



**Diálogo
Internacional
sobre Justicia
para las Mujeres**

**International
Gender Justice
Dialogue**

**Dialogue
International
Justice pour
les Femmes**

PUERTO VALLARTA **MEXICO** 19-21 APRIL 2010

International Gender Justice Dialogue

**A Convening By
Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice
organised in cooperation with the Nobel Women's Initiative**

19-21 April 2010, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

The Context and Moment

In 2010, the Assembly of States Parties will hold the 10-year Review Conference on the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court. This conference, to be held from 31 May – 11 June in Kampala, hosted by the Government of Uganda, will be attended by 110 States Parties to the Rome Statute and be open to all United Nations members. This is the first global meeting on the Statute since its adoption at the 1998 Rome Conference, which laid the groundwork for the first permanent international criminal court with worldwide jurisdiction for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Amongst other issues to be addressed, the Review Conference will adopt the Crime of Aggression within the Rome Statute, thus expanding the jurisdiction of the ICC. This Conference will be one of the largest gatherings of States in 2010, outside of the UN General Assembly meeting.

This year will mark 15 years since the watershed Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing +15) and is also the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This historic resolution makes explicit the necessity and right of women to participate in peace negotiations and deliberations to end conflict in their countries and help write the new rules for restoring and transforming conflict-ridden societies.

Within the past 12 months, the United Nations adopted a resolution to amalgamate four UN agencies and establish a new single agency for women to promote gender equality and women's rights. The new 'gender architecture' is expected to have a significant budget of around US\$1 billion per annum and be led by an Under-Secretary General post, a higher level appointment than any of the current UN agencies addressing gender issues.

On 30 September 2009, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1888 formally mandating UN Peacekeeping missions to 'protect women and children from rampant sexual violence during armed conflict'. The resolution calls for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General to strengthen existing UN mechanisms and other actions to address sexual violence in armed conflicts.

This is, therefore, an opportune moment to reflect on the progress and work of the International Criminal Court, the possibilities embodied in the Rome Statute for the accountability of conflict-related crimes, and the responsibilities of the United Nations, in particular the UN Security Council, for the deterrence and resolution of armed conflicts, women's global citizenship and gender-inclusive international justice.

Background

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice first conceived of the International Gender Justice Dialogue in 2006 as the work of the ICC gathered momentum and the possibilities of the Rome Statute were tested and diminished, advanced or reduced. As implementation of the Statute began, the importance of developing a clear global agenda for advancing women's rights and gender justice through advocacy and engagement with the ICC and other key institutions became apparent.

During 2009, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice and the Nobel Women's Initiative decided to collaborate on this event with the belief that our combined efforts would create the most visible and strategic event possible.

Political Context

The Dialogue, to be held prior to the Review Conference, comes at a time of converging political dynamics, including:

- a global economic crisis
- heightened and complex forms of militarism
- increased competition for political attention and crisis-response resources
- widespread fundamentalist movements
- shifting geopolitical relationships
- the emergence of new power centers
- ongoing challenges to the legitimacy of the UN, specifically the persistent calls for Security Council reform, and
- a repositioning of policies in relation to current conflicts.

Goal of the Convening

The goal of the Dialogue is to identify the strategic directions required for advancing gender justice through implementation and use of the Rome Statute and the ICC, and for engaging with other critical institutions including the regional human rights courts and commissions and the United Nations Security Council. By developing a shared set of priorities for advancing gender justice globally we aim to increase the efficacy of all our advocacy efforts.

The strategies will be developed through:

- critically reflecting on the successes and developments to date in the work of the ICC, regional human rights Courts and Security Council Resolutions to address gender-based violence, particularly in armed conflicts, and ensure to accountability for such crimes;
- identifying priorities and strategies for impacting on peace processes including the appointment of Mediators, the setting of their mandates and ensuring the inclusion of women and 'gender issues' within negotiations and subsequent Peace Agreements.
- identifying the most pressing issues in the field of international justice and peace regarding prevention and prosecution of violence against women;
- assessing the deterrent capabilities of the ICC and the UN Security Council in relation to the deterrence of gender -based crimes as acts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity;
- contributing to the discourse on violence against women, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations; and

- examining what communications strategies have been most effective in promoting the use of international justice mechanisms to address violence against women; and
- taking stock of key future opportunities for amplifying women's voices in advancing gender justice.

Agenda

The agenda for the meeting will be organized around the following questions:

- How can we engage with these critical international and regional institutions to advance the rights of women, forge gender-inclusive justice and build a global normative culture around gender equality?
- What are the strategies that have been successful to date? How do we measure our impact?
- What are the key opportunities for institutional engagement?
- What are the jurisprudential priorities to advance accountability for gender-based crimes?
- Are there new partnerships and alliances that can renew or reshape our advocacy and impact on these issues?
- What should be the agenda for the next 3-5 years in terms of priorities for international gender justice?
- How can we most effectively communicate our key priorities to advance gender justice?
- What are the examples that help the public understand how international justice mechanisms helps prevent or address gender-based crimes?
- Are there 'key messages' that we can all promote as we try to move forward with a more cohesive gender justice strategy?
- What are the opportunities for amplifying women's voices in advancing gender justice?

Participants

The Dialogue will bring together for this global strategic conversation, 80-90 gender experts, feminist legal theorists, peace mediators, legal practitioners, jurists, women's rights advocates, personnel from key United Nations agencies, experts from the regional human rights courts, humanitarian organizations, academics, communications specialists, children's rights advocates, experts on demobilization, disarmament, rehabilitation and reintegration of combatants and others associated with armed groups, allies from the violence against women movement and donors. The working languages of the Dialogue are English and Spanish, with interpretation provided in French and Arabic. Documentation will be available in English and Spanish.

Impact Of The Convening: Taking The Results Forward

The Dialogue will have a critical and unique impact on participants and the international advocacy movement around gender justice through international institutions. By creating a space where advocates from around the world and a diversity of disciplines can meet and talk in person, the Dialogue creates an opportunity to advance thinking and collaboration on gender justice issues that only in-person dialogue can foster. Furthermore, sharing information and insights in order to develop strategies will support better and more effective use of advocacy and communications resources. A final communiqué (in English and Spanish) will be distributed to regional and international media and audiovisual documentation will be disseminated through the websites and using social media tools.

The immediate follow-up to the convening will be to implement the results of the Dialogue at the 10-year Review Conference on the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court, to be held in Uganda, 31 May- 11 June, 2010.

Furthermore, the strategies that are developed in the Dialogue will be disseminated broadly throughout civil society and will help shape the messages to decision makers. For instance, 2010 is the 10-year anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the first year after the adoption of related resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889. This Dialogue will inform the advocacy around implementation of the resolutions.

About the Organisations

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is an international women's human rights organisation that advocates for gender justice through the International Criminal Court and works with women most affected by the conflict situations under investigation by the ICC.

Currently the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice has country-based programmes in the four ICC situation countries: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and the Central African Republic.

The strategic programme areas for the Women's Initiatives include:

- Political and legal advocacy for accountability for and prosecution of gender-based crimes
- Capacity and movement building initiatives with women in armed conflicts
- Conflict resolution and integration of gender issues within the negotiations and implementation of Peace Agreements (Uganda, DRC, Darfur)
- Documentation of gender-based crimes in armed conflicts
- Victims' participation before the ICC
- Training of activists, lawyers and judges on the Rome Statute and international jurisprudence regarding gender-based crimes
- Advocacy for reparations for women victims/survivors of armed conflicts

In 2006 the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice was the first NGO to file before the International Criminal Court and to date is the only women's rights organisation to have been granted amicus curiae status. For more information visit www.iccwomen.org.

The Nobel Women's Initiative

Launched in 2006, the Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI) is a strategic vehicle of the women Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to leverage the visibility and prestige of the prize to promote, spotlight, and amplify the work of women's rights activists, researchers, and organizations worldwide addressing the root causes of violence. In the past three years, the Nobel Laureates have been able to bring attention to urgent issues of Iran-US tensions, Israel-Palestine, the climate crisis, the protracted Burmese and Sudanese conflicts, among many others – using the print media, radio and internet, and engaging with world leaders and activists in public fora. With the power of the Nobel Prize, these women are able to amplify and communicate new approaches to women's rights, peace and security, in ways that strengthen and expand the global movement to advance nonviolence, justice and equality. For more information visit www.nobelwomensinitiative.org.