



Europe External Policy Advisors

Briefing Paper 6
November 2007

**International Colloquium on Women's
Empowerment, Leadership Development,
International Peace and Security**

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

Subject:

Preparatory meeting convened by the European Vice Chair

Date:

6 November 2007, 12:00 – 14:00

Chair:

- Elisabeth Rehn, Minister of State, Finland

Host:

- Mr Eikka Kosonen, Ambassador, Finland

Participants:

- Mrs Vabah Gayflor, Minister of Gender, Liberia
- Mrs Luisa Morgantini, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Italy
- H.E. Mrs Marie Gosset, Ambassador of Ivory Coast, Ivory Coast
- H.E. Mrs Sedia Bangoura, Ambassador of Liberia to Germany, Liberia
- Mrs Pascale Baeriswyl, Councillor, Swiss Mission, Switzerland
- Mrs Simone Susskind, Vice-Chair, Intl Women's Commission for the Middle East, Belgium
- Mrs Myrtle Tolbert Dennis, Liberia
- Mr Jack van Ham, General Director ICCO and chair of APRODEV
- Mrs Mirjam Van Reisen, Director of EEPA, Netherlands
- Mrs Gitti Hentschel, Executive Director of Gunda Werner Institute for Feminism and Gender Democracy, and representative of the German Women's Security Council
- Mrs. Mary Juah Jenkins, Councillor, Embassy of Liberia, Brussels

Apologies:

- Mrs Sabine de Bethune, Senator, Belgium
- Mrs Sylvia Borren, General Director, NOVIB and vice-chair of GCAP
- H.E. Mrs Youngor Telewoda, Ambassador, Liberia

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Ambassador Kosonen *welcomed* participants.

Mrs Rehn *thanked* Ambassador Kosonen for the hospitality. Mrs Rehn *greeted* participants and *introduced* the purpose of the meeting as the European preparation for the Colloquiem on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace & Security.

The meeting will be *convened* by H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, President of Liberia, and H.E. Tarja Halonen, President of Finland in concert with Pan African Parliamentarians.

The International colloquiem will be held in Monrovia, Liberia, in February 2009. It will focus on:

- Training of girls and women on empowerment and leadership
- Operational follow up with the chair for peace and security in the University of Monrovia in the Kofi Anan Institute

Minister of Gender from Liberia, Mrs Vabah Gayflor, *briefed* the meeting on the preparations from Monrovia.

A preparatory work-meeting will be held 14 – 15 January 2008 in Monrovia. This meeting will also concern itself with the preparations of implementation to the International Colloquiem in February 2009.

The February 2008 meeting will have a focus on the Millennium Development Goals and will include leadership training workshops for women in governance.

The meeting received a number of documents:

- International Colloquiem on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security by H.E. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf and H.E. Halonen, President of Finland, overview document
- Focus of Programme for January 2008 in Monrovia, Liberia, Under the Phased Implementation of the International Colloquiem on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, co-sponsored by presidents of Liberia, and Finland
- The Angie Books Chair of Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security – the mechanism to be established for the follow up.

The outcome of the colloquiem should be action oriented and operational with a mechanism established for the follow up and monitoring of the implementation through the Angie Brooks Chair.

Mrs Vabah Gayflor invited the European group to actively engage with the preparations of the colloquiem.

The Minister further briefed the meeting on the interest to engage with the preparations, including by Former Irish President, Mary Robinson, as well as US Secretary of State, Mrs. Condoleezza Rice, and US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton.

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Mrs Gayflor further briefed participants on contacts made with Chancellor Angela Merkel and a study carried out in Germany on women in global governance. Also contacts had been made by the Ambassador of Liberia in Germany with Parliamentarians, across all political parties, and with strong interest identified.

Mrs Luisa Morgantini, Vice-President of the European Parliament, warmly *welcomed* the initiative. Mrs Morgantini is in charge of the portfolios related to EU – Africa relations as well as gender equality. Mrs Morgantini offered the co-operation of the European Parliament in this endeavor. Mrs Morgantini further suggested she would be available to participate in the International Colloquiem as well as in the preparatory work meeting to be held in January 2008.

Mrs. Rehn *briefed* participants on her meetings with the European Commission's head of cabinets of the Commissioners Wallström, Ferrero-Waldner and Michel. Head of Cabinet of Mr Michel's office, Mrs Sabine Weyand, had expressed interest.

Mrs Rehn *informed* the meeting of Mrs Weyand's suggestion to relate the colloquiem to the EU-Africa Summit. Mrs. Rehn received a copy of the draft text to be adopted, to see where possible links could be made. Mrs Rehn informed the meeting that Mrs. Weyand emphasised the desire that the colloquiem be brought in the context of international discussions on good governance and peace and security. Mrs Rehn informed the meeting that Mrs Weyand had expressed interest that the European Commission attend the work-meeting in January 2008.

Mrs Rehn also briefed participants on her meeting with Belgium **Senator Sabine de Bethune**, who had expressed interest in the colloquiem. Mrs de Bethune is strongly engaged with the international work on implementing SCR 1325.

Mr. Jack van Ham, Director of ICCO and co-convenor of the 1325 Conference which brought the participants together, *expressed his interest* in the initiative. He asked whether the colloquiem would provide space for civil society participation. He specifically stated his interest to participate in the preparatory meeting in January 2008.

Mrs Gayflor *strongly emphasised* the importance of civil society organisations being actively involved with the colloquiem. She stressed civil society organisations were part of the preparatory committee in Liberia and that civil society organisations were encouraged to participate in the European preparatory group of the colloquiem.

Mrs Pascale Baeriswyl, Councillor in the Swiss Mission *welcomed* the initiative and *expressed interest to follow up* with the Swiss Government – especially in the context of the network of Women Ministers.

Mrs Rehn *informed* Mrs Baeriswyl of the contacts had with the International Trade Council (ITC) based in Geneva, already engaged with the colloquiem.

Mrs. Süsskind, strongly engaged in the International Women's Commission, *expressed her keen* interest in the initiative. Mrs Süsskind suggested to involve Iceland in the colloquiem, as the first ever democratically elected President was appointed in Iceland. Iceland was also very much interested in follow up of UNSCR 1325.

H.E. Mrs Marie Gosset, Ambassador of Ivory Coast *informed* participants of her government's interest in the colloquiem, which was seen as very important to mark the positive developments in Africa – with the first Women president democratically elected in Liberia. The ambassador stated this provided a strong

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role model for girls and young women in Africa and throughout the world.

Ambassador Gosset *expressed concern* that the EU – Africa summit was not sufficiently strong on identifying the role of women in peace and security, especially in the heads of state meeting and asked how this aspect could be strengthened.

Mrs Rehn *thanked* all participants for their support, and *emphasised* it was important that the European institutions would be engaged with the project. Mrs Rehn also suggested that the European Presidencies should be engaged with the colloquiem. Mrs Rehn assured participants that follow up would be provided.

Ambassador Kosonen *thanked* participants and *closed* the meeting.

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