

**Peacebuilding Commission
Working Group on Lessons Learned**

**Enhancing gender-responsive national reconciliation processes
11 December 2013**

Chair's Summary

I. Introduction

1. On 11 December 2013, the Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) of the Peacebuilding Commission convened a meeting under the chairmanship of the new Permanent Representative of Japan, Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa. The WGLL addressed the issue of national reconciliation processes from the perspective of women's participation. The discussion took place in light of the following recent developments: (a) the Peacebuilding Commission's declarati

experience of conflict is ignored and their perspectives are not usually accommodated in building future economic, political and social institutions.

5. Ms. Menon stressed that enhancing women's roles in reconciliation processes is not just about increasing the number of women present, as gender relations affect women's capacities to voice their views and participate constructively. UN Women has engaged in substantive efforts in Yemen, supporting women to take part in national dialogue and providing specific technical support and advice. In Liberia, UN Women has assisted in establishing over 20 Peace Huts in remote communities, supporting a transformative approach to reconciliation processes.
6. Ms. Menon underlined the following five principles to inform policy and practice on gender responsive national reconciliation:
 - Context matters: different strategies across different areas are required;
 - Efforts must address the backlog of gender inequality and women's exclusion;
 - Timing matters: women must be consulted in the design of reconciliation processes, from the earliest stages of the process;
 - Funding matters: donor funding to facilitate women's full engagement is only a fraction of the total funding for peacebuilding;
 - Any approach must be transformative: reconciliation processes should seek to change the status quo and engage women as the leaders of peace.

healing and redressing the societies that have suffered from rape, sexual violence and mutilation which were used as weapons of war. Ms. King noted the impressive activism by women on the quest for an inclusive and equal society, which made them willing drivers and beneficiaries of reconciliati

15. In addition, members as well as responding panelists, focused their interventions on the following themes:

- **Capacity Building and Special Measures:**