



**Security Council Open Debate: Maintenance of International Peace and Security – the Interdependence between Security and Development
11 February 2011**

PeaceWomen/WILPF Advocacy Points

While military expenditures increase every year, investment in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and development lags far behind. WILPF called on the UN Security Council to report on progress made towards a plan to reduce the human and economic resources spent on armaments and indicate an intention to evaluate the Security Council's performance and initiatives towards advancing Article 26 in the next General Assembly session (in September 2010 statement)

Working to guarantee women their socio-economic rights in conflict contexts can be an avenue towards reconstruction and peacebuilding- and conflict prevention. The guarantee of women's socio-economic rights is closely tied to women's empowerment, the capacity to participate in peacemaking and peacebuilding and the ability to freely exercise civil and political rights. The denial or lack of access to economic and social rights can impede the effective reconstruction of post-conflict societies.

Furthermore, women in post-conflict situation often experience discrimination and/or lack of access to education, health services and other inalienable rights that results in limiting their opportunities for economic survival. Focusing on equitable and equal development is absolutely crucial to the realization of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and what SCR 1325 has demanded. The Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security emphasize the need for the participation of women as a means of conflict prevention and resolution. The equal participation of women in government systems is contingent upon both de jure and de facto equality and access to social and economic rights. Failure to ensure this undermines the ability of states to give effect to exigencies of the Security Council Resolutions.