



CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations

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to the

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Women, Peace and Security

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Mr. President and members of the Security Council,

I thank the Government of Viet Nam and Mr. Phạm Gia Khiêm, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs for the honor to address the Security Council. I also note with thanks the SG Report on 1325 and I thank Ms. Mayanja for her dedication to this issue.

Viet Nam's resolution presented today asserts that women's leadership is an integral part of early recovery and peacebuilding. Failing to address women's needs in transitional governance, livelihood support, public service and judicial systems can slow recovery and undermine peace. In other words, women are a powerful positive force for long-term peacebuilding. There is no more important time to act upon this insight than now, as we look towards the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325.

I will highlight four priorities for action on early recovery and peace building:

1. **Women's leadership in peace making.** Last year I shared with you UNIFEM research showing that women average under 10 percent of members of official negotiating teams at peace talks. Their striking absence at this stage means they lack voice in everything that follows. The institutions that implement peace deals may fail to address women's needs for justice, for removing perpetrators of sexual violence from security forces, or for properly designed and targeted public services.

A major priority is to increase women's participation in formal and informal institutions involved in peace making, peace keeping, and peace building. We need to invest in strengthening the capacity of women's groups even before a conflict ends. UNIFEM does this by supporting women's peace coalitions across the lines of conflict. We are facilitating dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian women through the International Women's Commission. We are building regional women's peace advocacy in the Balkans and the Caucuses, and supporting women in Somalia, Uganda and Darfur to engage in peace processes.

- 2. Funding for women's empowerment in recovery and peace building.** Post-conflict planners should always investigate women's specific needs, and allocate sufficient resources to meet them. UNIFEM has developed an analytical tool for determining women's specific needs and has worked with the UNDG Working Group on Crisis and Recovery, and the World Bank to develop guidance on gender as a cross-cutting issue in Post Conflict Needs Assessments (PCNAs). This guidance will be tested in the current needs assessment process in Pakistan.

A priority for donors, the UN and the World Bank is to track funding targeted to women's needs. In post-conflict planning, women must participate in needs assessments, priority-setting and monitoring public expenditure. Civil society groups representing women's interests must be invited to donor conferences.

- 3. Women's safety.** The risk of sexual violence after a conflict will keep women from re-resuming market activities, keep girls from school and discourage women from engaging in politics. The trauma, stigma and social ostracism endured by survivors of sexual violence lead to family and community breakdown, eroding the social fabric and creating long-term obstacles to peace building. Above all, the failure to prosecute crimes of sexual violence sends a message to perpetrators that they can act with impunity. This makes a mockery of efforts to re-assert the rule of law.

I note with great concern the increased numbers of women human rights defenders threatened or murdered in the past year—particularly in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

UNIFEM welcomes resolutions 1820 and 1888. As a founder member of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, UNIFEM is committed to supporting their implementation. Women's safety must be made a priority in national security and justice sector reform.

4. **Women's livelihood recovery.** A central part of peace building is economic recovery. This usually translates into job creation for young men, often at the expense of adequate investment in women's employment and livelihood needs. In particular, women need land rights and control of productive assets. Women's agricultural and market activities sustain food security as well as large numbers of family members. Providing them credit and protecting their property rights will have a significant multiplier effect on peacebuilding.

Securing women's land and property rights must be a major focus of recovery efforts and should be addressed in peace negotiations.

UNIFEM notes with appreciation the recent Security Council resolutions 1820, 1888, 1882, and resolution 1889 today. These resolutions represent building blocks of a potentially powerful system for equalizing women's **participation** in conflict resolution and peace building, for strengthening women's **protection** during and after conflict, and for ensuring long-term **prevention** of conflict. Resolutions 1820 and 1888 address key elements of the **protection** pillar. The other two pillars require a response that is just as creative and determined. The tenth anniversary of 1325 gives us the opportunity to build this determined response together.

I conclude with two priorities to make the 10th anniversary a period of strengthening accountability for the women, peace and security agenda:

First, we need consistent reporting mechanisms and indicators against which to report.

The new resolution today calls for the development of indicators on 1325, a call which UNIFEM is committed to answering. The difficulty of obtaining data must not be a reason for not trying to get it. It is time for us all to count the numbers of women at the peace table, the numbers of women raped in war, the numbers of internally displaced women who never recover their property, the numbers of women human rights defenders killed for speaking out. All of this counts, and we are counting.

We should also set targets to report against next year. For one, we can aim for at least a 50 percent increase in the number of women uniformed peacekeeping personnel. A 50 percent increase from a low number is not difficult. We should set a higher target to increase the numbers of women mediators and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General. A third target could be earmarking at least 15 percent of post-conflict funding for women's empowerment and women's recovery needs.

Second, we need a leadership and accountability system for 1325. UNIFEM welcomes the suggestion in the new resolution that the UN peace building architecture should review the issue of strengthening women's contribution to recovery and sustained peace. Beyond the Peacebuilding Commission, we must prepare for next year by planning for a stronger system-wide architecture for leadership, expertise, funding, monitoring and accountability for the women peace and security agenda. This must be an important part of the new gender entity.

Thank you.