

Women Count for Peace: Global Event on the Open Days for Women, Peace & Security

United Nations, Conference Room 6 (NLTB), New York

21 October 2010

A joint event by UN DPA | UN DPKO | UNDP | UN Women

Context:

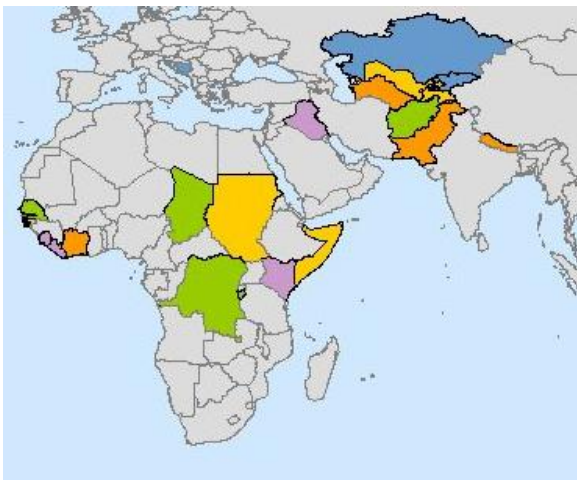
In recognition of the 10th Anniversary of SCr 1325, DPKO, DPA, UNDP and UN Women are hosting a Global Open Day for Women and Peace. The Global Open Day will celebrate, draw attention to, and report on the national Open Days held from June-September 2010. The 2.5 hour event will feature three of the women from conflict-affected countries, alongside high level UN officials responsible for addressing the issues that the women raise. The Report, ‘Women Count for Peace: The 2010 Open Days on Women, Peace and Security,’ analyzes the issues, and reports on the national Open Days, and will be presented at this event.

From June to September 2010, SRSGs (ERSGs and senior UN leadership) opened their doors to consult with women peace leaders and activists during 27 Open Day events. These consultations aimed to increase women’s participation, and the representation of women’s concerns, in contemporary processes of conflict resolution, peace negotiations and peace building.

In October, the Security Council will be receiving 4 inputs on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, each a building block of institutional change at the UN, as requested by Security Council resolution 1889 (2009):

1. **OP 4:** the Secretary General must develop a strategy for increasing numbers of women mediators and negotiators and other leaders in peace making
2. **OP 17:** “a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000)”
3. **OP 18:** “an assessment of the processes by which the Security Council receives, analyses and takes action on information pertinent to resolution 1325 (2000), recommendations on further measures to improve coordination across the United Nations system, and with Member States and civil society to deliver implementation”
4. **OP 19:** Secretary General’s Report on Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding

The key recommendations and messages noted in each above the above inputs are in line with the issues women raised in their national Open Days.



27 Open Day events were held, which include 18 of 31 situations on the Council’s agenda; 21 of 27 Peacekeeping and Political Missions

More than **1,500 women** have met with SRSGs/ERSGs/RCs on issues of peace and security through these Open Days

3 Key Message Areas:

- ✓ Women’s participation in decision-making at all level
- ✓ Access to justice, protection and security
- ✓ Economic Recovery

4 Cross-Cutting themes:

- ✓ Sexual & Gender-based Violence
- ✓ The need for data, monitoring and evaluation
- ✓ Access to timely information
- ✓ Increase in dedicated resource allocation to WPS

Aim of the Global Open Day

The Report of the Open Day will summarize the messages brought forward by women at the national Open Days, and the commitments made by SRSGs and other senior UN officials. The Report draws attention to women's concerns in conflict-affected countries, underlining the urgency and importance of the women, peace and security agenda.

Thematic areas: 3 areas of demands resonate across the 27 Open Days that have been held. Broadly, they are:

- ✓ **Participation:** Increased political empowerment for women and engagement at all levels of decision-making
- ✓ **Justice, Protection and Security:** A more effective and credible justice and security environment for women during and after conflict
- ✓ **Economic Resources and Support:** Allocation of greater and more-sustainable financial resources to support women in recovery processes

The Open Days on Women, Peace and Security demonstrate one means of ensuring that women's concerns are expressed directly to the UN's leadership. The two main recommendations emerging from these meetings are:

- ✓ That they be held again, not on an ad hoc basis, but as a regular, scheduled practice of UN mission organization.
- ✓ An annual review of the Open Day would be desirable, to allow for follow up on the implementation of commitments made by all stakeholders including senior UN leadership.

In short, the forums highlighted the need for UN in-country leaders and women peace leaders to build partnerships to advance the mutual goal of bringing sustainable, inclusive peace.

The Global Open Day will allow senior Security Council members, Member States and senior UN Officials to hear directly from conflict-affected women about their priorities for peace. The event will spotlight and promote the women, peace and security agenda, on the 10th anniversary of the landmark resolution, 1325.

Sessions

Session Organization: The session will have 4 respondents from senior UN leadership. Participants from civil society will each be given 10 minutes to present the issue and a personal testimony of their entrepreneurship in making women count in peacemaking and peacebuilding. The panelists have been selected from a shortlist of potential speakers who are considered heroic agents of change/thought leaders in their countries/communities, which have experienced conflict. Through their messages the women will provide:

- ✓ A personal testimony
- ✓ Focus on success stories/achievements where possible to support their asks (for example provide constructive interventions where women's participation has resulted in better outcomes; or where gender-sensitive programs have made a tangible difference for long-term peace and stability, and women's roles in society)
- ✓ Highlight specific gaps that need to be addressed and link to the 4 inputs the Council will be receiving

The session will also have an independent moderator who can highlight common themes, and facilitate the panels.