

I. Working Group on Lesson's Learned (WGLL): The Gender Dimension in Peacebuilding and State-Building

On November 21, 2006 the Comprehensive Peace Accord (CPA) was signed by Nepal and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal. This marked the end of an era of a civil war that began ten years prior to the agreement and ravaged millions of Nepalese lives while dividing the country. Since then, the United Nations Peace Fund for Nepal (UNPFN) has contributed alongside Nepal's Peace Trust Fund (NPTF) to accomplish a lasting peace by covering these three priorities: Strengthening State capacity for sustaining peace, Community recovery, and Conflict prevention and reconciliation. This 10 million USD combined fund has been the front line of defense in maintaining peace in Nepal since the civil war ended. It encompasses many facets, but in particular includes addressing the gender dimension to building peace. Setting aside 10.1% of its budget to target the specific needs of women and young girls affected by the conflict, the UNPFN-NPTF has allowed women that previously participated as part of either army to reenter the workforce through creating reproductive health programs, provisions for child-care, and nutrition support for pregnant and nourishing mothers. Outside of this budget is a much larger 2 million USD project that fights sexual violence against women by mainstreaming gender equality to the public, all while delivering counseling and treatment to victims. Projects like these have appropriately addressed the gender dimension to Nepal's peacebuilding process whereas the efforts made to influence State-wide legislation pertaining to gender equality was quoted by an independent review of the fund to have been "a waste of allocated funding."

The Peacebuilding Commission's mandate states that recollecting and learning from previous actions made in post-conflict situations, such as those previously mentioned, is a priority to the entirety of the United Nations. The reasoning to this is so solutions made in the past may be improved upon on their weaknesses and their strengths be continued in future projects. For this purpose, Nepal urges the Peacebuilding Commission to consider the recent events in our State and examine the actions made by the United Nations and the UNPBC pertaining to the ending the conflict and keeping sustainable peace that specifically dealt with the element of gender.

Understanding how Nepal and its people reacted to gender equality solutions in the Peacebuilding and State-building process is great way for the committee to understand what

lessons could be learned from those previous events. More specifically, Nepal hopes the committee can look upon all Peace Trust Funds in post-conflict situations and reconsider their structure to play on their strengths rather than having much of their budgets go to waste. It is our goal that the Peacebuilding Commission may look upon what measures taken by the international community and the UNPFN-NPTF that worked exceptionally and could be implemented once again in future post-conflict issues the committee may face in years to come. Nepal looks forward to learning from what projects involving gender equality proved successful and working upon those that didn't in a report that clearly outlines these recommendations for what lies ahead.

II. Country-Specific Configuration (CSC): Liberia

The post-conflict transition Member States undergo after civil war is a delicate one. Liberia is far from an exception to this statement as is evident by the recent Ebola outbreak occurring there and neighboring Member State, Sierra Leone. An already crippled economy and gradually more unstable government has incited political instability that could result in a relapse to violent conflict. As a State that has recently undergone the same transition as Liberia, Nepal understands how this disease poses the greatest immediate threat to Liberia's peace. There has already been the beginning of tension among its people as demonstrations have begun in the capitol and grow stronger every day. Without international support to eliminate the Ebola virus from Liberia, Nepal strongly believes that the peacebuilding process will be stagnant. In July, the Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission paid his first visit to the capitol. After meeting with their president, minister of internal affairs, and many other figure-heads concerning the issue, the chair concluded in his report on the visit that although "the situation in Liberia overall remains peaceful" that "(p)rogress is recorded in several areas, but fragility persists in others." This fragility that the chair mentions is not from conflicting ideals between parties, but rather the unified unrest caused by the lack of action taken by the current government of the State of Liberia. For this reason, The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal calls for action from the Peacebuilding Commission that focuses upon eliminating the Ebola virus as a primary concern and aiding UN agencies such as the World Health Organization in ending the spread of the disease in order for peace to prosper.

As stated by the Chair in the last informal meeting pertaining to the issue, there are three pillars that present long-term challenges to peace in Liberia: 1) The expansion, training and accountability mechanisms of the national police, 2) The need for the Government to ensure the

allocation of and release of sufficient budgetary resources for justice, security and reconciliation purposes, and 3) Encouraging increased inclusivity of civil society, including women's groups, in important national processes such as national reconciliation, land reform, natural resources policy. Nepal agrees with the chair on these being the hindering facets in the State and that these challenges must be addressed by a report from the Peacebuilding Commission that outlines recommendations in aiding these three aspects. Nepal believes that focusing and organizing the Peace Trust Fund within Liberia in such a manner that correlates with these challenges will eliminate unnecessary programs and projects that prove unsuccessful to improving peace within the State. To conclude, Nepal is confident in the Peacebuilding Commission's ability to agree upon solutions and recommendations for Liberia unanimously to build peace and hopes it is achieved through the assistance of eradicating the Ebola outbreak and solving the three pillars of long-term challenges as aforementioned above.