

KIGALI DECLARATION

Thirty-eight government and civil society women leaders of the Great Lakes Region (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, and United Republic of Tanzania) met in Kigali, Rwanda for a training workshop on conflict management organised by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with the Centre for Conflict Resolution of the University of Cape Town.

Recognising that women and girls bare a tremendous burden as victims of conflict and war, specifically as targets of sexual violence and abuse,

Recalling the Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and its call for the integration of gender perspectives in all phases of peace building, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction,

The participants of the workshop call on the United Nations, the African Union, and Governments of the countries in the Great Lakes region, for their greater and determined support to the women of Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo in their search for durable peace following the Arusha and Lusaka peace accords.

For this purpose, they agreed to:

- send a high level delegation composed of the representatives of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and South Africa, with the support of the Mano River Women's Peace Network.

The objectives of this mission will be:

- to meet actors of peace process in Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo to accelerate the peace process, which will cease the suffering of the people of Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly women and children; and

- to support women of Burundi and Democratic Republic of the Congo in the preparation of the International Conference on the Great Lakes region, which will not take place unless peace is established in the Great Lakes region.

Women of this sub-region reaffirm their commitments to contribute to the establishment of peace, which is the pre-condition for the economic, social and political development of the people of the Great Lakes region.

Kigali, Rwanda
19 September 2003