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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Development

on preparing for the World Humanitarian Summit: Challenges and opportunities for humanitarian assistance
(2015/2051(INI))

Rapporteur: Anna Hedh

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas several reports from emergency and crisis zones testify to abuses against the civil population, including children; whereas women and children are especially vulnerable in the context of sexual violence used as a weapon;
- B. whereas the use of schools and other forms of educational facilities for military use hinders and restricts the use of such facilities for their rightful purpose by students and teachers, in both the short and long term; whereas education is one of the most important tools in preventing different forms of discrimination and oppression;
- C. whereas international law acknowledges the right to adequate health care for victims of sexual violence used in conflicts, such as the prevention of long-term physical and psychological damage;
 1. Notes that crises are not gender neutral and that gender-sensitive considerations should be included in all stages of humanitarian programming, with the participation of women's rights groups and organisations, including local and regional ones;
 2. Welcomes the introduction of the gender marker for humanitarian programming; calls on donors to use the gender marker and to monitor gender integration throughout the whole humanitarian cycle;
 3. Stresses that education in emergency situations helps to prevent the early marriage of girls, sexual and gender-based violence, prostitution and human trafficking; welcomes the international efforts in the framework of the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict;
 4. Encourages investment in empowering women through support to income-generating projects which considerably reduce their vulnerability and increase their independence;
 5. Is deeply concerned by the increase of gender-based violence (GBV) in emergency situations; calls on State and non-State parties to comply with their legal obligations under international humanitarian law and other applicable norms, and to take measures against GBV and ensure the accountability of perpetrators; condemns every act of GBV, especially by staff working under an international mandate;
 6. Considers that all staff involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance, including police or military forces, should receive adequate gender-sensitive training, and that a strict code of conduct must be put in place to prevent them from abusing their position;
 7. Calls on humanitarian actors to incorporate GBV prevention and mitigation strategies into all their sector-specific interventions and, to this end, to take stock of the revised Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, prepared by the Global Protection Cluster.