

## **Open Letter Calling for the Adoption of the SCR 1325 and 1820 NAP in Burundi**

To Honourable, Madam the Minister of National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender

Subject: Adoption by the Government of Burundi of the National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security of the United Nations Security Council

Honourable Madam the Minister,

We, participants in the workshops on the reflection on the integration of UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security in the Communal Plans of Community Development, held from 6 to 8 December 2010 at «Star light Residence» in Bujumbura and from 9 to 11 December at «Procure d'Accueil» in Ngozi, organised by Women Peacemakers Program/Burundi and Fontaine- Isoko for Good Governance and Integrated Development and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders based in New York, have the pleasure to bring to your attention what follows:

1. We have understood that UNSCR1325 is summed up in the following three pillars:
  - The Prevention of conflicts and violence against women and girls;
  - The Protection of girls' and women's rights;
  - Effective Participation of women in the prevention and management of conflicts as well as the decision making process at all levels.
2. We acknowledge that women suffer from violence based on gender more than men do and that the adoption of the National Action Plan on the Resolution 1325 of United Nations security Council on women, peace and security would bring in an added value in building a society worthy for all;
3. We congratulate the Ministry in charge of human rights and gender for what has already been realised, especially the elaboration of an Action Plan which was the result of a synergy of action between the Government and Women's Organisations, as well as the creation of a Piloting Committee for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, presided by the Ministry under your supervision and including all participants;
4. By way of international experts who facilitated exchanges through these workshops, we learned that Burundi is listed among pioneer countries that launched the process of implementation of UNSCR 1325 but that unfortunately it is being passed by other African countries as Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and soon the Democratic Republic of Congo;

5. Making up for the delay is very urgent. In fact, as long as the project document of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 will not be analysed in the council of ministers for a formal adoption by the government, Burundi will always be considered as not having an Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the entente of Nations and consequently, it deprives itself of cooperation with partners of development which was promising;
6. We also learnt that during the «Open Day» on UNSCR1325, organised in Burundi on December 11, 2010, Burundian women and men strongly recommended in the presence of a Representative of the UN Secretary General in Burundi the setting up of a Basket Fund which would facilitate women's economy recover in the framework of post-conflict reconstruction;
7. Thus, the official adoption on UNSCR 1325 certainly constitutes ways and means for mobilising, gathering and diversifying funds for a socio-economic development;
8. From our point of view, as communal elect and local actors, the adoption by the Government of the National Plan on UNSCR 1325 will widely contribute to financing certain headings of Communal Plans for the Community Development and aiming at the women empowerment and the economic recover of communities;

Taking into account the preceding, we believe that the Ministry under your responsibility has a crucial role in bringing forward the Project to the council of the ministries. Hereby, we would request your personal involvement, so that the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security can be officially adopted by the Government in reasonable time.

We count on your comprehension and determination for integrating gender in policies and programs in different sectors of the national life.

Ngozi, Burundi; December 11, 2010