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to enhance women's roles in these activities should therefore begin with increasing their participation in all stages of peace negotiation processes.

- ! This would ensure that women have an effective role in the planning and execution of projects for rehabilitation, reintegration, national reconciliation, reconstruction and development. It would also guarantee their right to participate fully in electoral processes.
- ! Sensitization, the incorporation of local voices, coordination of our individual and collective efforts, political will and gender targeted donor funding are among the key strategies for success in this regard.
- ! Sensitization should also be the connecting thread in policy making by international institutions, governments and civil society. The question "where are the women?" must therefore be asked at all levels of policy making.
- ! Coordination in peace building activities is another key factor. One of the most frequently heard complaints of local communities, particularly women's groups, in post-conflict countries, concerns lack of coordination.
- ! Peacebuilding efforts should lead to the empowerment of local actors, not their displacement. We must therefore ensure that the planning and execution of peace building projects include the ideas and perspectives of the local community, and that women participate fully in this process. For peacebuilding to succeed the international community will need to provide sustained and coordinated assistance.
- ! Perhaps one of our biggest challenges is the sustained provision of adequate funding for peace building activities. Donors may wish to target gender specific projects as a way of ensuring that women participate in and benefit from peacebuilding activities. Since women expertise is a constant challenge, such funding could also ensure that this expertise will be available throughout.
- ! Ultimately, what really matters is the political will to make policy decisions that would ensure women's participation at all levels of the peacebuilding process. And this is our collective responsibility.
- ! DPA will continue to do its utmost to promote the participation of women in peacebuilding, and to support all relevant efforts in this regard.
- ! I thank you.