During the last year, important contributions have been made to our common understanding of the linkages between peace and security, development and human rights by the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, the Secretary-General's report "In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all", and the recent World Summit Outcome.

While the recent focus on the interrelationship between development and peace is fairly new, we need to remind ourselves that the linkages between gender equality, development and peace have been the guiding themes of the four World Conferences on Women from Mexico City in 1975 to Beijing in 1995 as well as its follow-up meetings in 2000 and earlier this year. There is a growing understanding that women's exclusion from the political process creates a democratic deficit. Societies that marginalize women and prevent their participation in public life tend to have more authoritarian voices and a heightened risk of instability. It is therefore critical that we include gender equality in the equation between peace, development and human rights.

Security Council resolution 1325 and the Security Council open debates on women, peace and security since 2000 have focused on women's crucial role in all areas of promoting and sustaining peace. The Inter-agency Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security, which I chair, promotes and facilitates full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325. Representatives from many entities in the United Nations system participate actively in the Taskforce. As will be indicated in a system-wide Action Plan that was mandated by a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2004/40) last year, 37 UN entities are actively involved in peace-building.

Let me give you just a few examples of strategies and actions taken by UN entities:

- DPA and DPKO are developing comprehensive departmental gender mainstreaming action plans to integrate gender perspectives into their respective mandates and programmes related to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping.
- The Interagency Standing Committee is issuing, through its Taskforce on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance, a set of "Guidelines for gender-based violence interventions in humanitarian emergencies" with a focus on prevention and response to sexual violence. These guidelines will be field-tested and will contribute a major tool to strengthen system-wide response to gender-based violence. They are available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic and training initiatives are planned on the use of the guidelines.
- The World Food Programme has issued a Gender Policy with Enhanced Commitments to Women to Ensure Food Security. These Commitments are to mitigate social violence by addressing asymmetries in power relations between women and men and by shifting the entitlement of food rations to women.
- A number of UN entities are building partnerships with and support national and local women's organizations, including through capacity-building, and training to ensure women's full participation in all stages of the peace process.

However, full recognition of the contribution of women to peacebuilding is lacking. Despite the recognition of women like Wangari Matthai 2004), or other Nobel Peace Laureates such as Jody Williams and the International Campaign to ,ek where the such as International Ca