

54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

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I. Introduction

i. Background

From 1-12 March 2010, the Commission on the Status of Women undertook a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Emphasis was placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals. Member States, representatives of non-governmental organizations and of UN entities participated in the session. A series of parallel events provided additional opportunities for information exchange and networking. National and regional review processes fed into the global review process. The General Assembly marked the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in a commemorative meeting during CSW (1).

II. Executive Summary

i. Some notes on CSW 54, BDPA, and the elements that pertain to PW

While the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPA) addresses a wide range of issues faced by women internationally, four of the Strategic Objectives are specifically relevant to PeaceWomen work: Violence Against Women, Women and Armed Conflict, Women in Power and Decision-Making, and Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (Objectives D, E, G, and H, respectively.) Together, these Strategic Objectives address the disproportionate affect that conflict has on women, the fact that women are targeted specifically because they are women, the need for protection of women, and the overwhelming need for and benefit of involving women in power and decision-making. To view or download the complete BDPFA, please [visit](#).

The PeaceWomen team attended over 40 events at this year's CSW, and below you will find summaries for 35 of those events. Overwhelming themes were Violence Against Women (VAW), the gaps in implementation of SCR 1325, and the many ways that participation can be achieved by women in various scales of life around the world.

ii. Highlights of the CSW 54

There are numerous achievements to be celebrated regarding the presence of women in political and civic life. During this year's CSW some highlights were:

- Sierra Leone launched its 1325 and 1829 Implementation National Action Plans (SiLNAP) during a highly interactive panel discussion during the CSW, entitled "Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 - The Sierra Leone Experience".

- Over 150 people attended this event from a broad swath of UN Agencies, UN Country Missions, and NGOs.
- The indicators consultation to involve NGOs in the gender architecture reform at the United Nations.
- Margot Wallstrom, the new Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict was sworn in and spoke at several events, most notably during the UNite to End Violence Against Women panel.
- There was high-level representation at several of the events including Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

iii. Statement regarding the outcome document and the resolutions of the Commission.

The Commission requested that its outcome document from the CSW, “Declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women” (E/CN.6/2010/L.1) be transmitted to the General Assembly for official endorsement, as per UN protocol. It reaffirms the importance of the BPFA, applauds the achievements made toward its implementation thus far, and calls upon all levels of society to intensify its work toward its full implementation.

Three of the Commission’s draft resolutions (to be recommended by ECOSOC) were of particular relevance to PeaceWomen Issues: “Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women” (E/CN.6/2010/L.4), “Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts” (E/CN.6/2010/L.3), and “Strengthening the institutional arrangements of the United Nations for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women by consolidating the four existing offices into a composite entity” (E/CN.6/2010/L.7).

Regarding the situation of Palestinian women draft resolution, there is clear mention of the need for women in decision-making, as well as a reference to SCR 1325: *“Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security...”*

Regarding women and children held hostage, there are several mentions of Security Council Resolutions 1325 with respect to the unequal affect of armed conflict on women, specifically by being held hostage and, at times, held as sex slaves or trafficked.

Regarding the Composite Entity of the UN (also referred to as GEAR, Gender Equality Architecture Reform), the Commission expresses welcomes the full implementation of such an entity, recognizing the UN’s commitment to gender equality worldwide.

Reporting done by Maria Butler, PeaceWomen Program Associate, and PeaceWomen Research Assistants, Rubai Aurora, Emily Meyer, Sarah Ochs, Rachel Reyes, and Rai Sow.

Monday, 1 March 2010

Opening Session & High Level Plenary	UN
The Role Of Parliaments Enforcing Legislation On Violence Against Women	Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Namibia
US Mission Briefing for NGOs	US Mission

Tuesday, 2 March 2010

Solidarity for Sustainability of Women's Empowerment	NGO Coordinating Council
Costing and Financing SCR 1325: Estimating the Resources Needed to Implement Women, Peace and Security Resolutions at the National Level	Canadian Mission
Ministerial Level Panel Discussion B+15: Achievements & Challenges for Gender Equality -- A Political Approach	Danish Mission and The Nordic Council of Ministers
What Women Want from the UN Women's Agency	Oxfam International

Wednesday, 3 March 2010

"I am the Change" Women Rebuilding Post Conflict Communities Panel	Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (WICCE)
The Price of Peace; Financing Gender Equality In Post-Conflict Recovery & Reconstruction	UNDP, UNIFEM
Moving Beyond the Rhetoric: Taking Action on SCR 1325	Germany, Open Society Institute (OSI)

Thursday, 4 March 2010

5th International Helvi Sipilä Seminar – “Say Yes to Power”	Finland, UNIFEM, National Committee for UNIFEM in Finland
Beijing + 15: EU Action Against Gender-Based Violence	European Union, Spain
Resolutions 1325 & 1820 - The Sierra Leone Experience	Sierra Leone, Canada, The Global Network of Women's Peacebuilders (GNWP), Cordaid
Implementation of 1325 in Northern Ireland	UNIFEM UK, NIWED
Accountability for Sexual Violence: Innovative Strategies at Work in Africa	Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC)
Women's Movement in Iran Years After Beijing	The Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)

Friday, 5 March 2010

UNSCR 1325: A Regional Perspective for Effective Implementation in Africa	New York Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
Expert Level Panel Discussion - Beijing + 15: Achievements & Challenges for Gender Equality - A Practical Approach	Danish Mission and The Nordic Council of Ministers
Strengthening Community Capacities For Peacebuilding	World YWCA
"Advancing Women as Peacemakers from Jane Addams to the Present"	WILPF

Monday, 8 March 2010

Gender & Democratic Governance	Antigua and Barbuda, UNDP, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Constitution-making in Kenya	FIDA Kenya
Accountability for Violations of Women's Human Rights	Human Rights Watch
Gender Quotas & Democracy	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
Women at the Flash Point - Beyond Women's Voices from Afghanistan	Gender Concerns International (GCI)

Women and Armed Conflict	Asia Pacific Women's Watch
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Tuesday, 9 March 2010

Women's Political Participation in Countries Emerging from Conflict	International Alert (IA) and EASSI
In Harm's Way: Girls in Settings of Endemic Armed Violence	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
Realizing the Promise of the BPFA & the Protocol to the African Charter on Human & People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	UNDP, Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)

Wednesday, 10 March 2010

WPS: Where Are We Now on SCR 1325?	UNFPA
Violence Against Women in and Post-Conflict	Norwegian Church Aid
"Political Implications of Congolese Women for Change"	DRC WILPF

Thursday, 11 March 2010

Panel V -- UNite to End Violence Against Women	UN
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Friday, 12 March 2010

NGO Consultation on Indicators	NGOWG, UNIFEM, OSAGI
U.S. Secretary of State Addresses the CSW on Beijing + 15	UN, U.S. Mission

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Event: The Role of Parliaments Enforcing Legislation On Violence Against Women (VAW)

Organization: The Interparliamentary Union and Mission of Namibia

- **Website:** <http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm>
Parliaments can be very influential in addressing and curtailing VAW. This has been found to be true in practice. It is effective when parliamentarians engage the public in this issue.
- The results of a study of a Spanish law against VAW were presented at this panel. The primary result of this law was that VAW greatly reduced.

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Event: US Mission NGO Briefing

Organization: US Permanent Mission to the UN

Website: <http://www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov/>

- The US held the position of encouraging the full participation of women and of support of UNSCR 1325.
- With regards to the London conference on Afghanistan, although Afghan delegation to conference did not include women, there were 2 convenings of Afghan NGO women leaders. Subsequent reports published included the issue of the role of Afghan women.
- The US understands that Afghan women must be included in the reconstruction process especially via political participation and encourages the creation of the new gender entity so women have a seat at the table with the leadership of the UN.

- The US mission stated that while they are not as heavily involved in encouraging the hiring of women at the UN as some other countries, the US was interested in appointing women to achieve gender balance in regard to high-level positions, not mid- or low-level positions.
- There was an announcement that Obama administration is fully committed to the ratification of CEDAW.

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Event: Solidarity for Sustainability of Women's Empowerment

Organization: The NGO Coordinating Council (NGOCC)

Websites: The NGO Coordinating Council (NGOCC) www.ngocc.org.zm, Women and Law in Southern Africa, WLSA <http://www.wlsa.org.zm/>, Society for Women and AIDS in Zambia, SWAAZ <http://www.swaaz.org/>, Zambia Association for Research and Development www.widnet.org.zm

- The NGOCC did a shadow report on women in decision-making with respect to
- HIV/AIDS in Zambia and found that the results were very poor.
- Women are disproportionately infected with HIV/AIDS than men (12.3% rate of infection in men and 16.2% in women.)
- Women have little-to-no say in decision-making in Zambia.
- Human rights abuses are rampant, and are experienced by women of all social and economic levels, as evidenced by common occurrences and beliefs such as:
- SGBV is an enormous problem in Zambia. Often it has cultural norms as its basis, or has infiltrated society to such an extent that it has become normalized, i.e. thought to be an established, and therefore accepted, aspect of human interaction.
- Regarding women in political power in Zambia:
- Only 12% of Zambian parliamentarians are women, furthermore, the cabinets that they are members of are not very powerful; There is no real hope for protection of women without more women in parliament.
- One barrier to running for election is that women have little time; housework and caring for the family is 100% the responsibility of the woman. Furthermore, they have little economic means to support their campaigns.
- Men, when polled, are largely supportive of women running for election, but when asked if they would like their wife to run all men polled said 'no'
- However, women are very active in Zambian churches and there is movement to make the leap from church involvement and leadership to public life and office.

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Event: Costing and Financing UN Security Council Resolution 1325—Estimating the Resources Needed to Implement Women, Peace and Security Resolutions at the National Level

Organization: Cordaid, The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Permanent Mission of Canada

Websites:<http://www.gnwp.org>

- Nicola Popovic presented the summary of the paper commissioned by Cordaid and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders on UNSCR 1325. The study and normative framework was outlined during the meeting. The presentation included summary of implementing 1325, current financing and National Action Plans.
- The importance of information was emphasized and need to further develop this area of study

- Now that UNSCR 1325 has been in existence for 10 years, the time has come to reflect on its implementation – including the gains, gaps and challenges. Investing in 1325 implementation is an investment in gender equality and sustainable peace.
- As with all efforts to ensure policy implementation, however, raising the necessary financial resources is a central issue for the resolution’s advocates. What resources are required, how much is accessible and how much is missing are extremely difficult questions to answer, due not only to the complex nature of the topic of women, peace and security but also to the different expectations and objectives of the various institutions and sources already funding 1325 initiatives.

For more information please click [here](#).

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Event: Expert Level Panel Discussion: Beijing + 15: Achievements & Challenges for Gender Equality - A Practical Approach

Organizations: The Nordic Council of Ministers and The Danish Mission

Websites: <http://translation.norden.org/en>

The work of women activists is often ignored by society at large, and the denial and belittling of this work makes it easier to violate women peace activists. Recognition is key in protecting these women. The Kvinna to Kvinna Foundation (KtK) has these proposals:

- Women’s status as Human Rights Defenders must be specifically stated;
- We must find new ways to include these Defenders in peace work
- We need more female mediators, and every Track 1 mediation process must be mirrored by a Track 2 process, as well.
- We need to provide greater funding to specifically support woman Human Rights Defenders. There has been an increase of funding to women’s rights organizations, but this does not directly translate to the funding of individuals and their work directly.

Examples of women’s participation and the inclusion of gender issues in policy were presented from a Finnish conference on climate change. Initially there were no women present in such discussions, although women world-wide have direct and daily experience with the changing climate. Furthermore, gender issues were never discussed along with climate change. Now, after much activism, there are not only more women present at such discussions, but inclusion of gender perspective as well.

Women and men have different lives, different experiences, and different priorities, and therefore need balanced representation in politics. The Danish government, for the first time, is entirely balanced which required a great amount of political will. Violence against women (VAW) continues to be a threat to human rights, democracy, justice, and public and mental health. In Norway, domestic violence was thought to be a learned behavior stemming from a patriarchal society. It has now been discovered that VAW is also affected by men’s relationship to violence itself as well as the role of violence in society. Regarding violence and men, it is a misconception that early education is gender-equal or even gender-neutral.

Finland enjoys fairly good representation of women in politics, but less admirable representation in the economic sphere. Regardless of the gains made, we need to continue to support women in power and women’s participation. We must not solely focus on

political representation, but in women's becoming more prominent and active members of society as well.

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Event: What Women Want from the UN Women's Agency

Organization: Oxfam International

Website: <http://www.oxfam.org>

It was found that NGOs want the following from the new UN Women's Agency: It should catalyze change and reach a broad constituency of women; not just an improved UNIFEM, and it should receive adequate funding. It should help women contact government agencies, which will be supported from an NGO perspective. It should have two roles: policy and implementation. It should monitor governments; after the signing of treaties, and create ways for civil society and governments to meet.

Furthermore, the UN operates under a patriarchal society; the new entity needs to be an autonomous and not be under the shadow of existing structures. Its personnel need to understand gender issues before they take the job, and not be trained in the process.

This new entity should be well informed of the variety of differences and special circumstances in different regions and perform a gender analysis of the culture before going into a country. When there, this entity should look for the change makers and support them

Event: "I am the Change" Women Rebuilding Post Conflict Communities Panel

Organization: Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (WICCE)

Website: <http://www.isis.or.ug/>

In speaking with women across Africa on behalf of Isis-WICCE, she found that there was a lot of similarity in violence against women, in terms of its perpetration as well as its affect on women, from Uganda to Sudan to Liberia. It was also found that in spite of the great crimes committed against them women had a lot of strength and perseverance.

It was also found that women were by and large excluded from peace-processes.

Ms. Nakasi

Ms. Nakasi is from Uganda and spoke about her experience being gang-raped over the course of several days for refusing to have sex with her son, who was then shot to death in front of her. She was consequently rejected by her husband and his family and later she discovered that she is HIV positive. She lived in the bushes, for lack of a better place to stay, and then in a cave. She was eventually discovered by Ms. Cecilia Engola of Isis-WICCE.

She began a training for survivors of sexual assault and from that found the strength and determination to return home. With the help of representatives from Isis-WICCE she slowly changed the attitudes and perceptions of not just her family, but also of the people in her village. Now she helps other victims heal. In her community, people are beginning to constructively address the problem of HIV/AIDS.

Furthermore, with Ms. Engola, she started a group which works with women of various ethnic groups to overcome their distrust of one another to resolve the problems of their communities.

Dr. Jallah

Dr. Jallah is from Liberia where over the last several years the country has gone from war to peace, to now having a female president. Still, people are traumatized and physically, as well as emotionally, unhealthy.

Four counties in Liberia that were determined to have suffered the most as a result of the conflict were studied, and a project was then undertaken by Isis-WICCE. This project entailed:

Sensitivity training on recognizing the particular issues coming from conflict;

Capacity-building to handle these problems;

Medical assistance trainings that included a holistic approach to medical care (such as addressing the poverty that prevents people from being healthier);

Gender-sensitive surgical intervention, i.e. sending a female surgeon to villages where women need fistula care. In these cases men felt comfortable, for the first time, letting their wives go to the doctor.

Ms. Grace Yenny

After the 4 county-study in Liberia people asked “now what?” The researchers determined a “Quick Action Plan” in which they suggested that a particular community hold a public burial of human bones that had been left lying around after a particular massacre in 1994, and to hold a ceremony to honor the dead. It was found to be a highly cathartic process that allowed the people involved to continue with their lives and leave a bit of the past behind.

Event: The Price of Peace; Financing Gender Equality In Post-Conflict Recovery & Reconstruction

Organization: United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Website: <http://www.undp.org>, <http://www.unifem.org>

Mary Robinson

- Currently no formal mechanism exists to support women in peace-processes and peacebuilding. Progress has been made; however, women are still not heard, not respected and not funded.
- At the grassroots level, women are mobilizing and taking action; are largely more effective. Largely because of technological advances
- Civil Society groups can link closely with governments and UN, and lobby/steer for greater participation of women at both levels.

UN

- UN not involved in peace process unless structurally necessary
- UN more coherent with high level steering committee with direct links to civil society.
- Civil Society can bring direct evidence with the help of government to the plenary.

Ingrid Fiska

- Institutionalization of Civil Society in government fundraising
- 2008 the government of North Sudan agreed that women should have no real power at the World Bank meeting in Oslo
- War is a masculine pastime and war is power. Donors are often reluctant to overrule the [dominant] parties. Gender equality is often declared as a western imposition,

- and so donors are overly cautious.” However, Sudanese women insisted to be heard at the World Bank meeting
- Partnered with organizations (in this case, UNIFEM) and hosted a parallel event next-door to the World Bank conference where women brainstormed and made a report and declaration to be presented at the World Bank conference. Because of this, the World Bank and North Sudan included gender as a one point in the outcome document

Bandana Rana

- In Nepal women were central in the struggle for democracy, but absent from subsequent peace talks
- Women are now represented in %33 of the parliament Everyone called for peace and democracy and there-after fragmented
- Also, women are active in political parties, so during the peace process a question of legitimacy arose
- An argument faced everyday for women is that they do not have the capacity knowledge to sit at the political table
- Women must advocate against these views and arguments
- Must set a standard of unity amongst women in conflict
- It should be noted however, that women will also be divided amongst themselves

John Herbert

- It is difficult to get full investment when post-conflict reconstruction begins. It is essential to measure and know what is needed, and develop a concept which all people can use in the field
- Can be attained by Think Tanks, Experts, Civil Society
- But there are no standards for the measurement at the UN

Judy Cheng-Hopkins

- Track resources to address the needs of men and women in post conflict situations
- Focus, put the funds there, staff well, make sure it operates, and hopefully it will turn to justice
- Trickle down is naïve
- Mainstreaming gender perspective in certain targets
- To mainstream is to dilute and disintegrate into something larger never to be seen again; lose perspective.
- Put funds aside exclusively target women (and women only) Women and Peacebuilding → numerical targets, women and girls the biggest losers in conflict in post conflict situations
- Beyond participation in Peacebuilding, economic empowerment is equally important for women
- When women are confident and independent they will confront issues that directly affect them
- Tracking too, can be abused

Closing remarks by Jordan Ryan'

- Investing in women in new areas
- Invest in education, literacy, legal empowerment, etc.
- We need to have a much more in depth analysis of changes that support the rule of law

- If women are not part of politics, prosecution, judges, you will never change that dynamic
- If you don't use the skills of women to challenge the status quo, you are missing an opportunity
- Gender Markers/Trackers If you don't track them, they get lost, mainstreamed, and forgotten.

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Event: Moving Beyond the Rhetoric: Taking Action on SCR 1325

Organization: Germany, Open Society Institute (OSI)

Website: <http://www.soros.org>

The Open Society Institute cosponsors a panel discussion with the German Mission in the context of the 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women on the challenges of implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Representatives from the German government and UNIFEM as well as civil society leaders from Iraq, Nepal, and Sierra Leone will discuss the reality on the ground for women. While there has been some progress, women remain a minority of those who participate in peace and security negotiations, receive less attention than men in post-conflict agreements, disarmament and reconstruction.

The discussion highlighted the gaps in implementation of the women, peace and security resolutions on the ground. The representatives of civil society underlined the importance of women's agency and participation at all levels of decision-making. Speakers recommended that capacity and resources need to be increased. The UNIFEM representative informed the meeting about the UN indicators process and the DPA/UNIFEM Team of Mediation Experts being developed.

For more information please click [here](#)

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Event: 5th International Helvi Sipilä Seminar – “Say Yes to Power”

Organization: Finland, UNIFEM, National Committee for UNIFEM in Finland

Website: <http://www.unifem.fi/english.php>

This panel discussed examples of empowered women throughout the world.

Mr. Stefan Wallen

- Finnish society enjoys gender equality to a great extent. Women have fairly high representation in the political and educational spheres, and with regards to leadership in general. They have achieved near-equal footing with regard to pay and better-than-average representation in upper level corporate structures.

Ms. Shirley Kay Randall

- In Rwanda, women, pre-colonization, were highly respected members of society. Mothers served as special advisors to their sons when they became kings.
- After the genocide women were the first to care for refugees, to call themselves Rwandans and not Hutus or Tutsis, which were initial acts of unification.
- Women parliamentarians listen closely to their constituents and are often the first to bring ground-breaking legislation to their male colleagues, and therefore, to

parliament. One example is the illegalization of marital rape, Rwanda being one of the few African countries where rape in the home is punished.

- Women are more likely to take out loans to begin private enterprises and are increasing taking positions in traditionally male-dominated areas, such as in construction.

Ms. Jessica Notwell

- Women's power is not just about equality with men, but about equality with one another. Disabled women, women from the global south, women under 30, and survivors of SGBV are some groups of women that do not always stand on equal footing with women in more privileged positions.
- Women must begin to assume positions of leadership, particularly women from under-represented or under-privileged groups.
- Regardless of what the societal structures are, women must go forward in leadership positions and not wait for these structures to change.
- One excellent example of not-waiting for change is of a Minister of Health in Kenya who discovered, through research and talking with her constituents, that people needed Anti-Retroviral Medication (ARVs) and were not able to get it through their own means.
- She asked her colleagues to set aside money for ARVs and they replied that there was no money available. She then held a press conference announcing that the government would begin paying for ARVs for Kenyans. Her colleagues where they would get the money she replied, "I bet you'll find a way to finance this project now".

Event: Beijing + 15: EU Action Against Gender-Based Violence

Organization: European Union, Spain

Website: <http://europa.eu/>

March, 4 2010

Action against gender-based violence

- In collaboration with the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the European Commission organized with help of Sweden, Spain and Belgium a side event on the EU approach to fight gender-based violence.
 - Working towards ending gender-based violence is one of the twelve areas that have been identified in the Beijing Platform for Action
 - Introduced "Women's Charter" and a well planned "Gender Equality Strategy"
 - Only 67% of women with young children are employed, compared to 92% of men. The gender gap has barely fallen the last fifteen years
 - In the European Parliament women make up 35% of the members but still there is a lack of women that have a higher position
 - Continue to create a standard national legislation on gender violence and violence against children and establish a minimum standards to eradicating such violence.
- For more information please click [here](#)

Event: Resolutions 1325 & 1820 - The Sierra Leone Experience

Organization: Sierra Leone, Canada, The Global Network of Women's Peacebuilders (GNWP), Cordaid

Website: <http://www.gnwp.org/>

SCR 1325 National Action Plan of Sierra Leone

- Adopted on 4 September 2009
- Launched nationwide in the coming weeks after the 54th CSW
- Started efforts to create a NAP in February in Addis Ababa, at a high level policy dialogue with UNEECA/OSAGI
- Government-civil society task force on SCR 1325, chaired by government with funding and participation from Cordaid
- Drafted over 12 months and unanimously adopted in 4th Sept 2009 During the 12 months
- Capacity building on indicators development by CSPEC/International Alert Indicators refinement and validation workshop
- Workshops, active exchange in ideas
- Deeping of action plan and intervention

National Action Plan

- Addresses the impact of war and conflict on women and recognizes the need for womens leadership
- Joint vision which is an answer to the UN frameworks that centers on gender equality and advancing womes rights

Based around five pillars: Preventions, Protection, Prosecutions, Participations, Coordination

- All have outcome objects and measureable indicators
- In total, the Sierra Leone NAP has 35 indicators, and 11 outcome objects
- Content: prevention of conflict, Violence against Women and Children, Gender Equality
- Protect and empower victims, Prosecute and punish perpetrators effectively
- Prosecute and punish perpetrators effectively

Implementation

- Transfer to a steering committe on implementation
- Define and clarify roles and responsibilities, Implement, coordinate, and align, Date collection and evaluation of results.
- Adequate budget for implementation, Government fill take the full initiative; however, work with Parliament, Civil Society, International Partners, UN Agencies, and Regional Bodies.
- Not only a matter of legislation, but also active participation
- Implement, coordinate, and align Date collection and evaluation of results
- Adequate budget for implementation Government fill take the full initiative; however, work with Parliament, Civil Society, International Partners, UN Agencies, and Regional Bodies
- Not only a matter of legislation, but also active participation

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Event: Implementation of 1325 in Northern Ireland

Organization: UNIFEM UK, NIWED

Website: <http://www.unifemuk.org/>, <http://www.niwep.org.uk/>

Patricia:

Loss of a life partner, isolation, lack of finance and fears affect an older, rural woman in the community

Kate, NIWEP and Advocate for Older People

- Peacebuilding doesn't happen when guns fall silent and normally the men
- Peacebuilding is particularly important during transitional times
- Mainly women have been involved with peacebuilding because they have cross-community contact and different identities and approaches.
- However, women are not in formal political structures even though they play a major role – as educators, in economic development and childcare.
- The women's movement in the 1970s – moved focus from women in conflict to bread & butter issues thus allowing women to cross-over Women were able to come together and get governments to address the policies It is important to stress diversity - diversity is women's strength Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP) Emerged in 1989 under European Women's Lobby (EWL)
- Through NIWEP, Northern Irish women can take their issues through England and the Republic of Ireland
- Able to draft policies that affect women all throughout Northern Ireland
- NIWED recognized international dimensions of women's participation and organized women to attend Beijing Beijing allowed women to have a broader outlook
- NIWED engaged with local woman to produce shadow CEDAW report specifically in regard to women in Northern Ireland

Key Areas on NIWED Platform:

- Security Council Resolution 1325
- Ensuring that CEDAW and 1325 is used to develop policy that responds to government consultation with women and their day to day lives
- Northern Irish women are now beginning to use international mechanisms and whatever legislation they happen to have
- However, voices in decision making roles is barely a whisper – while women are not natural peacebuilders when committed to the test, they bring personal insights
- Finally, owe the greatest respect to older women who were younger women when conflict began

Irene McGimmon, Soroptomist

- Address the impact of 1325 and Draft Bill of Rights on Northern Ireland
- Unfortunately, the voice of women, and older women in particular, are not as they should be in decision-making bodies
- Participation of women in peace processes and conflict, and women should be involved in all peacebuilding
- Peace processes started in 1998 but there was no specific gender factor addressed
- No government had the will to apply 1325 to peace processes
- Whenever UK developed their action plan, Northern Ireland was not mentioned (though there is some Northern Irish participati

NIWEP's work

- Lobbying implementation of 1325
- Mock trial of the UK using 1325
- Successful conference with Kate McCulloch lobbying 1325

- Now, when Northern Irish women write about domestic issues, they reference 1325 and CEDAW
- When we look at Northern Ireland, we can see why we want 1325
- Very little participation of women at decision-making levels
- For example, only 47% of judiciary is female but no high court judge is female
- The measure of success is whether we got the color question right – orange protestant or green catholics
- What would be the difference if we had 1325 on the ground?
- Gender would be put on the agenda
- women involved in peacebuilding, the societies that are built are more stable and long lasting than societies built wholly by men
- Need 1325 to apply to Northern Ireland so that we the women with all this experience can be heard
- Proposed Bill of Rights is supposed to address the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland
- Various suggestions were made to the Human Rights Commission then went to UK government, now back for consultation in Northern Ireland
- However there remains no gender provision must address violence against women which has an extra dimension b/c woman in communities controlled by paramilitaries. They could not go anywhere to complain or get redress b/c they would be in greater trouble than before. This has been rejected by women's sector of Northern Ireland but still trying to get their support

Liz, Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

- Must balance social and economic spheres in post-conflict situation
- Developed Gender Equality Strategy which includes action plans
- Action plans are there to be reviewed and look to the future
- Anchored in CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, and Section 1775
- Requires all local authorities to apply
- Involves people affected and encourages and promote equality across 9 grounds:
- Must involve women, including older women, in policy making decisions and consider all women (married/single, lesbians, widowed, disabled, race, religion, politics)
- Northern Ireland Shadow Report in terms of CEDAW
- Entire expression of individual women's lives are what authorities have to consider in section 1775
- Must find the means the public authorities do that give the leadership and make sure they deliver

Lynn Carvell, lobbyist on womens issue on Northern Ireland Assembly

- Works with women's resource and development agency to
- Build relationships with politicians
- Create better communications
- Enhance understanding of women sector
- Influence policy making with view for gender sensitivity not just gender neutrality

3 main tools to realize objectives:

Monitor decisions

Question-answers

Send out information on e-list to wider women's sector

Gender focal points – drop gender perspective in debates to quickly impact discussions
Gender agenda – bring women sectors reps to discuss topical issues

Statistics

- In Northern Ireland, women comprise 15% of legislative assembly
- In contrast, Wales is 46% and Scotland is 43%
- Despite the UK signing up to 1325 which seeks to ensure that women are adequately involved in countries emerging from conflict, not implemented in Northern Ireland
- Also want a Bill of Rights that includes women's rights especially socio-economic rights
 - Must avoid economic tunnel vision
 - Women have lower wages, higher costs and more unemployment (47%)

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Event: Accountability for Sexual Violence: Innovative Strategies at Work in Africa
Organization: Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Website: <http://womensrefugeecommission.org> and <http://www.theirc.org/>

Background context on aids free world report in Zimbabwe

- Document evidence; lawyers were sent
- Interviewed over 70 women
- Orchestrated rape perpetrated by Mugabe militia = crimes against humanity by Zanu PF Men. i.e. gang rape and torture
- Political: because they won't convert to Zanu PF etc selling the country etc.
- Was effective in destroying their communities.
- Current Status; continuing to gather info, South Africa could persecute some of the perpetrators.
- Draw More attention and have a UN body address the issue

Actions to be taken

- Important to look at accountability differently than other crimes
- Reforms in policy/ security sector.
- Culture of silence needs to be changed; even in school education
- Need to concentrate on strengthening women's rights/ orgs as a preventative cause.
- Responsibility of men: hold them accountable
- In terms of leadership
- Expression of masculinity in the culture
- Get the UN to focus on pursuing accountability
- Universal jurisdiction, Rome statute etc.
- Effective New Agency; works with NGOs and holds Gov't accountable

Difficulties

- Policy makers look at sexual violence as something small
- Medical Experts need to be heavily included for fact collections
- Reconstruction; sexual reproductive health are not issues. Accountability.
- Women cannot speak out. Structures should be sensitive to women; easily accessible

Progress/Set Backs

Kenya

- Whiteness protection act
- Communication with in the community
- Sexual offenses act of 2006 in Kenya
- Empty political

Ghana

- Domestic violence bill
- A leading figure in the movement; was battered by her husband, until today she has had no justice
- UN Agencies are not effective; UNite against sexual violence: has five countries involved.

Event: Women's Movement in Iran Years After Beijing

Organization: The Italian Association for Women in Development (AIDOS)

Website:<http://www.awid.org/>

Shirin Ebadi

- Women's Rights in the point of view of law
- Laws reflect and preserve culture
- Laws cannot change culture over night; culture cannot change over night
- However, law should be one step ahead of culture
- After revolution discriminatory laws passed
- For years women have been fighting for rights in Iran: strongest fight has been women seeking equality
- Does not have any mandate, leader. Equality belongs to every Iranian
- Has been victorious. Change in laws to protect women's equality
- This is our Islamic law; cannot be changed
- Followed up and can be changed but only through interpretation
- Still have miles to go further and our demand is full equality between men and women and will not stop fighting until it is achieved

Rezvan Moghaddan

- Discriminatory laws against women in political participation
 - More access to source of work
 - Discrimination against women in economy
 - Men have financial power → lead women to live in poverty and can spur women into prostitution
 - Domestic and social violence, but also violence by government institutions
 - Torture in prisons, legalised polygamy
 - Leads to increased rate in suicide
 - Important to empower women and girls
 - Education is important; however gender equality is reinforced by imposing gender quotas in education
- In Iran, women have launched MANY campaigns and groups which promote gender equality

Nahid Jafari

- Domestic Violence
- No women shelters or safe spaces for women → no break from domestic violence
- Everywhere is a place to start and hold domestic violence workshops
- Homes, coffee shops, etc, but this severely limits the number of women participants
 - %66 of wife's subjected to domestic violence
 - age, status, and employment all have an impact
 - If we stop tolerating violence, we can change the conditions

Faranak Farid

- Ethnicity and women's struggles in Iran
- They remain understudied and implicit
- %65 are ethnic minorities in Iran
- deprived of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights
- 1st Language in Iran is Farsi, no other
- in this sense, women in minorities are doubly discriminated against
- overwhelming and leads to loss of self confidence
- most do not know the word defense in the Farsi language
- limits women's access to media, politics, etc
- more and more barriers → beating, rape, child marriage
- urgent attention at national and international levels

Parvin Ardalan

- Strategies of women's movement in Iran
- Horizontal structure
- Hierarchy can exist in grassroots movements (eg rural v urban, age, education level, etc)
- Change starts from within
- «how» is as important as «what»
- Advocacy
- Face to face
- Go to street and teach them about issues or law
- Petitions, protests
- For example, the One Million Signatures Campaign

Event: UNSCR 1325: A Regional Perspective for Effective Implementation in Africa

Organization: New York Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)

Website: <http://www.fasngo.org/>

The discussion highlighted the links between National plans and sub-regional and regional plans. Speakers reiterated that the 10 year review of 1325 needs to be about significant and concrete action. A system of accountability is lacking. Speakers urged the SC to establish monitoring mechanism in itself. The Focus of the discussions were on NAPs.

Eliabeth Rehn underlined that SCR1325 empowers women and is about women's right to leadership. NAPs are so extremely important because they are part of the implementation of

1325. The right to ownership remains very important for women and there is a need for the international community to press countries regarding land ownership rights and truly free education systems. Rehn underscored that we need to look wider than 1325 and focus on leadership.

There was three regional panels discussion including the Great Lakes; Mono River; and Sudan (Horn) and developments in these regions regarding NAPs and regional processes.

In conclusion, the Chair summarized the meeting and outlined recommendations which included: the need to re-evaluate where we are on 1325; need to reinforce regional (because interlinked); need for concrete accountability; the importance of indicators and budgets on national action plans; need for financing mechanism and the importance of participation in all aspects.

Event: Expert Level Panel Discussion - Beijing + 15: Achievements & Challenges for Gender Equality - A Practical Approach

Organization: Danish Mission and The Nordic Council of Ministers

Website: <http://translation.norden.org/en>

Ms. Lena Ag

- As stated in SCR 1325, there is a relationship between women's participation and protection and peace. However, the BPFA does not address women's participation. Is this because peace building on a political level is a male-dominated area? For example, there were no women present at the recent London Discussion of Afghanistan even though the international community understands that women are struggling in Afghanistan.
- For this reason women often choose a different route towards peace based on a pragmatic, quick-response approach. Initially this is the quickest way to get needs met, but often this approach develops into rights-based work.
- Even though there have been gains in women's leadership internationally, there is still a grave problem with SGBV and immunity.
- The work of women activists is often ignored by society at large, and the denial and belittling of this work makes it easier to violate women peace activists. It is considered to be "normal" to violate a woman, but it is harder to violate a Human Rights Defender. Therefore, recognition is key in protecting these women
- Women's status as Human Rights Defenders must be specifically stated; We must find new ways to include these Defenders in peace work;
- We need more female mediators, and every Track 1 mediation process must be mirrored by a Track 2 process, as well.
- We need to provide greater funding to specifically support woman Human Rights Defenders. There has been an increase of funding to women's rights organizations, but this does not directly translate to the funding of individuals and their work directly.

Ms. Paivi Kannisto

- At a recent Finnish conference on climate change there were no women present except for outside of the tent where the main meetings occurred. Energy, for much of the world, is in firewood, and collecting it is primarily women's work. Women know

quite well the reality of dwindling energy resources, and their voices must be present at discussions of climate change and the earth's resources.

- At this Finnish climate change conference, women approached with the suggestion that gender issues should be taken into account. They were told that the subject of climate change was already too complicated and did not need to be made more so by a discussion of gender issues. Women continued to address this issue when approach the subject of climate and have achieved a permanent introduction of gender issues in most talks on climate and energy.

Ms. Randi Iverson

- Women and men have different lives, different experiences, and different priorities, and therefore need balanced representation in politics.
- The Danish government, for the first time, is entirely balanced between men and women. It shows that gender equality is possible, but it requires a great amount of political will. This was partly brought about due to a coalition of women's groups and women in political office who raised this issue nation-wide and held a great number of events across the country to raise awareness.
- An example of some of the mundane differences between women and men is a discussion of public transportation in Denmark. More women utilize public transportation than men, and when a discussion of public transportation is undertaken by the budgeting group it will receive less of a priority, and therefore less funding, because women's perspectives are not present.

Mr. Marius Rakil

- Violence against women (VAW) continues to be a threat to human rights, democracy, justice, and public and mental health.
- In Norway, domestic violence was thought to be a learned behavior stemming from a patriarchal society. It has now been discovered that VAW is also affected by men's relationship to violence itself as well as the role of violence in society.
- It is a misconception that early education is gender-equal or even gender-neutral.
- Men, even non-abusers, need to work collectively to stop male violence. Gender equality affects everyone, and is the most important issue of our time.

Ms. Kristin Astgdersdottir

- Finland enjoys fairly good representation of women in politics, but less admirable representation in the economic sphere. Initially, women's participation was met with resistance and ignorance.
- Regardless of the gains made, we need to continue to support women in power, because it is a difficult position to occupy in a yet male-dominated society.
- A question we need to ask ourselves is why women have fared so well in politics, but not in business. Has the real power moved from politics to the marketplace, or have women mobilized more in politics?
- There are many types of power, formal and informal, visible and invisible, to name a few, and all are important.
- The media also plays a role in promoting gender stereotypes. Furthermore, the media is extraordinarily male-dominated and male-owned. We need to energize the media towards women's issues.

Event: Strengthening Community Capacities For Peacebuilding

Organization: World YWCA

Website: <http://www.worldywca.org/>

YWCA Palestine

- Maps showing the significant loss of land from 1946 until 2000
- Gaza has the highest population density in the world
- 1948 726,000 Palestinian became refugees
- Today over 4 million registered refugees
- 2005 70% dependent of humanitarian aid
- Women Safety: Women are subjected to violence during home raids; check point searches are abusive; paralyzing movement.
- Women are picking up the pieces; running the household+ psychological trauma.
- Domestic Violence is increasing with less access to services. Unable to work or go to school (crossing checkpoints).

YWCA Sudan

- Health services are limited; no doctors or walk long distance
- High spread of HIV/AIDS
- Violence Against Women
- Domestic violence; cannot own property, keep children etc.
- LRA; biggest issue they are from Uganda they use rape
- YWCA Sudan formed in 1997; grass roots women.
- Skill training program; reading writing, etc
- Capacity building for YWCA board
- Constructing a Health Clinic
- Understanding the CPA
- 25% women representation at all levels

YWCA Sri Lanka

- 3 decades of LTTE
- Humanitarian crisis is still going on especially in N. Sri Lanka
- YWCA is focusing on women and children
- Peace center in the NE; community capacity in peacebuilding
- Free advocacy and counseling for women
- Micro Credit Programs
- Scholarship programs.

Bringing the focus to 1325 could you please share how you and your local organization use the resolution to empower women to participate in the peace process and government participation to ensure women's right representation and speak to some of the challenges surround women's participation.

YWCA Fiji

- 1325 organization works around
- Women should talk about human right/human security
- We need to advise the UN on what we need from the next ten years

- 1325 is our benchmark when it comes to claiming equality
- Should have more emphasis on conflict prevention
- Peace agreements do not make us feel secure, otherwise there will never be sustainable peace.

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Event: "Advancing Women as Peacemakers from Jane Addams to the Present"
Organization: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Website: <http://www.ja1325.org/main/AWP.htm>

Advancing women as Peacemakers is an initiative from WILPF's with the intention to raise awareness of women as active actors in conflict resolution and prevention.

The initiatives focus on three areas:

- 1) The first pillar aims to educating the public about the history of women as peacemakers
- 2) The second pillar seek to increase U.S. women's awareness of the important part they play in the struggle for de-militarizing of the country's international relations
- 3) The third aims to develop existing programs and advocacy women inside the United Nations

WILPF works with several initiatives intended to educate U.S. citizens about relation of gender equality and peace and is committed to work towards the full implementation of SCR 1325.

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Event: Gender & Democratic Governance
Organization: Antigua and Barbuda, UNDP, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
Website: http://www.idrc.ca/index_en.html

March 8, 2010

- Introduction of the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership (CIWIL)
 - There is a lack of existing research and literature that examine women political participation within a democratic system
 - Research Centre launched their global research initiative that will monitor women's political citizenship and how the government responds to women's needs
 - The Huairou commission discussed the importance of strengthening women's participation on the grassroots level and especially in the decision-making progress on the grassroots level.
 - Further the Huairou commission presented a regional report that examined the political participation in Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).
-

Event: Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Constitution-making in Kenya
Organization: The Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya (FIDA)
Website: <http://www.fidakenya.org/>

- General discussion of Post-Conflict Peacebuilding and Constitution-making in Kenya
- Historical and political background of the Constitution in Kenya
- Update on current reform process and the new provision that will protect women's rights

- Discussion of Gender and Peacebuilding in Kenya and women as agents of change
- Overview of GBV Sub-Cluster (includes 40 NGOs, UNIFEM, Ministry of Gender)
- The GBV Sub-Cluster works also to make sure women are in decision-making meetings and committees (eg. Transitional Justice process)
- The proposed new draft Constitution has repealed s.82, which gave women equality before the law but also limited it by customary law.

Event: Accountability for Violations of Women's Human Rights

Organization: Human Rights Watch (HRW)

Website: <http://www.hrw.org/>

Sarah Taylor, NGOWG, presented on the area of women, peace and security.

Points highlighted included:

- Women experience conflict differently; women are excluded from peace making and decision-making processes; national and regional policy on women, peace and security is important
Security Council advocacy is key- we need to tell the SC what to do at a policy level in NY.
- Lack of systematic approach to information in UN on women, peace and security and information gets lost
- Monitoring the SC is critical
- Being constant, concise and systematic is key
- Need to ensure funding in the field
- Documentation in the field is also important
- Numbers and data vis-à-vis political leaders are useful and powerful
- We need to use data, statistics etc.. to get action

Event: Gender Quotas & Democracy

Organization: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)

Website: <http://www.idea.int/>

March 8, 2010, International IDEA's Office of the Permanent Observer to the UN presented an updated version of the Global Database of Quotas for Women.

The main idea behind quota systems is to recruit women into political positions. At the seminar, experiences of the use of quota system from Sudan and Rwanda were shared as well as other knowledge resources and tools on women's political participation.

- Today, women make up 18.4 per cent of the members of parliaments around the world.
- The Global Database of Quotas for Women holds information on the use of electoral quotas for women. More countries are introducing various types of gender quotas for elections.
- It is acknowledged that half of the countries of the world today use some type of electoral quota for their parliament.

This database differentiates between three types of gender quotas used in politics:

1. Reserved seats (constitutional and/or legislative)
2. Legal candidate quotas (constitutional and/or legislative)

3. Political party quotas (voluntary)

The database is access friendly and the user can search data such as how many women are represented in parliament country-by-country. For more information please click [here](#):

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Event: Women at the Flash Point - Beyond Women's Voices from Afghanistan

Organization: Gender Concerns International (GCI)

Website: <http://www.genderconcerns.org/>

Afifa ; Afghan Women's Network

- Advocacy on a national level for women's rights.;
- Achievements: Many more girls in school, women have been able to reenter public life. Women in government; elected.

Remaining Challenges

- In security
- Assassinations of women leaders
- Attack of girls in schools
- Election rights are important and often undermined; reserved seats for women;
- London conference; AWN representatives
- Taliban; women are told to hold back amongst with negotiations
- Women's rights get pushed to the back because they are not considered a part of security.
- Women's rights are part of the security system.
- Gender dimension of governance problems must be addressed
- Budgets etc should be accessible by women
- Traditional justice should be in alignment with international human rights laws

Sara Taylor NGOWG

- Disconnect in accountability; lack of at the middle level; providing security for human rights defenders
- 1325; including women in all level of decision-making.
- Kabul conference; women need to play a bigger role; consulate women's groups.
- Cannot sacrifice women's rights for peace /security.
- International community's responsibility

Robert

- Afghan women's rights ranked third lowest in the world
- Parliament; women members are ignored
- Easy to paint women as the victims.
- You need women to be a part of the Peace process
- Execution of 1325 in Afghanistan
- Women felt that NATO forces won't talk to them; not allowed to participate
- Forces wanted to play the protector role.

Netherlands have started training their forces to interact with women and

- Difficult for women to go to Afghanistan; first female platoon was sent in December.

Moderator: Gender Concerns

- Two outcomes of Kabul conference 2009
- Establishment of regional platform
- We need international support

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Event: Women and Armed Conflict

Organization: Asia Pacific Women's Watch

Website: <http://apww.isiswomen.org/>

Statement From Afghanistan, Fiji and Nepal:

Hasina Safi: Afghan women's center: The only women network in Afghanistan
 What happens when it will be reconciliation with the talibants to afghan women

- Women and children are the first victims in armed conflict. Basic human rights are of women and children are not respected.
- Children are forbid to go to school and domestic violence remains unpunished which is also affecting the humanitarian aid.
- Policies and strategies are made but they are not applicables and we need assistance to feel strong.
- Many schools have been reopen which has increase the enrolment rate at school. They became to realise how important it is to educate women in Afghanistan.
- After the fall of talibans we had one woman minister which is not enough for the population of Afghanistan.
- We need more women minister. She calls on the support of US and the International community for the empowerment of women
- The government help is missing to promote the empowerment of women.
- Afghan women are missing on the table of negotiation where Afghanistan and afghan women future is being negotiated without them women.

Noelene Nabulivau, Dawn & women's Action for change (Fiji) The impact of conflict women in Fiji:

- There has been a decolonisation, recolonisation and the current conflict in Fiji.
- One part is the land ownership. Women experience this in a various ways. Fiji is making a lot of progress on MDGs.
- There is discrimination against women, Women indigenous are not allowed to wear trousers or to show their shoulders and cut their hair.
- There are a lot going on on the resolution 1325 in the region. What are we doing as women activist? This should be a key point.
- Fiji is making a lot of progress on MDGs.

Anjaro Shakya human rights and beyond beijing committee Nepal:

- Focus on the impact of conflict on women in Nepal and sexual violence
- We have been giving education related materials to development of a workshop.
- Where women soldiers and child soldiers come together they fight their anger and to become friends.
- The image of Nepal used to be a beautiful one with Mountains and boudhas but with the conflict the image has changed.
- Gender, religion discrimination is present in our everyday life
- There is Also lack of education, Indigenous can't go to school because they don't speak the Nepalese language.

- There has been a huge increase of women in leadership. Women who had their family member in prison have been able to go in public and negotiate.
- 33% in the parliament are women which was only 7%.
- This increase of female parliament is a huge progress in promoting the political participation of women in Nepal however.
- Women still faced a lot of victimisation and also forced marriage.

Event: Women's Political Participation in Countries Emerging from Conflict

Organization: International Alert (IA) and EASSI

Website: <http://www.international-alert.org>, <http://www.eassi.org/>

Political Participation Sudan

- Waiting for political promotion of women
- Medina Centre for Gender and Development (MCDG) seeks to encourage and educate future leaders

Achievements

- Community based- capacity building workshops highlight women's participations, Human Rights Conventions, Violence Against Women, Women in Peacebuilding
- UNIFEM, UNFPA, support the MDCG both financially and in capacity building
- Implementing gender mainstreaming protocols

More Emphasis Needed

- The results have yet to be finished
- Poverty is a obstacle to peace
- Unequal distribution of poverty leads to oppression and lack of access to resources
- Active and constructive dialogue in the peacebuilding process, build of peace, security
- War pressures public thinking in Sudan, but peace in beginning...peace in the mind of individuals

Medina Centre for Gender and Development

- Working to train it's peoples to become leaders
- Work for people that are marginal in order to create leaders
- Decision making, politics
- Increase awareness for people who are interest in politics and leadership
- Workshops in collaboration with the UN mission in Darfur, Women in Election Processes, UNIFEM, UNFPA

Violence Against Women

- Psychological, social, political, feminist theories
- GBV feminist theory, relation between organisation and community of women
- Debates over which approach to use
- VAW, GBV, FGM, lead to various consequences for women
- Oppression, divorce
- There needs to be more effort to protect women from different forms of abuse

Prevention Mechanisms

- Break the cycle, promote gender equality, gender empowerment. Negotiation between male and females, support and respect
- Empowerment of women in political participation, economic empowerment
- Important that a holistic approach is used

Event: In Harm's Way: Girls in Settings of Endemic Armed Violence

Organization: United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Website: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/>

Rebecca Gerome: The Advocacy Project

- Conduct research on girls and weapons
- Armed conflict fueled by drug trade and availability of small arms.
- Force men to think they need guns= more violence against women.
- Guns are used to threat
- 60-70% of women in Colombia have suffered some sort of violence
- 2nd highest number of internally displaced people in the world
- A new Colombian law requires the police to remove if domestic violence is reported- police do not enforce.

Glynis Alonzo; YWCA Guyana

- Weapons have come from the illicit drug trade; self protection and turf war.
- Under developed justice system; poor legal framework
- Patriarchal Society; pressure placed on young men to
- Some women take part in the smuggling guns. Join gangs for protection; abuse
- Assigned a passive role. Obstacle of development
- Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution and peacemaking
- Former gang members can most effectively bring about change.

Bibiane Aningna Tshetu; Women as Partners for Peace in Africa, DRC

- Congo is the worst place to be as a women
- Mass violation hrs and humanitarian law.
- War started in 1996; spread of guns
- More than a million small arms are spread through the great lakes area
- Civilian population is the main target of conflict; rape, child soldiers.
- Difficult to be reintegrated
- Rape used as a weapon of war.
- Arms embargo is not in effect

Daniel Prins: OFDA

- Availability of arms aggravates a conflict; increases the sense of insecurity
- Women and girls are gravely affected; intimidation, survivors/victims
- They are also agents for change; community security initiatives
- Flag issue is the situation of women and girls
- Policy tools
- National governments in the end has the responsibility to protect its civilians
- Security today requires human security; not only about preparing for war. = need for a much broader approach.

Clare Hutchinson

Peacekeeping;

- Lots more training,
- Very high on the agenda
- Diversion from national government stocks; those arms are diverted.
- Responsibility has become global.

Event: Realizing the Promise of the BPFA & the Protocol to the African Charter on Human & People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Organization: United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)

Website: <http://www.soawr.org/en/>, www.undp.org

The African Union protocol on the rights of African women. It came in 2005. What has changed? Has it improved Africans women rights?

Voices from the ground, women speaking about their experience in their country.

Luciana from Malawi : Since bringing Beijing to Malawi, it has helped rural women to empower. It has helped to reduce mother mortality death. It has brought women in decisions making. Access and control on land especially for widow women is a big challenge to women. Chiefs don't allow women to be independent. Violence against is still a big problem despite the efforts of government to address the issue. The rights to development and peace and access to land are included in the protocol. Rights to maternity leave, rights to land, also it looks at women living with HIV and also pregnant women.

Kristina from Uganda, with PanAfrican women organization: Claiming sexual rights in Uganda will be my focus. Why do we focus on sexual rights? The reason why we focus on sexual rights is because the control of women sexual plays a role. Marital rape is not recognizing in Africa since it not recognize by the states. In Uganda we have fought to recognize marital rape to be recognizing which hasn't happened yet. The law on abortion doesn't give choice to women about her own body. Uganda has ratified many human rights treaties such as CEDAUW and so on and also the Maputo protocol. In addition Uganda has also put forward progressive national policies on health and policies on sexual violence. Uganda has not ratified the AU women protocol. The challenges are the patriarchal opposition and also the discrimination of HIV positive people. Women are liable to be prosecuted if they pass the HIV to their children. In the 1990 was an example on women rights which have changed due to religious and military opposition. 21% of death are due to abortion. Georges Bush government made an impact on prevention of HIV but was mainly centred on abstinence. NGOs women in Uganda are struggling and focusing on maternal health. They are also very engaged to lobby for the homosexual bill. The AU is critical for Women Rights in Africa.

SOAWR has been working to make sure the AU protocol is being ratified by African countries.

Jeannette From UNDP: the truth in Africa is far from the known. We find cases on FGM et sexual violence for all these reasons the African countries heads came together to adopt a protocol which define the definition of handful practices such as Nepad. Issues of abortion, issue of land, issue of women suffering from HIV which are in the framework of the protocol.

If the document is not ratified it does not have impact on that country which is followed by promulgation where we talk about it on National TV and talk about it publicly. We should ensure our government ratifies the protocol. Most of the countries are making progress such as Rwanda case.

How to invest in human rights? We should be able to train, sensitive gender issue, changing the code which discriminate women. We also need to work in partnership with men specially in the African case such as religion, cultural to change the mentality so that we can move ahead.

Program specialist with UNIFEM for Africa :

How UNIFEM has taken the step forward to support women group such as SOAR. There is a lack of serious implementation of the policies framework and unlimited of understanding of mainstream of gender. UNIFEM has helped the AU for the implementation of the protocol such of the prevention of HIV and the primary education.

Event: WPS: Where Are We Now on SCR 1325?

Organization: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Website: <http://www.unfpa.org/public/>

Discussion included:

This Panel addressed range of women, peace and security issues. It was also the first statement by the newly appointed, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG), Ms Margot Wallstrom. SRSG Wallstrom outlined collective challenges and specifically outlined the challenges of the “world’s least condemned war crime- rape”. SRSG Wallstrom highlighted that twin pillars of protection and empowerment and the role of women as agents for change.

The SRSG also noted the need to rethink rape as a tactic if war and the need to strengthen political will and leadership (NAPs should include these elements). SRSG Wallstrom ended by reminding the meeting that “for women in conflict there is no 1325, no 1820, no agencies, no departments- there is just the UN” and she urged all stakeholders to work together for these women.

Ms Rachel Mayanja, the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, OSAGI/DESA, urged systematic implementation by Member States of the resolutions and outlined the seventeen current National Action Plans.

This panel brought together policy-makers, UN representatives, women’s organizations and other development partners from countries that have developed National Action Plans (NAPs)/are in various stages of developing their Plans/and other allied mechanisms on SCR 1325, as well as on SCR 1820. It explored what has been achieved so far in terms of development of women’s empowerment capacities in conflict prevention, early recovery, relief and peace building processes under these actionable mandates.

The focus was on the following areas:

Has the participation of women in conflict prevention as well as in conflict resolution and sustaining peace efforts led to their empowerment and articulation of their issues in the policy

arena? Who are the main actors involved? What accountability mechanisms (for instance, data collection, resources and development of indicators) are available to assess such empowerment capacities? Whether conflict-related sexual violence is being adequately addressed? What are some of the key obstacles and capacity challenges faced in this regard?

Event: Violence Against Women in and Post-Conflict

Organization: Norwegian Church Aid

Website: <http://www.kirkensnodhjelp.no/en/>

Discussion on the Situation of women in Iraq:

- Women in Iraq are isolated and the situation of armed conflict has left serious problems for women;
- Violence against women is spreading really fast in the family and the Iraqi Government tend to ignore violence against women. Bagdad women are working to establish relation with other NGOs in Iraq to address violence against women but it is still long way to go.
- Women rights are violated and also male figure has great influence on women when it comes to marriage;
- There is a lack of solidarity with Iraqi women
- Need more solidarity from the international community so that Iraqi women won't feel alone in their everyday struggle for the rights of women.
- Working with grassroots for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325.
- However, many women grassroots are really young, most of them started only around 2003 and they have no knowledge of the UNSCR 1325.
- There is a process going on to develop a framework for the implementation of 1325 with 5 regions in the Middle East.

Event: "Political Implications of Congolese Women for Change"

Organization: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Democratic Republic of Congo.

Website: <http://www.wilpfinternational.org/>

March 1-12, 2010

Several women from D.R Congo participated at the United Nations 54th Commission on the Status of Women in New York. The Congolese women represented government and non-government sectors as well as different provinces of their country. They had several opportunities to hoist their concerns during the assembly session. The main focus that were articulated was how the Congolese women felt how the international community foremost could address the fourth-year civil war that takes place in D.R Congo.

The Congolese women shared the following prescriptions to bring an end to the conflict:

1. Call for an Inter-Rwandan dialogue between Rwanda's Tutsi leadership and Hutu rebels inside Congo. There are no military solutions to what is essentially a political crisis.
2. Opening and expansion of democratic space inside both Rwanda and Uganda so their internal conflicts will cease being fought on the bodies of Congolese women.
3. Greater participation in political life and the decision-making process on the part of Congolese women.

4. Redirection of focus on the part of the global community from targeting the symptoms or effects of the conflict to addressing the root causes – primarily a foreign resource war being waged inside Congo to the detriment of innocent civilians. The use of sexual violence is a consequence of war and in order to end the violence against women, the conflict must end which requires an end to the violence inside the Congo and in the international community's involvement in the Congo.

Event: Panel V -- UNite to End Violence Against Women

Organization: UN

Website: <http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/>

Say NO – UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign has announced that approximately 100,000 actions has been done by the Say NO network towards ending violence against women and girls. This achievement will be discussed and as well as future steps for the campaign.

Speakers:

Welcome: **Moez Doraid**, Deputy Executive Director, UNIFEM

Eva-Britt Svensson

Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, European Parliament

Dianne Curtis

President-Elect, Zonta International

Maria Jose Proano

WAGGGS Youth Delegate, Ecuador

Nefeli Themeli

WAGGGS Youth Delegate, Greece

Event: NGO Consultation on Indicators

Organization: Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)

Website: <http://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/> (NGOWG), <http://www.unifem.org/> (UNIFEM), <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/> (OSAGI)

On 12th March 2010 NGO a Consultation on Women, Peace and Security Indicator development was held at UN headquarters in New York.

In recognition of the key role that civil society actors around the world play in the implementation and monitoring of women, peace and security measures, the NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security was invited by UNIFEM and OSAGI to convene a civil society consultation on the indicator report on SCR 1325, as requested in SCR 1889, OP 17: “...a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000), which could serve as a common basis for reporting by relevant United Nations entities, other international and regional organizations, and Member States, on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) in 2010 and beyond”

As a result of this consultation, and despite the tight timeline, more than 150 suggestions to improve the indicators were provided by NGO colleagues from around the world. While incomplete as a consultation of all those civil society actors who have valid and useful input to give in this process, the degree of expertise reflected in this consultation demonstrates the importance of continuing to substantively engage with NGOs as the indicators continue to be honed and improved.

Because of the short time-period, and because many key civil society representatives were not able to be present in New York on this date, we sought to ensure that our consultation system allowed as many voices to be heard as possible. Our goal was to have clear, concerted, and constructive messages – from those who can attend and those who cannot – to bring the consultation on the 12th March.

In preparation for this meeting, on 3rd March 2010 the NGOWG sent NGO colleagues the TWGGI's background report for the selection of indicators. On 9th March 2010, the TWGGI made available the current "shortlist" of draft indicators to the participants in the consultation. Input from NGO colleagues

In order to collect the most information possible within the tight deadline, participants in the process were asked to provide responses to the following key questions regarding your pillar(s) of interest:

1. Which indicators should be kept?
2. What indicators(s) should be modified/added (any suggestions for additions should be specific and concrete)?
3. What is the key "must have" for this pillar that you would like discussed at the 12th March consultation?

Participants were asked to submit their input to the focal points listed below:

1. Prevention – Sarah Wikency (OSI/NGOWG)
2. Participation – Melissa Langworthy (WRC/NGOWG)
3. Protection – Maria Butler (PeaceWomen/NGOWG) and Steven Schoofs (IA)
4. Relief and Recovery – Charlotte Onslow (GAPS UK)

As results were submitted, the NGOWG and GAPS UK personnel listed above started analyzing the common themes, revisions, and additions to the current draft indicators. These were categorized in tables that reflected key messages, why they are important to include, and what suggested indicators might reflect these issues.

To ensure the comments collected are fed into the TWGGI drafting process, we are attaching the following draft documents: Tables for each of the four pillars with key messages and suggestions for the draft indicators A full listing of all comments received, sorted by pillar when possible Notes from the 12th March consultation

Please note that these are preliminary analyses and suggestions, as the timing was so short for the consultation. The materials included here should not be considered statements for public distribution.

In conclusion, the three key messages we would like to emphasize are:

1. It is clear that there has been insufficient time and access – such as translation - to include all key voices in this process. We are looking forward to civil society actors being an integral part of the process of evaluating the indicators as they are adopted, and ensuring that as the

indicators are strengthened and honed, civil society expertise is substantively included and drawn upon.

2. Developing a set of indicators is not the end goal of this process. The goal of this process is to see action taken and positive results for women in conflict. Therefore, the outcome of this indicator process should be:

A set of strong, meaningful indicators developed through this process must be delivered to the Security Council, and the Council must in turn live up to its obligations to women in conflict by: Endorsing strong indicators to regularly receive information on the whole women, peace and security agenda; Evaluating the implementation of women, peace and security obligations with these indicators; And taking appropriate and effective action on the information received. All relevant actors – member states, UN actors, Security Council members - should be held accountable for their obligations.

3. Additional strong indicators developed in this process that are not included in the final indicator report should be made publicly available for other actors – including civil society actors and governments – to use in their ongoing work on women, peace and security. The NGOWG members area available for more questions or additional input on any of the above information, and look forward to continuing to work with you on this important project. We will continue to provide any further suggestions our NGO colleagues contribute.

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Event: U.S. Secretary of State Addresses the CSW on Beijing + 15

Organization: UN, U.S. Mission

March 12, 2010

Secretary of State

Hillary Rodham Clinton

SECRETARY CLINTON: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you to Ambassador Alex Wolff and to our U.S. Mission here at the United Nations. And it's wonderful to be back at the United Nations for this occasion.

I want to thank the deputy secretary general for being with us. I'm very pleased that my friend and someone who once represented the United States here before becoming Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, could join us; members of the diplomatic corps and representatives to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; many of my friends, elected officials from New York, including Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, who has been recognized and who is a great champion of women's rights and responsibilities and to all of you. This final day of the 54th session of the UN Commission brings to a close a week of a lot of activity, and it reminds us of the work that still lies ahead.

Fifteen years ago, delegates from 189 countries met in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women. It was a call to action - a call to the global community to work for the laws, reforms, and social changes necessary to ensure that women and girls everywhere finally have the opportunities they deserve to fulfill their own God-given potentials and contribute fully to the progress and prosperity of their societies.

For many of us in this room today, that was a call to action that we have heeded. I know some of you have made it the cause of your life. You have worked tirelessly, day in and day out, to translate those words into realities. And we have seen the evidence of such efforts everywhere.

In South Africa, women living in shanty towns came together to build a housing development outside Cape Town all on their own, brick by brick. And today, their community has grown to more than 50,000 homes for low income families, most of them female-headed.

In Liberia, a group of church women began a prayer movement to stop their country's brutal civil war. It grew to include thousands of women who helped force the two sides to negotiate a peace agreement. And then, those women helped elect Ellen Johnson Sirleaf president, the first woman to lead an African nation.

In the United States, a young woman had an idea for a website where anyone could help a small business on the other side of the world get off the ground. And today, the organization she co-founded, Kiva, has given more than \$120 million in microloans to entrepreneurs in developing countries, 80 percent of them women.

So as we meet here in New York, women worldwide are working hard to do their part to improve the status of women and girls. And in so doing, they are also improving the status of families, communities, and countries. They are running domestic violence shelters and fighting human trafficking. They are rescuing girls from brothels in Cambodia and campaigning for public office in Kuwait. They are healing women injured in childbirth in Ethiopia, providing legal aid to women in China, and running schools for refugees from Burma. They are rebuilding homes and re-stitching communities in the aftermath of the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. And they are literally leaving their marks on the world. For example, thanks to the environmental movement started by Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai, 45 million trees are now standing tall across Kenya, most of them planted by women.

And even young girls have been empowered to stand up for their rights in ways that were once unthinkable. In Yemen, a 10-year-old girl forced to marry a much older man made headlines around the world by marching into court and demanding that she be granted a divorce, which she received. And her courage helped to shine a spotlight on the continuing practice of child marriage in that country and elsewhere.

Now, these are just a few of the stories, and everyone here could stand up and tell even more. These are the stories of what women around the world do every day to confront injustice, to solve crises, propel economies, improve living conditions, and promote peace. Women have shown time and again that they will seize opportunities to improve their own and their families lives. And even when it seems that no opportunity exists, they still find a way. And thanks to the hard work and persistence of women and men, we have made real gains toward meeting the goals set in Beijing.

Today, more girls are in school. More women hold jobs and serve in public office. And as women have gained the chance to work, learn, and participate in their societies, their economic, political, and social contributions have multiplied. In many countries, laws that once permitted the unequal treatment of women have been replaced by laws that recognize their equality, although for too many, laws that exist on the books are not yet borne out in their daily lives.

But the progress we have made in the past 15 years is by no means the end of the story. It is, maybe, if we're really lucky, the end of the beginning. There is still so much more to be done. We have to write the next chapter to fully realize the dreams and potential that we set forth in

Beijing. Because for too many millions and millions of girl and women, opportunity remains out of reach. Women are still the majority of the world's poor, the uneducated, the unhealthy, the unfed. In too many places, women are treated not as full and equal human beings with their own rights and aspirations, but as lesser creatures undeserving of the treatment and respect accorded to their husbands, their fathers, and their sons.

Women are the majority of the world's farmers, but are often forbidden from owning the land they tend to every day, or accessing the credit they need to invest in those farms and make them productive.

Women care for the world's sick, but women and girls are less likely to get treatment when they are sick.

Women raise the world's children, but too often receive inadequate care when they give birth. And as a result, childbirth remains a leading cause of death and injury to women worldwide.

Women rarely cause armed conflicts, but they always suffer their consequences. And when warring sides sit at one table to negotiate peace, women are often excluded, even though it is their future and their children's future that is being decided.

Though many countries have passed laws to deter violence against women, it remains a global pandemic. Women and girls are bought and sold to settle debts and resolve disputes. They are raped as both a tactic and a prize of armed conflict. They are beaten as punishment for disobedience and as a warning to other women who might assert their rights. And millions of women and girls are enslaved in brothels, forced to work as prostitutes, while police officers pocket bribes and look the other way.

Women may be particularly vulnerable to human rights violations like these. But we also know that in many places, women now are leading the fight to protect and promote human rights for everyone. With us today are several women I was proud to honor earlier this week at this year's United States State Department's International Women of Courage Awards. They have endured isolation and intimidation, violence and imprisonment, and even risked their lives to advance justice and freedom for others. And though they may work in lonely circumstances, these women, and those like them around the world, are not alone. Let them know that every one of us and the many others whom we represent are standing with them as they wage their lonely but essential efforts on behalf of us all.

The status of the world's women is not only a matter of morality and justice. It is also a political, economic, and social imperative. Put simply, the world cannot make lasting progress if women and girls in the 21st century are denied their rights and left behind.

The other day I heard The New York Times columnist Nick Kristof, who has done so much to bring to a wide audience the stories of individual women who are working and suffering because of conditions under which they are oppressed. And he said, you know, in the 19th century, the great moral imperative was the fight against slavery. And in the 20th century, it was the fight against totalitarianism. And in the 21st century, it is the fight for women's equality. He was right, and we must accept and promote that fundamental truth.

Now, I know there are those hard to believe but there are those who still dispute the importance of women to local, national, and global progress. But the evidence is irrefutable. When women are free to develop their talents, all people benefit: women and men, girls and

boys. When women are free to vote and run for public office, governments are more effective and responsive to their people. When women are free to earn a living and start small businesses, the data is clear: they become key drivers of economic growth across regions and sectors. When women are given the opportunity of education and access to health care, their families and communities prosper. And when women have equal rights, nations are more stable, peaceful, and secure.

In 1995, in one voice, the world declared human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights. And for many, those words have translated into concrete actions. But for others they remain a distant aspiration. Change on a global scale cannot and does not happen overnight. It takes time, patience, and persistence. And as hard as we have worked these past 15 years, we have more work to do.

So today, let us renew our commitment to finishing the job. And let us intensify our efforts because it is both the right thing to do and it is the smart thing as well. We must declare with one voice that women's progress is human progress, and human progress is women's progress once and for all.

This principle was enshrined 10 years ago in Millennium Development Goal Number 3, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. And that goal is essential for the realization of every other goal. Today, this principle is also at the heart of the foreign policy of the United States. We believe that women are critical to solving virtually every challenge we face as individual nations and as a community of nations. Strategies that ignore the lives and contributions of women have little chance of succeeding. So in the Obama Administration, we are integrating women throughout our work around the world.

We are consulting with women as we design and implement our policies. We are taking into greater account how those policies will impact women and girls. And we are working to identify women leaders and potential leaders around the world to make them our partners and to help support their work. And we are measuring progress, in part, by how much we improve the conditions of the lives of women and girls.

This isn't window dressing, and it's not just good politics. President Obama and I believe that the subjugation of women is a threat to the national security of the United States. It is also a threat to the common security of our world, because the suffering and denial of the rights of women and the instability of nations go hand in hand.

The United States is implementing this approach in our strategy in Afghanistan. As I said in London in January at the International Conference on Afghanistan, the women of Afghanistan have to be involved at every step in securing and rebuilding their country. Our stabilization strategy for both Afghanistan and Pakistan includes a Women's Action Plan that promotes women's leadership in both the public and private sectors; increases their access to education, health, and justice; and generates jobs for women, especially in agriculture.

This focus on women has even been embraced by the United States Military. All-women teams of Marines will be meeting with Afghan women in their homes to assess their needs. Congress has joined this focus as well. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, under Chairman John Kerry, empowered a subcommittee charged with global women's issues that recently held hearings on promoting opportunity for Afghan women and girls.

History has taught us that any peace not built by and for women is far less likely to deliver real and lasting benefits. As we have seen from Guatemala to Northern Ireland to Bosnia, women can be powerful peacemakers, willing to reach across deep divides to find common ground. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 reflects this principle. Now, we must work together to render it into action and achieve the full participation of women as equal partners in peace.

And as women continue to advocate for peace, even risking their lives to achieve it, many are praying that we will keep the promise we made in Resolution 1888 to take significant steps to end sexual violence against women and children in conflict.

We have begun the process laid out in the resolution. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has appointed a special representative. Now we must press ahead to end forever the evil of rape in conflict, which has caused suffering beyond imagination for victims and their families.

For the United States, women are also central to our ongoing work to elevate development as a key pillar of our foreign policy alongside diplomacy and defense. As those who grow the world's food, collect the water, gather the firewood, wash the clothes, and increasingly, work in the factories, run the shops, launch the businesses, and create jobs, women are powerful forces for any country's economic growth and social progress. So our development strategies must reflect their roles and the benefits they bring.

Three major foreign policy initiatives illustrate our commitment. The first is our Global Health Initiative, a \$63 billion commitment to improve health and strengthen health systems worldwide. Improving global health is an enormous undertaking, so we are focusing first on those people whose health has the biggest impact on families and communities - women and girls. We aim to reduce maternal and child mortality and increase access to family planning. And we especially commend the commission and the UN's adoption by consensus of the resolution on maternal mortality.

We also intend to further reduce the numbers of new HIV infections. AIDS has now become a woman's disease, passed from men to women and too often, to children. Through our Global Health Initiative and our continued work through PEPFAR, we hope to stop that deadly progression by giving women and girls the tools and knowledge they need to protect themselves, and by treating HIV-positive mothers so they are less likely to pass on the disease to their children.

Our global food security program, which I previewed here at the United Nations last September, is a \$3.5 billion commitment to strengthen the world's food supply, so farmers can earn enough to support their families and food can be available more broadly. And women are integral to this mission. Most of the world's food is grown, harvested, stored, and prepared by women, often in extremely difficult conditions. They face droughts, floods, storms, pests without the fertilizers or enriched seeds that farmers in wealthy countries use. Many consider themselves lucky if they can scratch out a harvest sufficient to feed their children. Giving these women the tools and the training to grow more food and the opportunity to get that food to a market where it can be sold will have a transformative impact on their lives and it will grow the economies of so many countries.

I have to confess that when we started our Food Security Initiative, I did not know that most food was grown by women. I remember once driving through Africa with a group of distinguished experts. And I saw women working in the fields and I saw women working in

the markets and I saw women with wood on their heads and water on their heads and children on their backs. And I remarked that women just seem to be working all the time. And one of the economists said, But it doesn't count. I said, How can you say that? He said, Well, it's not part of the formal economy. I said, Well, if every woman who did all that work stopped tomorrow, the formal economy would collapse.

A third initiative is our government's response to the challenge of climate change. In Copenhagen in December, I announced that the United States would work with other countries to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 to address the climate needs of developing countries.

The effects of climate change will be felt by us all, but women in developing countries will be particularly hard hit, because as all of the changes of weather go on to produce more drought conditions and more storms and more floods, the women will have to work even harder to produce food and walk even farther to find water safe for drinking. They are on the front lines of this crisis, which makes them key partners and problem solvers. So we believe we must increase women's access to adaptation and mitigation technologies and programs so they can protect their families and help us all meet this global challenge.

These initiatives amount to more than an assortment of programs designed with women in mind. They reflect a fundamental shift in U.S. policy, one that is taking place in offices across Washington and in our embassies around the globe. But we are still called to do more - every single one of us. The Obama Administration will continue to work for the ratification of CEDAW.

Now, I don't have to tell those of you who are Americans how hard this is. But we are determined, because we believe it is past time, to take this step for women in our country and in all countries. Here at the United Nations, a single, vibrant agency dedicated to women run by a strong leader with a seat at the secretary generals table, would help galvanize the greater levels of coordination and commitment that the women of the world deserve.

And as the United Nations strives to better support the world's women, it would benefit from having more women in more of its leadership positions. (Applause.) Just as there are talented women working unnoticed in every corner of the world, there are women with great talent and experience whose potential leadership is still largely untapped, and they deserve the chance to serve and lead.

The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action was not only a pledge to help women in other lands, it was also a promise by all countries to do more to advance opportunity and equality for our own citizens. Because in every country on earth, talent is universal, but opportunity is not. In my travels across the United States, I've met women for whom higher education is a distant dream. They have the talent, they have the drive, but they don't have the money. I've met mothers trapped in abusive relationships desperate to escape with their children, but with no means of support. I've met too many women who cannot afford necessary healthcare for themselves and their children. And I've met girls who have heard their whole lives that they were less than - less talented, less worthy of respect - until they eventually came to believe it was true.

So whether we live in New York or New Delhi, Lagos or La Paz, women and girls share many of the same struggles and aspirations. The principle of women's equality is a simple, self-evident truth, but the work of turning that principle into practice is rarely simple. It takes

years and even generations of patient, persistent work, not only to change a country's laws, but to change its people's minds, to weave throughout culture and tradition in public discourse and private views the unassailable fact of women's worth and women's rights.

Some of you may have seen the cover of the most recent issue of *The Economist*. If you haven't, I commend it to you. And like me, you may do a double-take. Because I looked quickly at it and I thought it said genocide. And then I looked more carefully at it, and it said gendercide. Because it was pointing out the uncomfortable fact that there are approximately 100 million fewer girls than there should be, if one looked at all the population data. I was so struck by that. A word that I had never heard before, but which so tragically describes what has gone on, what we have let go on, in our world.

My daughter is here with me today and being the mother of a daughter is a great inspiration and motivation for caring about the girls of the world. And I would hope that we would want not only for our own daughters the opportunities that we know would give them the chance to make the most of their lives, to fulfill that God-given potential that resides within each of us, but that we would recognize doing the same for other daughters of mothers and fathers everywhere would make the world a safer and better place for our own children.

So we must measure our progress not by what we say in great venues like this, but in how well we are able to improve the condition of women's lives, some near at hand who deserve the opportunities many of us take for granted, some in far distant cities and remote villages - women we are not likely ever to meet but whose lives will be shaped by our actions.

Let us recommit ourselves, as individuals, as nations, as the United Nations, to build upon the progress of the past and achieve once and for all that principle that we all believe in, or we would not be here today. The rights and opportunities of all women and girls deserve our attention and our support because as they make progress, then the progress that should be the birthright of future generations will be more likely, and the 21st century will fulfill the promise that we hold out today. So let's go forth and be reenergized in the work that lies ahead (2).

(1) Taken from the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women website:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html>

(2) Statement from the U.S. Missions website: <http://geneva.usmission.gov/2010/03/16/clinton-csw-usun-2010/>