-ever review of "efforts by uniformed peacekeepers to prevent, deter and respond to widespread and systematic sexual violence". It is part of a broader effort to improve civilian protection capacities. The report examines the advantages of women in uniform in areas such as Liberia and Afghanistan and provides recommendations to avoid predictable risks such as rape and reprisal of attacks on women.

In the words of SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström, who spoke at the event, "rape is not an inevitable by-product of war, but a crime that can be stopped if we build the skill and the will to respond." Other speakers at the launch included Major General Abhijit Guha, Deputy Military Advisor to the Under-Secretary-General, DPKO; Major General (Ret.) Patrick Cammaert, former Division Commander for Eastern DRC with MONUC; and Major General Elhadji Mouhamadou Kandji, Force Commander of MINURCAT.

"The *Analytical Inventory* is part of our efforts to adapt to the evolving requirements of peacekeeping" said Major General Guha. The inventory draws on the experience of peacekeepers and their interactions in communities. It provides an important consideration of women's experiences in conflict, which are rarely represented. The report will help bring women's priorities and the practice of peacekeepers "into closer contact". The *Analytical Inventory* is available on the AusAID, DPKO, and UNIFEM websites as well as on the UN Action website: [www.stoprapenow.org](http://www.stoprapenow.org).