



1325 WOMEN
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FOR
PEACE

WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE

THE 2010 OPEN DAYS ON
WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY





Cover: Escorted by peacekeepers, Sudanese women IDPs collect firewood. UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran 2010

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The views expressed in this publication are from the 25 Open Days, and their preparatory meetings, and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations, UNIFEM (part of UN Women), UNDP or any of its affiliated organizations.

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3 Executive Summary

Women from civil society and senior UN leaders in conflict-affected countries participated in 25 dialogues on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in June, July and August 2010. These 'Open Days on Women, Peace and Security' signal the UN's commitment to engaging women in building peace and security in this tenth anniversary year of the landmark United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). These meetings enabled women to share priorities and concerns, and have provided a model for regular dialogue between women of civil society and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs), Executive Representatives of the Secretary-General (ERSGs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs), as a core peacebuilding practice.

PURPOSE

At the heart of landmark resolution 1325 (2000) are commitments to enable women's contributions to all stages of peacebuilding, peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The 2010 UN-

organized Open Days in conflict-affected areas were designed to enable direct dialogue between women's peacebuilding organizations and women community leaders, and senior UN representation at the country level. The purpose was to seek women's views on means of improving implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). These open and inclusive forums for women peacebuilders and activists also provided the opportunity to deepen local ownership of the resolution. Resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) all call for a stronger commitment by national and international actors to addressing the challenges faced by women in crises.

“ *These Open Days can be just a ceremony and nothing happens tomorrow... or they can become a stepping stone in a direction of bringing change.* ”

Staffan de Mistura, SRSG Afghanistan

This initiative was organized by the **UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations** (DPKO), the **UN Department of Political Affairs** (DPA), the **UN Development Fund for Women** (UNIFEM, now part of UN Women) and the **UN Development Programme** (UNDP). In Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, occupied Palestinian territories, Pakistan, Senegal/West Africa, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan/Central Asia, and Timor-Leste (Sri Lanka and Western Sahara also held a different version of the Open Days) **more than 1,500**

women met with high-level UN officials, including SRSGs, ERSGs and RCs on issues of peace and security.

The Open Days provided an opportunity **to acknowledge the progress that has been achieved** over the last ten years. In many post-conflict countries, the number of women in government has increased significantly, quotas have been set and implemented, and women have used their public decision-making roles to advance women's rights. There is increased awareness of gender differences in the way conflict affects civilians, and this is reflected in post-conflict needs assessments and planning frameworks. Within the United Nations itself, the Secretary-General since 2007 has appointed 10 women SRSGs, four Deputy Special Representatives (DSRSGs), and two Special Envoys and the numbers of women deployed in peacekeeping missions has increased.

“ *The ‘Global Open Day for Women and Peace’ is meant to reinvigorate our efforts to realize the vision set out in resolution 1325. I count on all partners to support the United Nations in translating women’s priorities into real and meaningful action.* ”

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Still, significant gaps remain. For instance, while there has been an increase in the extent to which peace agreements address gender issues, only 16 per cent of peace agreements contain specific provisions on women's rights and needs.¹ While gender analysis is found in post-conflict needs assessments, less than 8 per cent of proposed recovery budgets identify spending priorities addressing women's needs,² and just 5.7 per cent of actual budgetary outlays of multi-donor trust funds in post-conflict countries finance gender equality or women's empowerment projects.³ Employment generation programmes to revitalize post-conflict economies still tend to privilege employment for men, and there is inadequate investment in women's property rights and livelihood prospects. Sexual and gender-based violence is rampant and often continues unabated after peace deals are settled due to insufficient investment in protection and prevention strategies and destroyed or weak justice and security institutions.

“ *From equality de jure to equality de facto.* ”

Central Asia Open Day, Tajikistan

It is clear that much more remains to be done. Women expressed their expectation that the UN will take advantage of the critical opportunity provided by the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000) to act as a partner and lead on women's rights in conflict and post-conflict settings. At the launch of these Open Day events, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recalled the core message of the resolution, stating that *“sustainable peace is possible only with women’s full participation – their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace.”*

FINDINGS: Shared Concerns

Despite various contexts, languages, and cultures, three common messages emerged from the conversations of the Open Day participants.

Women's peace and security priorities are:

- › **Participation:** Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making
- › **Justice, Protection and Security:** A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict
- › **Economic Resources and Support:** Allocation of greater and more-sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Open Days provided an opportunity for women to highlight the most pressing needs in their respective countries and to reflect upon progress and challenges to the full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). In some cases, this was the first time that women had the opportunity to articulate their vision for peace and security to the UN in their country. In all cases, the Open Days enabled a conversation between these women and the United Nations senior leadership, who responded with concrete context-specific commitments. In many instances this included a commitment to meet again, and on a regular basis.

It is critical that all stakeholders – national, regional, and global, including member states, and the UN – invest and commit even more to address the significant gaps outlined. The Open Days were part of significant efforts within the UN to accelerate achievement of the goals of resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions. One element of these efforts is the production of a set of indicators on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). This set of 26 indicators is for use at a global level to track the outcome of efforts to engage women in making peace, building security, securing justice, and promoting

recovery, and can be adapted for use by national or regional institutions. The indicators should help address the lack of accurate data on women's experience of conflict and their contributions to peacebuilding – a serious obstacle to implementing the women, peace and security agenda.

“ We don't want to make conflicts or crises safer for women – we want to stop them altogether. ”
Participant, Pakistan Open Day

Another element of the UN's efforts to improve implementation is the revision of its System-Wide Action Plan on 1325 (2000), as well as an effort via the peacebuilding reform process to address women's rights in the recovery and long-term peacebuilding phases. The Secretary-General's Report on Women's

Participation in Peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466) summarizes the actions considered necessary to achieve this goal. In the midst of these efforts another UN reform effort of importance for gender equality has been launched – the creation by the General Assembly of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). UN Women brings together the four UN entities mandated to advance gender equality in order to strengthen the capacity of the UN system to match commitments to gender equality with the leadership, resources, and expertise needed to deliver changes on the ground.

“ Resolution 1325 will not be implemented unless a clear accountability mechanism in the form of a mandatory reporting on the implementation of the resolution 1325 (2000) is introduced by the United Nations Security Council for the Member States. ”

Central Asia Open Day, Tajikistan

The three major areas of concern raised by women – participation, protection, and financing for recovery – have been strongly reflected in these contemporary UN efforts.

Across these and other efforts there is a commitment to engage women directly in conflict prevention, mitigation, and in building peace. The Open Days

“ Women count for peace. But we now count on you to make it a reality! ”
Participant, Burundi Open Day

on Women, Peace and Security demonstrate one means of ensuring that women's concerns are expressed directly to the UN's leadership. The two main recommendations emerging from these

meetings are:

- › That they be held again, not on an *ad hoc* basis, but as a regular, scheduled practice of UN mission organization.
- › An annual review of the Open Day would be desirable, to allow for follow up on the implementation of commitments made by all stakeholders including senior UN leadership.

In short, the forums highlighted the need for UN in-country leaders and women peace leaders to build partnerships to advance the mutual goal of bringing sustainable, inclusive peace.



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Côte d'Ivoire, 2010



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Tajikistan/Central Asia, 2010



The 2010 Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Lebanon, 2010



The 2010 Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Afghanistan, 2010



Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Haiti, 2010



The 2010 Open Day on Women, Peace and Security.
Guinea-Bissau, 2010

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2 - UNIFEM. "PCNA-TRF Tool Kit; Note on Integrating Gender Perspectives," January 2009.

3 - Finnoff, K., and Ramamurthy, B., *Financing for Gender Equality: Review of UN Modalities for Post-Conflict Financing* (UNIFEM, 2010); Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding, October 2010, (A/65/354-S/2010/466).



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