

**Commission on the Status of Women**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> session**  
**25 February – 7 March 2008**

**Interactive dialogue on**  
**"Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and**  
**conflict resolution and in post-conflict peacebuilding"**

*Friday, 29 February 2008, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.*

Keynote speakers

**1. Ms. Carolyn McAskie, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office**

Ms. McAskie (Canada) was appointed Assistant-Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support in 2006. Prior to that appointment, from 2005-2006, she served as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Burundi. From 1999-2004, she was Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator at the UN Secretariat in New York, serving as Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i., for the period 1999 to January 2001. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. McAskie had a 30-year career with the Federal Government of Canada, in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Her last positions were Vice-President for Africa and the Middle East Programmes and Vice-President of CIDA's Multilateral Programmes Branch, where she held the rank of Assistant Deputy Minister (equivalent to Deputy Permanent Secretary) from 1993 until 1999. She served as a member of the Facilitation Team of the Burundi Peace Process in Arusha (1999) under the late Julius Nyerere, the former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and as Humanitarian Envoy of the Secretary-General for the humanitarian crisis in Côte d'Ivoire (2003).

**2. Ms. Gina Torry, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security**

Ms. Torry (USA) has been the coordinator of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security for the last three years, where her work has included advocacy and capacity-building activities. The NGO Working Group is a coalition of civil society organizations which advocates for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. The Working Group collaborates with the United Nations, Member States and civil society on advancing women's participation and gender perspectives in conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives of the United Nations. Prior to her joining the NGO Working Group, Ms. Torry worked in the Gender Unit in the Global Policy Section of the Division of Policy and Planning at UNICEF. As a member of the Africa Program at the Center for Reproductive Rights, Ms. Torry coordinated communication with African partner organizations and conducted research on the impact of HIV/AIDS and maternal mortality.