

Independent Expert Paper ¹

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Women and Peacebuilding

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Introduction

At the 2005 World Summit, world leaders reaffirmed the important role of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. They called for the full and effective implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security and, for the first time, accepted the inter-linkages across development, peace and security and human rights. This new resolve for integrated approaches to peacebuilding became a core rationale for the creation of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). In making gender equality the PBC's only thematic mandate, a new doctrinal imperative was created for ensuring systematic attention and resources

- 3) Ensuring that national priorities for recovery – political, social and economic – redress inequalities of the past and positively influence gender relations and contribute to gender equality.

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survivors of sexual violence in the context of reparation programme is not addressed in the Framework, but is high among women's priorities. As a contribution to restoring civic trust, the PBC should use its influence to ensure transparency, consultation and gender expertise in the design and implementation of transitional justice and reparations programmes. In this regard, the Women's National Consultation recommended specialized physical and psycho-social and economic support for survivors of sexual violence, including immediate access to fistula surgery, testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

- (d) Although Sierra Leone's life expectancy at birth is 41, the government of Sierra Leone and the Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework define youth to be between the ages of 15-35. This recognizes that those who are currently 35 would have been 18 when the conflict commenced, while those who are 15 would have been 2 years old. Effective youth empowerment and employment strategies will clearly need to respond to different needs across the development cycle and the very different impacts that the conflict had on boys and girls. In this regard, the Women's Consultation drew attention to the needs of children born of rape and recommended the creation of safe houses for young women survivors of SGBV and training for female counselors to support them.

knowledge needs, programme gaps and political challenges on peacebuilding which require a concerted and multi-sectoral approach.

One of the major impediments to actualizing the work of the PBC on gender is the inadequacy within the UN's own gender architecture. In his 2007 report to the Security Council on Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security (S/2007/567), the UN Secretary General identified numerous challenges faced by the United Nations system in the area of women and peace and security, including "incoherence, inadequate funding of gender-related projects, fragmentation and insufficient institutional capacity for oversight and accountability for system performance as well as low capacity for gender mainstreaming". He further pointed out that these challenges "contribute to the gap between implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) at the country level and the global, regional and national commitments on gender equality in peace

