Session on Conflict Prevention, Post-Conflict Peace Building and Promotion of Durable Peace

Presentation by: Helen Hakena (Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency)

Thank you to Co-Chairs, and good morning to delegations, friends and colleagues. My name is Helen Hakena from Leitana Nehan Women Development Agency and APWLD; I'm here representing Women Major Group.

Before I start, I would like to emphasize that Peace is the basis and precondition for a just and sustainable development and my presentation will focus on these 4 key messages:

First, The key to preventing conflict is community control and decision making over resources and governance.
Second, The Post-2015 agenda must aim to prevent militarism and military spending.
Third, Women are key actors in achieving peace and reconciliation; and
Fourth, Peace starts in the home, extends to community, institutions and internationally; meaning that Sustainable and just peace is not just absence of war alone but also non-tolerance of violence at the level of the household, community, society and the state.

My presentation came from my own experience and perspective as a woman living in Bougenville, PNG. We believe that development models that focus purely on private sector economic growth and profits has caused conflict, devastates communities and those who suffer the most are women. Bougainville is one of the clearest examples of the devastation that can happen from mining led and exploitative economies.

We suffered a 20 year war when one of the world's largest open pit mines dominated our land destroying not only our lands but also ripped apart communities. The environmental devastation done to rivers, to our agriculture is particularly a burden for women. The mine destroyed our local economies, with less than 1% of the profits going to the local community but enormous burden of increased prices of food. Bougainville Revolutionary Army burnt my home in Ieta Village. I was seven months pregnant and suffering from Malaria. I was petrified and gave birth to my fourth son prematurely on a bare floor with no medical help. I witnessed other mothers suffer before my eyes. Soldiers took the women into the forest and rape them as a weapon of war. This conflict led to militarized communities, a whole generation of children missed out on going to school – they have no chance of getting 'the future they want.', with no education and fully armed.

And what do you think it leads to? It leads to world's highest rates of violence against women. Last September, a new study found that 62% of men admitted to raping women in Bougainville. 62 percents means 1 in every 6 men. This is beyond shocking, and I asked you, what kind of development agenda that allows that to happen?

We believe that the **key to prevent conflict is community control and decision making over resources and governance** . Not only in Bougenville, the statistic shows that over the past 60

years, at least 40% of intrastate conflicts can be associated with natural resources. Land issues have played a significant role in all but three of the more than 30 intrastate conflicts that have taken place in Africa since 1990. Civil wars such as those in Liberia, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo have centered on "high-value" resources like timber, diamonds, gold, minerals and oil. Other conflicts, including those in Darfur and the Middle East, have involved control of scarce resources such as fertile land and water. In Burma. Armed conflict since 2011 in Kachin and Northern Shan State that displaced 100,000 women, children and elderly happened in rich-resource area. SDGs needs to address the link between economic activities such as mining or large scale biomass and increased violence and conflict as communities lose access to livelihood resources, are violently disposed from their lands or suffer negative impacts from pollution of water sources, among other resources. Conflict prevention is most successful when local people – men and women - are given decision making power on their land and resources; this decision making power includes informed choices that based on mutual dialogues, based on equal participation and based on collective responsibility.

The SDG and Post-2015 Development Agenda should aim to prevent militarism and reduce military spending. Global military expenditure in 2012 is estimated to have been $1756 billion; The cost of one Single B-2 Stealth Bomber is 1 million US Dollars, this could provide 'AnyOne' of: **1,150,510** Clean Water Wells, **3,876,720** Literacy Classes for Women. **713,318** Houses for family's currently living in slums. **1,000,000** Landmines removed from the ground. Etc. But of course militarization is not from state actors, too much we experienced non-state actors militarisations, including those in a form of paramilitary or security firm hired by corporations. **In 2009, Freeport McMoRan spent $22 million on it's own security force in Papua, Indonesia. This increased to $28 million by 2010. They have also contracted Triple Canopy, a private security firm staffed by former US Special Forces.**

Women are essential for conflict resolution and peaceful societies. In times of instability - while more men lose their life in war, women face increased systematic, random, and individually targeted violence and unequal political and socioeconomic discrimination in conflict situations. Women too often find themselves effectively in bondage and are trafficked, deprived of free movement and association as a result of war and violence; and suffered from systematic rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war. However, like in Bougenvile and also in other countries, women learned to weave their anger as their energy to restore the community. As women build peace, they build justice mechanisms that protect women, including training for female law enforcement and medical professionals who can investigate crimes in a manner that restores instead of further hurting women. Women's participation in prosecution, sentencing, restitution measures, and ex-offender reintegration is part of the peace-building process that ensures that men can also survive and participate in sustainable development of their community.

Rwandan women were key leaders in the peace-building process and today women occupy more than half the seats in the lower house of the Rwandan parliament. Not only this has contributed to the enduring peace and the prevention of relapse to conflict in Rwnda, but also to a genuine commitment to development as seen in their public health achievements. In Bougainville, women are now sitting down with men and discussing land disputes. We have successfully lobbied for more women in provincial government. Of eighteen members, four are presently women and three more places have been set aside for us in the next election.

Peace starts in the home, extends to community, institutions and internationally. We believe that there will be no peace, no change, without a bold transformative development justice agenda that address the inequalities of wealth, power and voice between countries, between rich and poor and between men and women. We need to ensure all conflict prevention and peace building processes by all state and non-state actors respect, protect, and fulfill women's human rights progressively using maximum available resources throughout the conflict spectrum

Our Concrete recommendation on Peace and Conflict Resolution are the following:

- Ensure all commitments, targets, and indicators build on international human rights and international humanitarian law including the CEDAW, Beijing Platform Area E, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.
- Strengthen accountability and justice mechanisms and enforce international humanitarian and human rights law to combat conflict induced impunity and discrimination for all forms of sexual and gender based violence, including for women's human rights defenders
- Ensure 30% minimum targets while aiming for parity for women in all conflict prevention, peacebuilding and transitional justice processes including as negotiators and mediators and post conflict repatriation, resettlement, demobilization, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs.
- Integrate human rights, gender equality and conflict resolution into formal and informal education as well as trainings for peacekeeping and justice and security sector reform, as effective peace building measures.
- Set criteria and apply human rights and environmental safeguards for all corporations, as well as track and hold accountable transnational corporations involved in economic activities which increase conflict.

Proposed Targets and Indicators:

1. **TARGET – Conflict Prevention**
   - Existence of democratic, community governance over land and resource decision making
   - % of people who express confidence in justice systems and dispute resolution
   - Percantage of arable land controlled and accessed by small land owners, and percentage of that land controlled by women.
   - Existence of safeguard, developed with women and men in the community, to prevent land, water and ocean grabbing.

2. **TARGET – Reduce Militarism**
   - Number of weapons in the community

- ☐ Number of military personnel compared to civilian population (geographically localized)
- ☐ Global Peace Index ranking

3. TARGET - Reduce military spending
- ☐ **Percentage of military budget as a percentage of national budgets**
- ☐ **Amount of military budget compared to national health budget (or other social spending indicators.**
- ☐ Reduced military spending by at least 50% by 2030 for the 15 biggest military spenders (USA, China, Russia, UK, Japan, France, Saudi Arabia, India, Germany, Italy, Brazil, South Korea, Australia, Canada and Turkey) and by 30% for all other countries, and reallocate this to gender equitable sustainable development.

4. TARGET – Global Tax on Arms Trade
- ☐ % tax on all arms (state and non-state) to fund development

5.TARGET – Communities are Safe for Women
- ☐ % of women who feel safe to walk in their community
    - ☐ % of women who experience violence
    - ☐ % of women who are able to achieve a remedy

6. TARGET – Eliminate non-state armed security and militia
    - ☐ Existence of laws that prohibit the use of private armed forces
    - ☐ Number of weapons held by non-state actors
7. TARGET – Comply with Internationally Agreed Commitments on WPS
    - ☐ Existence of National Plans of Action to implement UN SC Res1325
    - ☐ Achievement of indicators set in SC resolutions
    - ☐ % of women in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, police and justice