

Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on Lessons Learned
Wednesday, 11 December 2013, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Enhancing gender responsive national reconciliation processes

Concept Note

I. Introduction

The Peacebuilding Commission's Working Group on Lessons Learned (WGLL) will convene a meeting on 11 December 2013 to address the issue of national reconciliation processes from the perspective of women's participation. The discussion will take place in light of the following recent developments: (a) the Peacebuilding Commission's declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding of 26 September 2013 and (b) Security Council Resolution 2122 which addresses the need to respond to the full range of violations that women experience during conflict and acknowledges the reconciliation processes.

2. Share lessons learned and good practices from national experiences on enhancing gender responsive national reconciliation processes.
3. Propose recommendations grounded in national experiences to inform the development of a gender responsive guidelines for the Commission.

III. Key questions for discussion

What are the good practices on developing and implementing gender inclusive reconciliation processes?
What are the main challenges to women's full participation in reconciliation processes and how they addressed from the start?
How can the Peacebuilding Commission integrate a gender inclusive approach to reconciliation to its

IV. Format: Panel Discussion

ensure that post conflict institutional arrangements for governance, land reform, economic recovery, security sector reform and justice respect

ensured that three of the seven Commissioners were women, one of whom had direct experience in tackling issues of gender based violence during armed conflict. The Sierra Leone TRC consulted local and international women's activists early and often and formulated special rules of procedure that were designed to address the particular needs of female witnesses. Special hearings were held for women, and these had considerable success in addressing the issue of sexual violence. Additionally, the Commission provided food, transport, water and medical assistance where necessary to facilitate women's participation in Commission hearings.³

There is a concern however that reconciliation can substitute for accountability measures, to the point of providing amnesty for serious crimes. In his most recent report on Women, Peace and Security, the Secretary General referred to: "a trend in recent years towards the use of reconciliation or dialogue commissions in conflict affected states. While these bodies have a critical role to play in post conflict

lks where their daily demonstrations and dialogues with negotiating parties accelerated the final greement.

apacity building on mediation and post conflict priority setting, which was in ~~the~~ here providing