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Commission on the Status of Women
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Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building

Draft Agreed Conclusions – Submitted by the Bureau of CSW

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recalls and reiterates the strategic objectives and actions of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹, the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”², and its agreed conclusions on women and armed conflict adopted at its forty-second session in 1998³. It also recalls Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and welcomes the study of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security.
2. Sustainable and durable peace requires the full and equal participation of women and the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building. Yet women continue to be under-represented in processes, institutions and mechanisms dealing with these areas. Further efforts are therefore needed to promote gender equality and ensure women's equal participation.
3. Peace agreements provide a window of opportunity for the promotion of gender equality and the participation of women. Significant opportunities for women's participation arise in the preparatory phase leading up to a peace agreement. The content of a peace agreement likewise offers significant scope for ensuring that the rights, concerns and priorities of women are fully addressed. Finally, once a peace agreement has been concluded, its implementation should be pursued with explicit attention to women's equal participation and the goal of gender equality.
4. Women's full and equal participation and the integration of gender perspectives are key to democratic electoral processes in post-conflict situations. A gender-sensitive constitutional and legal framework, especially electoral laws and regulations, is necessary to ensure that women can fully participate in such processes. Political parties can play a crucial role in promoting women's equal participation. Steps are also necessary to ensure that women participate fully in the design and implementation of voter and civic education programmes, and in election administration and observation.

¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

² General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

³ E/1998/27

5. A diverse range of actors have responsibility for enhancing attention to gender equality and ensuring women's full participation in peace processes and in post-conflict elections, such as concerned Governments, the United Nations Security Council, civilian and military actors from the parties to the conflict, regional and subregional organizations, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, mediators such as special envoys and special representatives, political parties, United Nations entities, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian organizations, and multilateral donor and funding entities.

6. In regard to peace processes

The Commission on the Status of Women calls on all relevant actors

- a. to fully address the gender dimensions, and guarantee women's effective participation as actors in the peace negotiation phase;
- b. to ensure that peace agreements cover the full range of legal, political, physical, social and economic security aspects from a gender perspective and also pay attention to women's specific needs and priorities;
- c. to ensure, in the implementation phase of a peace agreement, that all provisions concerning gender equality and the participation of women are fully complied with.

In this regard, the Commission takes note of the report of the Secretary-General⁴ and invites all actors to systematically refer to the recommendations for action in all their efforts aimed at building and maintaining peace.

7. In regard to post-conflict elections

The Commission on the Status of Women calls on all relevant actors

- a. to introduce gender perspectives and make a commitment to gender parity at an early stage of the electoral process;
- b. to explore all options for elections such as open lists, proportional representation or quotas, and adopt those options which best suit a given post-conflict country striving to achieve gender parity;
- c. to ensure equal representation of women in bodies administering the elections and as election monitors and observers;
- d. to provide incentives to political parties to involve women fully and equally in all aspects of the parties' operations, and require that their statutes address the question of gender equality as a condition for registration of political parties;
- e. to ensure equal access for women to voter and civic education, provide women candidates with full support, training and financial resources, and eliminate discriminatory practices hampering women's participation either as voters or candidates.

8. The Commission on the Status of Women requests the Secretary-General to disseminate these agreed conclusions widely.

⁴ E/CN.6/2004/10