



ECOSOC Special Policy Dialogue:

June 30, 2010

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It is an honor, a privilege, and a pleasure to be here today to speak with you about the role of women post-conflict. It is extremely heartening to see the high-level attention being focused on the need to better involve women and address their needs post-conflict. The statistics indicating how rarely women are included in decision-making around development and the seeming

3. Evidence That Involving Women

B. Women help rehabilitate the image of government

Increasing the presence of women in governance can also help rebuild citizen faith in government. Women are a minority of combatants; they are less tainted by conflict during reconstruction.

gaps, outline critical strategies for bridging those gaps, and provide important recommendation for action.
for the post-conflict development process.

programs and operations

the status of women. Women in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Colombia, Guatemala, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Rwanda, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Uganda all see myriad culturally-appropriate ways to elevate their status and address their needs. The best way to ensure that programs are locally-appropriate is to design them in partnership with local women and men.

4. Bridge the Gap Between Policies and Guidelines and Implementation

Action is critical to progress. Whether commitments to act relate to fulfilling Security Council resolutions or to applying and enforcing local laws, implementation is critical. Too often, well-meaning legal declarations do not translate into concrete change. Implementation must be driven by specific programs and initiatives; broad outreach and public education; commitments of financial and human resources; and enforcement through court systems and the security sector. Without a comprehensive push, true transformation cannot and will not occur.

VI Conclusion

-conflict period offers a critical window of opportunity to pursue change. That is absolutely true. There are myriad examples of where

societies. Q

rights have been passed. Simultaneously, increased flows of assistance have been used to try to address some of the specific needs of women. We must seize the post-conflict window of opportunity to address problems that undermine the health of recovering societies.

-conflict development is not fundamentally about women. Rather, it is about how to create a framework for development and post-conflict reconstruction that fully draws on all of the resources within a society. If we do that, the likelihood of success increases dramatically.

participation in the post-conflict reconstruction process is one key to successful development and conflict resolution. I look forward to a spirited conversation.

Thank you.