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Expert Consultation on
“Priorities in follow-up to the ten-year review and
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**Priorities in follow-up to the ten-year review and appraisal of
implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

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* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

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Expert Consultation:
Priorities in follow-up to the ten-year review and appraisal of implementation of the
Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

In nearly all countries, the ten year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action showed significant progress in development of policy, legislative, and institutional mechanisms and strategies for gender equality.

Though gains were made on all the 12 areas of Critical Concern, significant obstacles, challenges and gaps between policy and practice were identified. We are here to respond to the mandate to plan the next steps towards full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action. On behalf of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this consultation.

The four main areas we propose to address are:

- Human Security
- Development and Environmental Sustainability
- Financial Resources/Gender-Sensitive Budgeting
- Women and Armed Conflict/Women's Role in Peace Building

Human Security

All the areas of concern have a human security dimension and this should be articulated throughout and mainstreamed in implementation action plans.

“ Many activists, analysts, UN staffers – and even some governments -- have begun to advocate for shifting the disarmament and security debate away from national security and toward a framework predicated on human security,...Employing gender as a tool of analysis in discussing disarmament, peace and security can help facilitate this shift in our collective thinking. A gendered perspective of human security enables a more nuanced understanding of the perspectives of those involved in conflicts—including victims, perpetrators and decision-makers.” Rhianna Tyson (2004, WILPF, Reaching Critical Will, a project of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom).

The UN Independent Commission on Human Security defines a framework of human security as one that protects “the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment.”

Tyson notes that the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs Gender mainstreaming action plan inaugurated in 2003 states, "disarmament and gender analysis offer critical approaches to the concept of national security grounded in military superiority and the threat of the use of force."

Traditionally the goal of 'national security' is the defense of state from external threats. The focus of 'human security' is the individual. The traditional view of national security, which explains wars between states, is irrelevant to 95% of the armed conflicts today which are violent conflicts within states (Andrew Mack, p. VIII).

Adherents of human security have different views of the expansiveness of the concept. The narrow concept of human security focuses on protection of the individual and communities from internal violence. The broad concept of human security includes threats such as hunger, disease, natural disasters which kill far more people than wars, genocide and terrorism. It also encompasses economic insecurity and 'threats to human dignity' (Mack, p. VIII).

It is in examining these larger threats to human security that full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action can be taken into consideration. The larger threats include systemic violence that is generated through unjust economic and social structures. The CSW has the opportunity to create space to address these threats, and promote the economic and social rights of women, by promoting a human security concept in terms of setting economic policy, resource preservation, energy security and more.

The recently released Human Security Report 2005 provides data that compares the wars of today with those before the end of WWII. Most wars are in poor countries; there is increased targeting of civilians; refugee movements are not side events but central to the objectives of the conflict; terrorism and genocide are aimed at civilians (Mack, p. 5).

"Many of the costs of war are obvious – battle-deaths, displaced people, flattened cities, destroyed infrastructure, capital flight and slashed living standards. Less obvious are the high numbers of 'indirect' or 'excess' deaths – non-violent deaths that would have not occurred had there been no fighting. In most of today's conflicts, war-exacerbated disease and malnutrition kill far more people than missiles, bombs and bullets." (Mack, p.7).

The human security paradigm is one that should serve as the basis for all reconstruction efforts, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs, and post-conflict security policy creation. Derived from a gendered analysis of relevant situations, this paradigmatic shift can then serve as a tool to prevent fragile post conflict situations from falling back into conflict, and can also serve the cause of long-term peace building. These analyses should apply not only to immediate security scenarios, but also the development and reconstruction efforts that follow any conflict situation.

Gender is an important determinant of war-time vulnerability. So is age. There are about 300,000 child soldiers. In Sierra Leone and Liberia 70% of the soldiers were under 18 (Mack, p. 114). About 40% of the child soldiers around the world are girls (Mack, p.110).

We recommend that all the major priority areas and themes should be articulated as having a ‘human security’ dimension.

Development and Environmental Sustainability

As noted in the Platform for Action there is a close interrelation between poverty and environmental degradation. Increased ecological stress; resource depletion; climate change; violent weather patterns; loss of biodiversity; persistent organic pollutants and toxins; the globalization of new and old diseases in humans, animals and plants cannot be ignored in discussing gender equality, peace and development.

The successful implementation of Agenda 21 (1992) and the Johannesburg Plan of Action (2002) require the active involvement of women and their full participation in sustainable development and public life.

Improving literacy among women, environmental awareness and their technical skills; including women in decision-making in environmental protection, resource use and conservation, and ecosystem management is necessary for sustainable development.

Women should participate in planning and decision-making about access to potable and affordable water, sanitation, energy policies and resource use in all fora at the United Nations such as the annual UN Commission on Sustainable Development meetings and state, regional and local government policy-making and decision-making groups.

The pathetic state of the water situation in poor countries such as Malawi, is illustrated by the following scenario from the 26 October 2005 *New York Times* in regard to providing inexpensive generic drugs for AIDS made by the Indian company Cipia. The trial treatment for children in Zambia is a combination of three drugs in a tablet that can be dissolved in water and given to children twice a day. It will cost less than \$10 per child per month. The *Times* quotes Pamela Barnes, the chief operating officer of the Washington-based Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, in noting that “even a simplified drug regimen like the one Cipia is testing has the disadvantage of requiring addition of water – a problem in countries where water quality is low and water often carries disease. Syrups are safer.” This is the painful situation care givers have to live with – that there is not enough safe water to even take medicine.

Additionally, there should be an avenue for both traditional knowledge and women’s resourcefulness to be brought into the larger sphere in terms of resource protection. There is only so much fresh water, forest wood, fuel and resources. Women, as the primary household managers have historically been called upon to manage scant resources and maximize their impact. This knowledge base can be a substantive tool in the prevention of armed conflict related to resource scarcity, as well as the preservation of dwindling resources globally.

Financial Resources/Gender-Sensitive Budgeting

National budgets, policies of the international finance institutions, world trade policies and funding priorities must be directed to meeting human needs and the critical areas of concern and more recently identified concerns such as HIV/AIDS. This will require reallocation of financial resources from military spending; democratizing international financial institutions; instituting fair trade policies and subsidies; debt relief; and restricting privatization of common goods and resources such as water.

The 10-year review “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century” addresses the Critical Concern of Women and Poverty”. The eradication of poverty, hunger and disease is a long-standing political and humanitarian goal.

“Since 1995, it has been increasingly recognized that women and men experience poverty differently, and that the process of impoverishment is different for women and men, women also find it more difficult than men to break out of poverty....There is also growing recognition that gender equality is critical for sustainable and equitable economic growth.” (Women 2000: paragraph 115).

More complex than mere economic insufficiency countries have taken steps in policy to address the multidimensional aspects such as addressing the impact of economic globalization, preventing marginalization, social exclusion, adjusting social expenditures and services. Some countries have made efforts to develop and implement gender-sensitive policies and programs. (Women 2000, para. 116)

At an NGO briefing in Geneva earlier in 2005, the deputy director of the Economic Commission for Europe stated that the Commission would give attention to follow-up on ‘gender-sensitive budgeting’. With that in mind, the ECE planned to organize a meeting of finance ministers in the European region to see how national budgets could be developed to respond to this.

To meet the goals of equality, development, peace and environmental sustainability national spending priorities need to be adjusted. Noeleen Heyzer of UNIFEM has said that *“ignoring the gender impact of the budget is not neutrality. It is blindness. And blindness has a high human and economic cost: lower productivity, lower development of people’s capacity and lower levels of well-being.”* (as quoted in Midgley, p. 138).

WILPF and other NGO’s have had experience in drafting models of what such budget’s might look like in Australia, USA, Canada, Sweden, South Africa and elsewhere. The South African Women’s Budget Initiative (WBI) incorporating a budget gender-sensitive analysis is an inspiring effort involving both NGO’s and parliamentarians since 1995 (Midgley, p. 139). Gender analysis of taxation, of employment and of the budgets have contributed to gender-sensitive economic theory.

Women in Armed Conflict/Women's Role in Peace-building

The review of implementation and the outcome documents of the 49th Session of the CSW cited achievements at the international and national levels of significant increase in initiatives on women and peace and security. Progress was made on addressing violence against women, on enhancing women's participation in peace processes and in enabling more opportunities for women to participate in conflict resolution, in peace-building and peace negotiations.

The landmark decision in October 2000 of Security Council Resolution 1325 was a crucial step forward for women's empowerment in peace and security. In the words of Ambassador Anwareul Chowdhury,

“For the first time in 55 years, it takes into account the unrecognized, under- utilized and undervalued contribution of women to preventing war, building peace, and working toward social justice.”

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (of which WILPF is a co-founder and member) reviewed the progress in implementing Resolution 1325, identified obstacles and made recommendations for implementation in its report launched in New York on 25 October 2005. The authors note that “it is not enough to assume that peace is women-friendly” but that “peace work for women” - meaning that the structures of everyday life should allow women to be fully engaged in policy and decision making, be free of gender-based violence, and to be included in the very structures that maintain peace. In other words, when hostilities cease, women should experience full participatory rights and not a return to a status quo of exclusion.

“When calling for the inclusion and engagement of women, it is also not enough to simply speak about “women”. We must ask the critical question: Which women? Despite the best intentions of States working to sustain peace, it is not sufficient to merely fill quotas. States must engage women who are also champions of the principles of human rights and democracy. Further still, when brokering peace in times of crisis, States must include not only women who work for human rights and democracy, but also women directly affected by conflict – such as refugees and internally displaced.” (p. viii)

The first part of the report reviews progress of implementing R. 1325 at the United Nations level by the Security Council and various departments system-wide, such as the Department of Peacekeeping.

The Security Council has annual Open Debates around the anniversary of SCR 1325 and has committed to integrating the resolution in all of its daily work, ensuring that mandates for all UN peacekeeping missions and all terms of reference of Security Council missions and visits integrate gender perspectives. (p. 6)

However, according to the NGOWG, the Security Council has been extremely slow in acting on these commitments. Only 39 out of 261 Security Council country-specific and

thematic resolutions include references to gender perspectives or women. The mainstreaming of gender perspectives in Security Council resolutions remains haphazard.

Security Council members have engaged with civil society by holding Round Tables and by meeting with community leaders and humanitarian NGO's on missions to conflict affected countries. Five Arria Formula meetings with civil society representatives have been held prior to the annual Open Debates on women, peace and security.

Several countries have proposed that, both within the Security Council and within governments, there be a monitoring mechanism for SCR 1325 and a working group on women, peace and security in order to fully mainstream provisions of Resolutions 1325.

The most significant gains within the UN system within the last five years are in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) where a permanent Gender Advisory Post has been established at DPKO Headquarters. Each new peacekeeping operation has a gender advisor and a department-wide action plan is in the process of being developed.

The Report of the Secretary General S/2005/636 dated 10 October 2005 presents a Framework for the system-wide action plan to advance the role of women in peace and security. The report states:

“Although it is the first time that the United Nations system has embarked on a planning effort of such breadth and complexity, covering virtually all major areas of action in the field of women and peace and security, the system wide action plan provides a wealth of information on activities being carried out by the United Nations system for women in conflict and post-conflict areas.”

The plan presents strategies and actions with measurable improvement in the contributions of the UN system to the empowerment of women in conflict areas for the period 2005-2007.

The plan identifies some gaps (paragraph 20) which indicate the creation of a monitoring system is needed as recommended by the on Women, Peace and Security.

To return to the NGOWG Five Years On Report –
The second part of the report reviews implementation of SCR 1325 by Member States. To date, there is no fully completed action plan by any Member State.

“National Action plans and initiatives must attend to the broader question of gender mainstreaming in advocating for peace and security. Such initiatives draw not only on women's experiences as a resource in formal peace-building and conflict avoidance, but also use gender as an analytical tool for rethinking key policy initiatives, ideals, goals, and actions. These are the most challenging aspects of efforts to implement Resolution 1325. Nations must, in this regard, ask how an attention to gender refigures peacekeeping and peace-building efforts, rather than assuming that the inclusion of women solves the question a priori. Without such commitments, efforts to broker peace around the world may

ignore – or even further contribute to – inequality, underdevelopment, or continued conflict.” (p. 48)

The NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security makes the following recommendations for implementation at the National Level which may be useful for us to consider in formulating priorities for the CSW:

a) With the support of the United Nations, governments and regional organizations should develop action plans on women, peace and security using the framework of SCR 1325. The action plans should:

- *Be derived from a gender-informed review of domestic and foreign policy.*
- *Be developed in partnership with inter-departmental working groups including civil society.*
- *Contain specific and time-bound activities, targets and monitoring and reporting mechanisms.*
- *Address fully the content of the Resolution itself and also the recommendations contained in the 2002 UN Secretary General’s report Women, Peace and Security and the UNIFEM Independent Experts’ Assessment Report, Women, War and Peace.*

b) Governments and the United Nations must conduct awareness raising campaigns and workshops on SCR 1325. The resolution must be translated into more languages to ensure wide application among local communities. UN Member States should prioritize funding for the translation of 1325 into their relevant national language(s) and public awareness-raising initiatives. The UN Secretariat should allocate funds for the distribution of existing translations with user-friendly information and guides through their field offices and missions.

The Peacewomen project of WILPF initiated a translation campaign for the resolution in 2002, and has now collected 70 different translations and made them available on the peacewomen website: <http://www.peacewomen.org/1325inTranslation/index.html>.

Governments need to prioritize funding for women to do these translations locally, and distribute them locally – this is a key way to support the implementation of the resolution, is relatively quick and easy, and is a way that they can move forward on their national implementation without severely draining their resources.

c) Civil society must mobilize at the local and national level to build awareness of the provisions of SRC 1325, including organizing campaigns, media, educational training and workshops and supporting initiatives to implement national action pans and policy on women, peace, and security.” (Five Years On, p. 102)

Violence Against Women/Women and Armed Conflict/Human Security

Violence Against women is a major area where linkages can be made with the Secretary General's study for 2006 and the work within the Security Council and the UN System regarding SCR 1325. This is an example where the concept of Human Security can be easily incorporated.

Conclusion:

We return to the words of Ambassador Anwareul Chowdhury,

“For the first time in 55 years, it takes into account the unrecognized, under- utilized and undervalued contribution of women to preventing war, building peace, and working toward social justice.”

We must move forward in all the areas of critical concern, work for social justice, for the prevention of war, and build peace with boldness and confidence.

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