

**STATEMENT OF THE WOMEN IN PEACE BUILDING
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION CAUCUS
PRESENTED AT THE 52ND SESSION OF
THE UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN;
FEBRUARY 29, 2008; UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK, USA**

Excellencies and dear colleagues,

My name is Mavic Cabrera-Balleza from the International Women's Tribune Centre and I am speaking on behalf of the Women in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Caucus, a coalition of NGOs lobbying on the review theme at the 52nd CSW session.

In this discussion on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, we wish to stress the critical importance of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which calls for the inclusion of a gender perspective in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building, taking equal consideration of women and girls in all their multiple identities. We call upon state parties to reaffirm Article 9 of Resolution 1325, which places the work on women, peace and security within the context of existing human rights conventions.

Since the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000, many countries have made efforts to implement SCR 1325. However, to date, very few countries have adopted National Action Plans. We express concern that the majority of these National Action Plans fail to include gender budgeting, identifiable benchmarks and/or timelines for the implementation of SCR 1325. We call upon Governments, relevant UN agencies and other intergovernmental bodies to provide adequate and sustainable funding for women's equal and fair participation in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes.

We urge Member States to increase their financial support for the full implementation of Resolution 1325;

Recalling the Agreed Conclusions of the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, we propose an increase of or a re-direction of resources available nationally and internationally for the prevention of conflict and women's participation in the elaboration and implementation of strategies for preventing conflict;

We support the call for the establishment of a strong gender entity in the UN system as this will enhance our advocacy for the full implementation of resolution 1325;

We strongly support the creation, as recommended by the Secretary General, of a dedicated and transparent Security Council mechanism to more effectively monitor

women's equal participation in peace building and conflict prevention;

We assert that any programme on financing for gender equality and women's empowerment will only be successful if carried out under an environment where all stakeholders are working collectively towards the attainment of social justice, sustainable peace and respect for human rights.

As we mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is our sincere hope that these recommendations will be reflected in the Agreed Conclusions of this 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Thank you for your attention.

The Women in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Caucus is composed of the following organizations:

Association des Guides du Burundi
Association des Femmes de l'Europe Méridionale
Beyond Beijing Committee (Nepal)
Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Coordination française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes
Femmes Africa Solidarité
First Steps Women's Center Northern Ireland
FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development
Hague Appeal for Peace
Himalayan Human Rights Monitors
International Sociological Association
International Women's Tribune Centre
Isis International Manila
Isis-WICCE
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice
Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
Peace Boat US
Rozaria Memorial Trust (Zimbabwe)
Sri Lanka Women's NGO Forum
The Spanish Society for the Advancement of International Human Rights Law
Widows for Peace through Democracy
Women and Media Collective Sri Lanka
Women for Justice in Africa
Women into Politics [Northern Ireland]
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC)-Women's International Network
World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
World YWCA
3HO Foundation

