



September 26, 2009

Mr. President, distinguished members of the Council,  
Excellencies,

The Regional Women's Lobby (RWL) of Southeast Europe expresses its deepest appreciation and congratulations to Vietnam, the presidency of the Security Council, for its initiative in holding this meeting on women, peace and security with a focus on responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations for sustainable peace and security. The Lobby also thanks Croatia, a leader regarding issues of women and peace in our region of Southeast Europe, for presenting this statement to the Council. RWL is composed of prominent women politicians, experts and advocates from the region of Southeast Europe who are committed to promoting women in decision-making.

UNIFEM research shows that the weak link in the process of responding to the needs of women and girls in post-conflict situations is funding allocations: on average only 8% of post conflict peace building proposed budgets directly address women's needs.

In order for early post conflict budgets to reflect the needs of women and girls we must include women from the very beginning of the peace process; women must be actors in peace negotiations. RWL calls on the United Nations, national governments and other actors to push for a minimum of 30% of women on official negotiating delegations so that women's needs in post-conflict peace building are recognized and addressed from the very beginning of the process of peace-building.

The lack of inclusion of women in peace talks; in official negotiating delegations; and in official mediating delegations as been the critical gap in implementing 1325 globally. As UNIFEM research has shown, during the peace processes in Southeast Europe, on average only **four percent** of the delegates at the negotiating table were women, **no women** were appointed chief mediators, and **none** of the six agreements under negotiation between 1994 and 2006 specifically spoke of redress for gender-based violence despite the pervasiveness of such crimes in the wars of the former Yugoslavia.

As you are aware, the close cooperation of national governments and women's groups is a key step in implementing UNSCR 1325 fully. Countries in the region of Southeast

Europe have made significant efforts to bring elements of UNSCR 1325 into their national security plans. Bosnia and Kosovo have UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans, Montenegro will soon begin its own drafting process, while Croatia has included key elements of 1325 in its National Strategy on Gender Equality. These kinds of plans and strategies are critical first steps in ensuring that post-conflict funding for women's needs is allocated.

The region of Southeast Europe has experienced all too well the effects of conflict and war and the burden of destruction and violence placed on women's shoulders. Despite this, women in the region have remained committed to reaching across borders to connect with each other and serve as peace builders. The Regional Women's Lobby is only one example of such a group of women in Southeast Europe.

RWL congratulates and welcomes the mandate of the first woman Prime Minister of Croatia, Ms. Jadranka Kosor, and is confident that Croatia and all the Security Council member countries, will continue to be key partners in implementing UNSCR 1325 in Southeast Europe and wider.

Sincerely,

*Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe*

<http://www.rwlsee.org>

### **Annex 1: Members of RWL**

#### **Albania**

- **Majlinda Bregu, Minister of EU Integration**
- **Eglantina Gjermeni, Member of Parliament**
- **Marieta Zace, former Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Equal Opportunities**

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

- **Meliha Alic, Minister of Education and Science**
- **Nada Tesanovic, Vice-President of National Assembly of Republika Srpska**
- **Lidija Zivanovic, Director Helsinki Citizen's Parliament**
- **Memnuna Zvizdic, Director Zene Zenama**

## **Croatia**

- **Morana Palikovic Gruden, Deputy Speaker of Zagreb City Assembly**
- **Biljana Kasic, Coordinator of Women's Studies Center**
- **Gordana Sobol, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality**

## **Kosovo**

- **Nekibe Kelmendi, Minister of Justice**
- **Igballe Rogova, Executive Director of Kosova Women's Network, Member of the Kosova Women's Lobby, Member of the Women's Peace Coalition.**
- **Teuta Sahatqija, President of the ORA political party**
- **Edita Tahiri, President of the ADK political party**
- **Luljeta Vuniqi, Executive Director of Kosovar Gender Studies Center**

## **Macedonia**

- **Teuta Arifi, Member of Parliament**
- **Irina Pockova, President of Women's Chapter of Social Democratic party of Sv. Nikola**
- **Savka Todorovska, President of the National Council of Women of the Republic of Macedonia**

## **Montenegro**

- **Ljubomirka Mira Asovic, President of League of Women Voters of Montenegro**
- **Nada Drobnjak, Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality**
- **Slavica Strikovic, Board Member of Women's Action**

## **Serbia**

- **Sonja Biserko, Director of Helsinki Committee for Human Rights**
- **Natasa Kandic, Director of Human Rights Fund**
- **Vera Markovic, Vice-President of the Social Democrat Union**
- **Natasa Micic, Member of Parliament and Vice president of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)**
- **Stasa Zajovic, Coordinator of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition**
- **Ljiljana Radovanovic, Member of Women in Black Network, Member of Women's Peace Coalition**

- **Dr. Ursula Plassnik, former Austrian Foreign Minister**
- **Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, Finnish Minister of State, former UN Under-Secretary General, former Minister of Defense**
- **Ms. Mirjana Feric-Vac, Vice-President of Socialist International and Vice-President of SI Women in CEE and SEE**
- **Ms. Ana Maria Gomes, Member of European Parliament and Vice-Chairwoman of Subcommittee on Security and Defense**
- **Ms. Osnat Lubrani, Director of UNIFEM Brussels**
- **Ms. Luisa Morgantini, Former Vice President of the European Parliament**
- **Ms. Doris Pack, Member of the European Parliament; Chairwoman of the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of Southeast Europe**
- **Ms. Franziska Brantner, Member of the European Parliament**