

Peacebuilding Commission
Working Group on Lessons Learned

Enhancing Gender Responsive Reconciliation Processes

Initial Findings

Introduction

On 11 December

considerable barriers to participating in reconciliation processes. Technical support, advice, capacity building and special measures should be employed as appropriate to rectify the situation of discrimination and abuse. (e.g. outreach programmes, quota systems, procedures for protecting the security and dignity of victims and witnesses, measures to compensate for time constraints and lack of experience, knowledge and mobility, and the provision of identity documents, etc.)

Promoting women's engagement in peacebuilding requires resources, but currently only a fraction of the total funding goes to them.

The transformative potential of reparations goes beyond transitional justice. Resources provided through reparations programmes can also contribute to economic security and increase contribution of women to recovery efforts.

Activism by women on a quest for an inclusive and equal society should not be underestimated. Women often cross party, ethnic, and religious lines and advance the interests and concerns of other marginalized groups to improve the outcome for all.

An inclusive process is more likely to address the root causes of conflict as it increases the legitimacy and the collective local ownership of the reconciliation process.

Women's civil society organizations should be given ample opportunity to receive timely information and support for participating in reconciliation processes.

It is critically important to have the strong commitment and leadership of the national government, especially in the context of transformation of social relations.

There are areas needing further lessons learning exercises, such as applicability of certain special measures to different contexts, and the use of different forms of media as tools for national reconciliation so as to support change in attitudes, help modify perceptions of "others" and facilitate reconciliation between divided groups.

Promoting implementation in the work of the PBC

In the meeting, the Chair believes there was a general consensus by participants that the PBC has an important role to play in support of national efforts for gender responsive reconciliation processes in the following areas:

- i) disseminating lessons learned
- ii) sustaining long term engagement by the international community
- iii) mobilizing adequate funding from different sources
- iv) forging coherence and consensus among various actors.

As country specific configurations are the major platform for a coordinated approach to gender related issues in peacebuilding, the Chair considers that there is a need for systematically addressing gender and reconciliation issues and developing common standards/practices to be applied across country configurations. The following are some operational suggestions from the Chair which could inform the gender support strategy of the Commission to be developed. The Chair proposes that the Commission take further action for elaborating a gender support strategy as well as for promoting implementation, taking into

account the findings of