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Involving Women in negotiating Peace and Security: UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security

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Author

Mirjam van Reisen
Maimuna Kabatesi

Layout and Design

Filip De Keukeleere

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United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

UNSC Resolution 1325 was adopted unanimously on October 31, 2000. The Resolution was the first formal and legal document from the United Nations Security Council that required parties in a conflict to respect women's rights and to support their participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction.

Such a gender perspective would also include measures that supported local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involved women in all the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements, as well as measures to ensure the human rights of women and girls, particularly as they related to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary.

Article number 8 in UNSC 1325 is especially important from a civil society perspective.

8. Calls on all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia:

- The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction;*
- Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements;*
- Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary.*

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820

UN SC Resolution 1820 on Women and Peace and Security focuses on following up to UNSC Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, with an emphasis on sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. It was passed on June 19th 2008. UnSCR 1820 stresses the need to eliminate all forms of violence against civilians, particularly women and girls in armed conflict situations. In many parts of the world rape and violence are used as instruments of warfare. It is seen as a tactic of war to systematically humiliate, dominate and instil fear in members of a community or an ethnic group in order to more easily dominate them (this means that it is not only applied by warlords but sometimes also by a state, e.g. Burma). These atrocious acts of violence not only affect the health and safety of women and girls, but are also affecting the health and security of the whole community. The breakdown of law and order leaves women and girls much more vulnerable to attacks, with no recourse to justice. Survivors are stigmatised, traumatised and psychologically damaged. Women and girls often become pregnant while many are infected with HIV/AIDS. In fragile post-conflict states, sexual violence against women undermines efforts to cement the peace. It is the most serious violation of human rights and of women's rights in particular. Although this was recognised in a way in the past it was often referred to as 'an unfortunate by-product of war' also known as collateral damage. It is only now, through the adoption of UNSCR 1820 that the international community officially recognises sexual violence as a self-standing security issue linked to reconciliation and durable peace, and offers the Security Council a clear mandate to intervene through sanctions and by empowering field staff.

(Both Security Council Resolutions can be found in the Annexes)

International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security: Outcomes and Goals¹

The purpose of the colloquium held in Monrovia, Liberia, was to create a platform that brought together various international experts from all sectors. This is with the objective of creating a climate for concrete discussions and debates with the aim of having tangible, implementable follow up action plans. The following were the goals discussed:

- 1. To empower women to be more effective leaders by linking them with their peers from around the world and sharing best practices.*

To add credence to this goal, at last year's World Economic Forum held in Cape Town, South Africa, one of the three issues that the Africa Gender Parity Group called for was, a comprehensive overview of the economic policies and programmes that have been effective in narrowing gender gaps in the region's best performing countries and a transfer of these best practices to least performing countries. Governments, private sector and civil society alike have succeeded and thrived on the adoption of best practices. The benefit of the best practice approach is that it does not re-invent the wheel; it minimizes costs and obtains more buy-in through its proven track record. The discussions undertaken at the forum are expected to assist women, particularly those that lack country specific frameworks for women empowerment.

- 2. To support the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325.*

At this colloquium, Liberia launched a United Nations-backed National Action Plan aimed at furthering gender equality, sustainable peace and security. This is a historical achievement given that it is one of the few countries to do so. The action plan draws on UN Security Council resolution 1325 which stresses the importance of equal participation in decisions concerning peace and security; protection of girls and women during conflict situations and involvement of women in peacekeeping operations. This forum was also tasked with the preparation of a colloquium statement from Presidents Johnson-Sirleaf and Halonen to the Security Council calling for stronger accountability mechanisms for 1325 and other measures.

- 3. To contribute to the achievement of MDG 3 on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, including building capacity and resources of government and non-governmental institutions to work for women's rights and economic empowerment.*

Liberia is currently a pilot for determining progress on MDG 3 and actively participated in last year's Millennium Development Goals campaign in September 2008 in New York by co chairing the MDG 3 sessions with Denmark. Other countries in Africa that have made progress on MDG 3 are Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda. Rwanda is credited with the strides that it has made towards equitable female representation within parliament and the changes made in discriminative inheritance laws against women. South Africa adopted the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development in August 2008 and continues to work towards the implementation of the said protocol. Uganda has benefitted from an affirmative action policy to reduce gender imbalances in higher education, governance and politics, resulting in considerable strides towards

¹ ISS. 2009. Today: Liberia, Africa's inspiration on gender equality. Available from <http://www.iss.co.za/pgcontent.php?UID=14928> (accessed 15th June 2010)

gender equity, equality and empowerment. This progress is encouraging and provides an opportunity for cross learning and sharing which can be adopted at a national level.

4. To demonstrate the clear gender dimensions of climate change and environmental protection and sustainable development.

Notwithstanding that challenges still exist on how to fully integrate climate change and gender, environmental issues nonetheless should involve a holistic socio-economic analysis that fully address gender relations. This is to understand the environmental dimensions and ensure that the consequential directives and actions promote gender equality. This may involve understanding the perceptions of women and men on the environment, a sex-disaggregated account of activities performed and their effect on the environment, the uses men and women make of natural resources, such as land and water among other pertinent considerations.

5. To Launch the Angie Brooks International Centre on Women`s Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, in Monrovia to support the implementation of action emerging from the colloquium through, inter alia, training and research.

The Centre will support the implementation of actions emerging from the International Colloquium, through: training to empower current and future women leaders and research, analysis and advocacy on women`s leadership. The centre is being established in honor of the late Angie Brooks, Liberia`s former Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Africa`s first woman President of the United Nations 24th General Assembly, 1969. The challenge is for other countries to be willing participants in this process and aim to adopt and add value to their own respective national processes.²

Perspectives on Zimbabwe - UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820

The following observations have been made in Zimbabwe:

1. There is a strong desire to change the patterns of violence in one of national healing and allowing for a political process, in which the elections will play some role, that steers the country in new directions;
2. It will be crucial to bring women and youth into this process of change, and especially women leaders from the communities outside political elites in Harare, in the country sites in the provinces and districts in Zimbabwe;
3. The women`s movement is not fully engaged in the consultation processes regarding national healing;
4. Women leaders have not been introduced to the UNSCR 1325 and 1820, despite their relevance for the current situation in Zimbabwe especially pertaining to the role of women in preventing conflict, in democratisation and protection of human rights and the extensive problems of sexual violence in conflict situations;
5. Other African countries have gone through similar experiences and that those experiences and positive examples could help inspire and give direction to the process of change in Zimbabwe;

² For a full report on the events, go to http://www.cwwl.org/media/Council%20Meeting%20Liberia%20Final_Report.pdf

6. The need to concretely shape the ground for a different scenario for the elections planned for 2010, and to especially bring women in as main actors for these elections as voters, as leaders (to be elected) and as referees/observers to ensure the election process can be fair.

From the consultations it emerged that there is a strong recommendation that fresh groups need to be brought into the dynamic as a way of changing the direction where those who have been engaged in the political arena are locked into positions. An analogy with the process of spiralling violence in Liberia, ultimately stopped when the women's organising for peace reached such a momentum that it impacted on the election and the election processes, could be made to set an example of how the course of ongoing violence could be transformed.

HEALING

The leadership provided in the area of healing by women from the opposition who made well known personal sacrifices and who are now prepared to give leadership to the process of healing is significant and demonstrates leadership is available to change the course of spiralling violence. It is also significant that Ministers of healing from the three different parties

are working together and there is effort put in such a political direction from all the political sides. A National Healing Organ has been set up to lead this process. The elements most needed are:

1. A strong interest and leadership provided by women's organisations, and
2. Allowing involvement and leadership of new groups especially youth and women at the level of the provinces and the districts;
3. Enhancing the role of the churches and unions in strengthening the involvement at local level where possible;
4. Some understanding of how issues of transitional justice can be taken forwards in the national healing process.

UNSCR 1325 AND 1820

The Ministers of Gender from the different political parties are also cooperating well, allowing for a joint agenda to come forward (for instance a joint recognition of international women's day)', giving an important message of the need for diversity to be respected – especially where these messages can be based on the changes generated through the healing process. With regards to UNSCR 1325 there are concrete gaps to be identified:

1. Learning from earlier similar experiences;
2. Strengthen women leadership in the agendas of peace-building and prevention of violence;
3. Provide leadership and support from Africa outside Zimbabwe;
4. Strengthen the legitimacy of women and youth as peace-builders;
5. Strengthen the resolve of communities in favour of healing and against violence, including sexual violence;
6. Strengthen the resolve of communities to take control over their destiny, by creating space for their participation in ensuring fair elections, create voice for peace by encouraging the use for the opportunity to vote and create opportunity for political change through a different process of elections, by registering

voters, encouraging women to participate as (local) political leaders and as voters, and organise strong mechanisms for local election monitoring.

ELECTIONS

With regards to the preparations of the 2010 elections all resource people identified it is crucial these elections will be set on a different course. The following needs were identified:

1. Learning from approaches for fair elections in other Africa countries;
2. Learning from strategies to create a role for women in voter registration;
3. Encouragement women's participation in elections as local, provincial or national leaders;
4. Engaging women at all levels in election preparations to ensure local control over the outcome of local election results;
5. Creation of space for women as observers;
6. Creation of space for (local) women to access the (local) media.

ANNEXE 1: UNSCR 1325

United Nations

S/RES/1325 (2000)



Security Council

Distr.: General
31 October 2000

Resolution 1325 (2000)

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, on
31 October 2000**

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President, and *recalling also* the statement of its President to the press on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816),

Recalling also the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and *recognizing* the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and *stressing* the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

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S/RES/1325 (2000)

Emphasizing the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls,

Recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and in this regard *noting* the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (S/2000/693),

Recognizing also the importance of the recommendation contained in the statement of its President to the press of 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations,

Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Noting the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. *Urges* Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, and in this regard *calls on* Member States to provide candidates to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster;

4. *Further urges* the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;

5. *Expresses* its willingness to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and *urges* the Secretary-General to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peace-building measures, *invites* Member States to incorporate these elements as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel in preparation for deployment, and *further requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive similar training;

7. *Urges* Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies;

8. *Calls on* all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia:

(a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction;

(b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements;

(c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;

9. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;

10. *Calls on* all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;

11. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard *stresses* the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provisions;

12. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design, and recalls its resolutions 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000;

13. *Encourages* all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependants;

14. *Reaffirms* its readiness, whenever measures are adopted under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, to give consideration to their potential impact on the civilian population, bearing in mind the special needs of women and girls, in order to consider appropriate humanitarian exemptions;

15. *Expresses* its willingness to ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women, including through consultation with local and international women's groups;

16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and *further invites* him to

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submit a report to the Security Council on the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to include in his reporting to the Security Council progress on gender mainstreaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects relating to women and girls;

18. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

ANNEXE 2: UNSCR 1820

United Nations

S/RES/1820 (2008)

**Security Council**Distr.: General
19 June 2008**Resolution 1820 (2008)****Adopted by the Security Council at its 5916th meeting, on
19 June 2008***The Security Council,*

Reaffirming its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), 1612 (2005) and 1674 (2006) and recalling the Statements of its president of 31 October 2001 (Security Council/PRST/2001/31), 31 October 2002 (Security Council/PRST/2002/32), 28 October 2004 (Security Council/PRST/2004/40), 27 October 2005 (Security Council/PRST/2005/52), 8 November 2006 (Security Council/PRST/2006/42), 7 March 2007 (Security Council/PRST/2007/5), and 24 October 2007 (Security Council/PRST/2007/40);

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the resolve expressed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including by ending impunity and by ensuring the protection of civilians, in particular women and girls, during and after armed conflicts, in accordance with the obligations States have undertaken under international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

Recalling the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-first Century” (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning sexual violence and women in situations of armed conflict;

Reaffirming also the obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and *urging* states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them,

Noting that civilians account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict; that women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence, including as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, instil fear in, disperse and/or forcibly relocate civilian members of a community or ethnic group;

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S/RES/1820 (2008)

and that sexual violence perpetrated in this manner may in some instances persist after the cessation of hostilities;

Recalling its condemnation in the strongest terms of all sexual and other forms of violence committed against civilians in armed conflict, in particular women and children;

Reiterating deep concern that, despite its repeated condemnation of violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict, including sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, and despite its calls addressed to all parties to armed conflict for the cessation of such acts with immediate effect, such acts continue to occur, and in some situations have become systematic and widespread, reaching appalling levels of brutality,

Recalling the inclusion of a range of sexual violence offences in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the statutes of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and *stressing* the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Deeply concerned also about the persistent obstacles and challenges to women's participation and full involvement in the prevention and resolution of conflicts as a result of violence, intimidation and discrimination, which erode women's capacity and legitimacy to participate in post-conflict public life, and acknowledging the negative impact this has on durable peace, security and reconciliation, including post-conflict peacebuilding,

Recognizing that States bear primary responsibility to respect and ensure the human rights of their citizens, as well as all individuals within their territory as provided for by relevant international law,

Reaffirming that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of affected civilians,

Welcoming the ongoing coordination of efforts within the United Nations system, marked by the inter-agency initiative "United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict," to create awareness about sexual violence in armed conflicts and post-conflict situations and, ultimately, to put an end to it,

1. *Stresses* that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, *affirms* in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts of sexual violence can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, and *expresses its readiness*, when considering situations on the agenda of the Council, to, where necessary, adopt appropriate steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence;

2. *Demands* the immediate and complete cessation by all parties to armed conflict of all acts of sexual violence against civilians with immediate effect;

3. *Demands* that all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence, which could include, inter alia, enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures and upholding the principle of command responsibility, training troops on the categorical prohibition of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, debunking myths that fuel sexual violence, vetting armed and security forces to take into account past actions of rape and other forms of sexual violence, and evacuation of women and children under imminent threat of sexual violence to safety; and *requests* the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to encourage dialogue to address this issue in the context of broader discussions of conflict resolution between appropriate UN officials and the parties to the conflict, taking into account, inter alia, the views expressed by women of affected local communities;

4. *Notes* that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, *stresses the need for* the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, and *calls upon* Member States to comply with their obligations for prosecuting persons responsible for such acts, to ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, and *stresses* the importance of ending impunity for such acts as part of a comprehensive approach to seeking sustainable peace, justice, truth, and national reconciliation;

5. *Affirms its intention*, when establishing and renewing state-specific sanctions regimes, to take into consideration the appropriateness of targeted and graduated measures against parties to situations of armed conflict who commit rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls in situations of armed conflict;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Security Council, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group and relevant States, as appropriate, to develop and implement appropriate training programs for all peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed by the United Nations in the context of missions as mandated by the Council to help them better prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence and other forms of violence against civilians;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations; and *urges* troop and police contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including pre-deployment and in-theater awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

8. *Encourages* troop and police contributing countries, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to consider steps they could take to heighten awareness and the responsiveness of their personnel participating in UN peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, including women and children, and prevent sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, including wherever possible the deployment of a higher percentage of women peacekeepers or police;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop effective guidelines and strategies to enhance the ability of relevant UN peacekeeping operations, consistent

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with their mandates, to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence and to systematically include in his written reports to the Council on conflict situations his observations concerning the protection of women and girls and recommendations in this regard;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and relevant United Nations agencies, inter alia, through consultation with women and women-led organizations as appropriate, to develop effective mechanisms for providing protection from violence, including in particular sexual violence, to women and girls in and around UN managed refugee and internally displaced persons camps, as well as in all disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration processes, and in justice and security sector reform efforts assisted by the United Nations;

11. *Stresses* the important role the Peacebuilding Commission can play by including in its advice and recommendations for post-conflict peacebuilding strategies, where appropriate, ways to address sexual violence committed during and in the aftermath of armed conflict, and in ensuring consultation and effective representation of women's civil society in its country-specific configurations, as part of its wider approach to gender issues;

12. *Urges* the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys to invite women to participate in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and encourages all parties to such talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels;

13. *Urges* all parties concerned, including Member States, United Nations entities and financial institutions, to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions, in particular of judicial and health systems, and of local civil society networks in order to provide sustainable assistance to victims of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations;

14. *Urges* appropriate regional and sub-regional bodies in particular to consider developing and implementing policies, activities, and advocacy for the benefit of women and girls affected by sexual violence in armed conflict;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council by 30 June 2009 on the implementation of this resolution in the context of situations which are on the agenda of the Council, utilizing information from available United Nations sources, including country teams, peacekeeping operations, and other United Nations personnel, which would include, inter alia, information on situations of armed conflict in which sexual violence has been widely or systematically employed against civilians; analysis of the prevalence and trends of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict; proposals for strategies to minimize the susceptibility of women and girls to such violence; benchmarks for measuring progress in preventing and addressing sexual violence; appropriate input from United Nations implementing partners in the field; information on his plans for facilitating the collection of timely, objective, accurate, and reliable information on the use of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict, including through improved coordination of UN activities on the ground and at Headquarters; and information on actions taken by parties to armed conflict to implement their responsibilities as described in this resolution, in particular by immediately and

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completely ceasing all acts of sexual violence and in taking appropriate measures to protect women and girls from all forms of sexual violence;

16. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

ANNEXE 3:

The Monrovia Declaration A Call to Action from the participants of the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security Monrovia, Liberia International Women's Day, March 8, 2009

We, who came together for the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, have joined together under the inspiring leadership of the co-conveners, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, and H.E. Tarja Halonen, President of the Republic of Finland, to celebrate and draw strength from women's leadership at all levels.

We recall the spirit of women's conferences, started in Mexico City and continuing through Copenhagen, Nairobi, and Beijing, and other African regional and global gatherings, and the reaffirmation of women's rights exemplified in the Beijing Platform of Action, African regional instruments and CEDAW. We honor the great strides women have made since then to achieve leadership positions in international arenas and close to home.

We note that women in the 21st century hold high-level positions and at the same time do extraordinary work at the community level. We came together as leaders celebrating our achievements, solidifying our commitment to work together for change, reassessing our efforts, and strategizing to achieve greater success.

We stand in solidarity with our sisters in Darfur, Zimbabwe, and conflict areas around the world. We commit our energies to accelerating the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The aspirations we hold as women and men coming together in Monrovia are not satisfied by the policies and practices we see all around us.

We therefore shaped the Colloquium around thematic priorities that, if acted upon, would make a fundamental and sustained improvement in the lives of women and girls and their communities.

Having convened this historic event, we now make a collective call for profound changes in the priorities that shape policies and resource allocations from the global to the local level, and demand accountability from the institutions and individuals who must effect these changes.

We recognize that we are living through multiple global crises that are threatening our security at all levels and have a devastating impact on the lives of girls and women all over the world. What is now required is a paradigm shift in our approach to global security and development that puts women at the center of social and economic policies and political change.

It has been demonstrated that women are particularly vulnerable to reductions in exports, foreign direct investment and remittances. As countries put in place their economic stimulus packages for development, we call on governments to target women's economic empowerment. Specifically, we urge leaders of the G20 countries who will be meeting in London on 2 April 2009 to agree on coordinated action aimed at reviving the global economy to:

- Earmark funds for women in all responses to the financial crisis including recovery and stimulus packages; and

- Ensure appropriate delivery mechanisms are in place and functioning to channel trade financing to women.

We call for full implementation of **UN Security Council Resolution 1325** for the protection, participation and promotion of women's rights and their involvement in peace processes, and the adoption of **UN Security Council Resolution 1820** that addresses sexual violence as a tactic of war.

We call for greater accountability and an end to impunity – only this will accelerate implementation by all stakeholders, principally the UN Member States, the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General. We call on them to present their plans of action and accomplishments at the 2010 Ministerial Review Conference of UNSCR 1325.

We further encourage countries to collaborate creatively and support each other on the development and implementation of National Action Plans on SCR 1325.

We commit to honor **women's leadership** at all levels of community and public life, and through our actions and decisions to enable women leaders, in particular young women, to take up roles of leadership and responsibility.

We call for greater numbers of women in positions of leadership – we have witnessed that more women results in better decision-making by governments and communities.

It has been demonstrated that the discourse changes with their involvement, and we want to see these changes sustained. In this context, we support initiatives to increase women's representation in the European Union to 50 percent of decision-makers. Liberia and Finland, the co-conveners of the Colloquium, exemplify women's supportive leadership.

We call for greater efforts to enable and **empower women to participate fully and on fair terms in the economic life** of their communities, removing barriers and increasing their capacity in trade and business activity from the local to the global level.

Women need better access to information and to improvements in infrastructure and services, particularly for women with disabilities, as well as social protection systems, especially in times of economic crisis and recession.

Women and men deserve the right to **decent work** opportunities in the formal and informal economy. Women's rights must be respected in the workplace and within value chains, in companies of all sizes, and no matter how far across the world they reach.

We commit to ensure that women will be present, and their voices heard, in all debates concerning **climate change**, with a particular commitment to women's participation in the global climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009.

We call for far greater urgency in addressing the mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change – otherwise we risk undermining all our efforts to date on eradicating poverty and suffering.

An acknowledgement of women's roles as powerful agents of change, and their greater vulnerability to climate change impacts in many societies, must be demonstrated through women's greater role in climate change negotiations and incorporation of gender 3

considerations in the new agreement, as well as in international, national, and local strategies and programmes implementing this agreement.

To better protect women and girls who are displaced, to uphold the dignity of

migrants, and to enhance the social and economic integration of migrant women and men alike, we call for a gender equality approach to migration management.

Policies and programs must integrate the needs of migrant women and support migrant women in diaspora communities to engage in development efforts through their skills, knowledge, and financial resources.

The leadership of **young people**, and especially young women, is critical to advancing development, peace and security. The participation of young people is a prerequisite to the development of communities and nations. Young people are the inheritors of decisions made today which affect the future. We commit to the inclusion of young women and young men in decision-making processes and leadership and in all processes that work towards the achievement of the MDGs.

We therefore call for:

- Urgent investment to support young women and young men in the achievement of the MDGs including women's sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The creation of supportive spaces which enable the leadership development of young women.

We further commit to unite and mobilize our collective leadership to end violence against women and especially young women.

We call for safe environments for women and girls who have experienced violence and abuse. We commit to work collaboratively with women's organizations and networks.

Lastly, through the launch of the **Angie Brooks International Center on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security** on 8 March 2009, the Colloquium has put in place a mechanism of follow-up action to the Colloquium.

We thank participants for the recommendations that came out of the thematic discussions and working groups which will be passed to the Angie Brooks International Center for implementation.

We call on potential collaborators and institutions to partner with us in the programs and activities of the Center.

If these calls are met with action, not empty promises, the future will be brighter for every girl, every woman, every grandmother, and for the men who share their aspirations and their life journeys.