

**International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development,  
International Peace & Security**

**Monrovia March 7-8, 2009**

The International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security (the Colloquium) is being co-convened by President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland in Monrovia, Liberia, March 7-8, 2009.

The Colloquium will empower women to be more effective leaders by linking with their peers from around the world and sharing and implementing best practices on economic empowerment, influencing climate change and sustainable development.

The Colloquium will promote progress on women's leadership on peace and security, and women's leadership and empowerment in general.

The Colloquium seeks to realize the aims of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security to ensure that women are protected from the worst abuses in times of conflict and to empower them to play their rightful and vital role in helping their countries prevent, end and recover from conflict.

The Colloquium will bring together an international group of women leaders to identify the successes and failures of measures adopted for 1325; to serve as a resource base and catalyst for activity worldwide; and to develop and support meaningful strategies and activities for increasing global security.

The Angie Brooks International Centre on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, Peace and Security, which will be based in Monrovia and launched in March 2009, will serve as an implementation mechanism for the program of action emerging from the Colloquium.

The Centre will support results-oriented projects around the world; training to empower current and future women leaders; and research, analysis and advocacy on women's leadership.

The Centre will be established in honor of Angie Brooks, Liberia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and Africa's first woman President of the United Nations General Assembly (1969).

## Colloquium Goals and Theme Leads for Program Development

### **Goal 1: Empower women to be more effective leaders by linking with their peers from around the world and sharing best practices.**

- a) Build global networks and facilitate collective action among women leaders that incorporate Liberian and other African women from conflict-affected areas.  
*Theme Lead: African Women's Development Fund (Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi), partners include TLC Africa.*
- b) Share and further develop effective models of economic empowerment and decent work for women and men.  
*Theme Lead: International Trade Centre (Sabine Meitzel); partners include AWDF; ILO; Realizing Rights; Association of Black Charities*
- c) Engage young people in supporting and embracing women's empowerment, leadership development and contributions to international peace and security.  
*Theme Lead: World YWCA (Natalie Fisher-Spalton); partners include the World Association of Girl Guides/Girl Scouts; UNICEF; UNFPA; ILO*
- d) Amplify the efforts and achievements of women leaders in conflict-affected areas.  
*Theme Lead: UNIFEM; partners include Femmes Africa Solidarite; Sudanese Women's Forum; Kenyan Women's Coalition; Government of Norway; UNIFEM Regional Director in Rwanda; and others*

### **Goal 2: Support the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.**

*Theme Lead: Femmes Africa Solidarite (Bineta Diop); partners include Liberian Ministry of Gender and Development; Government of Iceland; Realizing Rights; UNIFEM; UNMIL and other UN agencies; Mano River Union; and others*

- a) Present a status report on implementation of SCR 1325, including concrete recommendations on monitoring and accountability mechanisms.
- b) Facilitate the networking of African women that leads to the implementation of 1325, including support for concrete programmes for Liberian women as a response to a Liberian country-level implementation plan for SCR 1325. *Theme Lead: Liberian Minister of Gender and Development Vabah Gayflor, supported by Colloquium Secretariat*
- c) Prepare an action plan that includes a Colloquium statement from Presidents Johnson-Sirleaf and Halonen to the Security Council calling for stronger accountability mechanisms for SCR 1325 and other measures.
- d) Consider the impact of migration and returning refugees on development and women's empowerment. *Theme lead: Ndioro Ndiaye, International Organization for Migration*

**Goal 3: Contribute to the Achievement of Millennium Development Goal 3 on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women including building the capacity and resources of government and non-governmental institutions to work for women's rights and economic empowerment.**

*Theme Lead: Rachel Mayanja, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; Liberian Minister of Gender and Development Vabah Gayflor, supported by Colloquium Secretariat; partners include UNIFEM; Women, Faith and Development Alliance; and others*

- a) Share lessons learned on reaching MDG 3 across regions and adapt strategies from other countries to the Liberian context, particularly in the areas of women's political participation and related to gender-based violence.

**Goal 4: Demonstrate the clear gender dimensions of climate change, environment protection and sustainable development.**

*Theme Lead: Government of Finland (Aira Kalela); partners to be determined*

- a) Strengthen women's participation in sustainable development, particularly in developing of sustainable livelihoods in rural areas related with climate change:
  - electrification of rural areas and providing other forms of energy with renewable sources
  - increasing of forest areas, sustainable forest management including agro forestry
  - adaptation and development of agricultural methods, crops and irrigation in dry lands and flooding areas
  - development of water management and sanitation in dry or flooding regions
- b) Make women leaders aware of the role of women in management of natural resources and linkage between gender and climate change.
- c) Make women leaders aware of various resources of financing, which could be used, both for mitigation and adaptation of climate, change as well as facilitate programs and projects for financing

**Goal 5: Launch the Angie Brooks International Centre on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, Peace and Security, in Monrovia to support the implementation of action emerging from the Colloquium through, *inter alia*, training and research.**

*Theme Lead: Lalla Ben Barka, Deputy Executive-Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa; partners include Liberian Minister of Foreign Affairs Olubanke King-Akerele; Carole Henderson Tyson; Realizing Rights*