

anything else, operational tools and practices. The systematic

if we do not know how much money is going to support gender programming we will not have the resources needed. A new gender marker in the international Consolidated Appeals Process is the first effort to follow where the money goes and tell us how we allocate resources.

Importantly, the use of resources must be grassroots oriented and operational and advocacy more focussed. Many of the good advocates for women's rights have in recent years been more successful in organising seminars and studies in New York, Geneva, Nairobi or Oslo than in getting field projects, envoys and local action to make a difference on the frontlines.

-rape in the Congo, Darfur and elsewhere too long. Rape is a crime of the worst kind. In war it is a war crime. The first international trial declaring rape as a war crime took place in Europe in the 13th century but women are still physically and

* No peace agreements should be endorsed unless women are either signatories or women's interests are catered for in the agreement.

* When peace building strategies, reconstruction plans, long term development plans etc are made or negotiated, the UN country teams, International Financial Institutions and member states must make sure that these consult with, involve and benefit women.

* In addition to including women in the more general planning of governance, humanitarian and development strategies separate funding should be set aside to women-specific projects. The Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), for example, aims at having 15-20% of the Peacebuilding Fund devoted to women's empowerment projects.

* Micro-financing has helped a lot of women to get started with small self-sustainable projects. More finances should be invested in larger schemes and more ambitious projects to help more women get to the markets to sell their products. Many women experience that it might not be too difficult to get micro-loans. But those who have larger ambitions have difficulties getting assistance.

* More than anything we need to get the transfer of best practices from those places that have empowered, promoted and protected women and girls to those places that lag behind. Countries, like my own, that have systematically attempted to promote equal rights for all have experienced a marked increase in human development and standard of living for all, also men. If women continue to be marginalized with a fraction of economic wealth, productive capacity, political influence and administrative positions, all - women and men, society at large, will suffer stagnation, under-development and increasing, I believe, international condemnation.

It is as easy and as difficult as that. Making our norms a reality among women and men, girls and boys everywhere.