



PRESS RELEASE

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IN ANTICIPATION OF SECRETARY GENERAL BAN KI MOON'S HIGH-LEVEL CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT INTERNATIONAL LEADERS EXAMINE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN

H.E. Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway and H.E. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland to lead the discussion

New York, NY. – September 12: On Friday 21 September, the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL), the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation will convene a high-level roundtable discussion entitled ***Examining How a Changing Climate Impacts Women*** on the occasion of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Event on Climate Change on Monday 24 September 2007.

The purpose of the Roundtable is to ensure that the impacts of climate change on women, as well as women's roles in curbing climate change, are reflected in the outcome of the Secretary-General's High-Level Event. Global climate change negotiations via the UNFCCC have not responded to the evidence of a strong correlation between gender-based discrimination and high female mortality rates during natural disasters. The Roundtable will be the first global gathering of high-level government, UN, and civil society representatives to raise these and other side effects of climate change on the world agenda.

While numerous global policies mandate the incorporation of a gender perspective and women's participation in environmental and development efforts, few governments have drawn on these mandates in their adaptation plans or national reports to the UNFCCC. The Roundtable is part of CWWL's Levers of Global Security series and part of WEDO's campaign to ensure that national and global responses to climate change consider the poorest of the poor—namely women—who are most impacted by climate change.

In preparation for the meeting of Heads of State and Ministers at the Secretary-General's Event, the Roundtable will convene former presidents, ministers, and high-level representatives of the UN and other multilateral organizations working on climate change. Roundtable participants will raise the gendered aspects of climate change in the Secretary-General's event, guided by the Roundtable and a set of WEDO-CWWL recommendations on climate change and gender equality.

Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway, will give the keynote address. Confirmed participants to date include the former Minister of Environment of Sweden, Lena Sommestad; the former Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Han Seung Soo; the Minister of Environment of Kenya, David Mwiraria; and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Richard Kinley. Dr. Brundtland and Mr. Han serve as two of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoys on climate change.

Examining How a Changing Climate Impacts Women will convene from **13.15-15.00 on Friday, 21st September 2007** at the **German House**, located at 871 UN Plaza in New York City. Members of the press are cordially invited to attend the Roundtable, as well as the related press conference at 11.00 on Thursday, 20th September 2007 at the UN Secretariat Room S-226 (2nd floor) with speakers Gro Harlem Brundtland and gender and climate change expert Lorena Aguilar of IUCN in Costa Rica. Please notify the contacts above if you wish to attend the Roundtable, as space is limited.

The Council of Women World Leaders is a network of current and former women presidents and prime ministers. The Council's mission is to mobilize the highest-level women leaders globally for collective action on issues of critical importance to women and equitable development. A ministerial initiative that engages sitting and former women ministers and cabinet members is an integral and essential part of promoting good governance and enhancing the experience of democracy globally by increasing the number, effectiveness, and visibility of women world leaders. Find more information about the Council of Women World Leaders in the available press packet and at www.cwwl.org.

Founded in 1991, the Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO) is an international organization that advocates for gender equality in global policy. Working in key global forums such as the UN, WEDO advocates for and seeks to empower women as decision makers to achieve economic, social and gender justice, a healthy, peaceful planet and human rights for all. Find more information about WEDO's work on climate change and gender equality in the press packet and at www.wedo.org (click on "sustainable development").

The Heinrich Böll Foundation is a non-profit organization striving to promote democracy, civil society, human rights, international understanding and a healthy environment internationally. The Heinrich Böll Foundation is affiliated with the German Green Party and is headquartered in Berlin, Germany with 25 offices worldwide and cooperative partnerships with more than 200 organizations in more than 60 countries. Find more information about the Foundation at www.boell.org.

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Declaration on Climate Change and Gender Equality

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL)

Heinrich Böll Foundation

The following recommendations in the area of climate change and gender equality were developed on the occasion of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Climate Change Event and the CWWL-WEDO High-Level Roundtable "How a Changing Climate Impacts Women"

September 2007

- The UN Secretary General and governments should send a message to this year's UNFCCC COP-13 in Bali that gender equality and women's participation is a priority issue.
- Since climate change disproportionately affects poor women, governments should analyze and identify gender-specific impacts and protection measures related to floods, droughts, and other disasters; The global community should prioritize reducing the high levels of female mortality rates resulting from climate-induced disasters.
- Women should enjoy equal participation in decision-making related to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Given that women's knowledge and participation in disaster situations has been critical to the survival of entire communities, governments should take advantage women's particular skills in various aspects of their household livelihood and natural resource management strategies that lend themselves to mitigation and adaptation.
- Governments should work to enhance women's access to and control over natural resources, in order to reduce poverty, protect environmental resources, and ensure that women and poor communities can better cope with climate change.
- Governments and institutions should enhance opportunities for women's participation, education, and training; Capacity building and technology transfer measures should draw on priorities put forward by women and poor communities.
- Practical tools should be developed that allow governments and institutions to incorporate gender equality and women's participation in climate change initiatives.

- Governments should draw on the innumerable global agreements that relate directly or indirectly to gender equality and climate change¹, as well as gender expertise within the UN system and at the national level.
- The UNFCCC should develop gender-sensitive indicators and criteria for governments to use in national reports to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- Market-based approaches to curbing climate change, such as the CDM, should reflect the needs of all potential market actors, particularly women, indigenous peoples, and landless farmers who do not have equal access to natural resources such as water and energy, land titles, credit, or information.
- The Clean Development Mechanism should be made accessible to both women and men and ensure equitable benefits, considering that women and men have different access to the necessary land and technology; In particular, the CDM should fund projects that make renewable energy technologies more available to women.
- Since the UNFCCC emerged from UNCED, which outlines nine major groups that are essential to sustainable development, women and all major groups should be included as official focal points in the UNFCCC.

¹ Chapter 24 of Agenda 21 (UNCED 1992); Johannesburg Plan of Action (WSSD 2002); Paragraph K of the Beijing Platform for Action (4th World Conference on Women 1995); World Conference on Human Rights (1993); International Conference on Population and Development (1994); World Summit for Social Development (1995); Millennium Declaration (2000); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979); Convention on Biodiversity (1992); Convention to Combat Desertification (1994); Ministerial Declaration of the 3rd World Water Forum (2003); Children's World Summit (1990); Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (1996); World Summit on Food (1996); Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction 2005)

Levers of Global Security
AN INITIATIVE OF THE COUNCIL OF WOMEN WORLD LEADERS
SEPTEMBER 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2008

A focus on **global security** indicates a shift from the security of the state to the security of the individual and widens the factors and causes examined beyond threats associated with civil and international conflicts. Global security primarily contrasts with the idea of state, national, or traditional security in which the nation-state is the central unit through which threats are viewed and analyzed and solutions are implemented. Global security emphasizes how women, children, the elderly, the disabled, and other socially-marginalized groups may experience a disproportionate level of insecurity, instability, and risk. While men are also impacted by the effects of insecurity, history suggests that this insecurity can lead to increased incidences of violence, war and insurgency, thus further increasing the security risks for the women, children, and others around them. Alternatively referred to as *human security* and *inclusive security*, this individual-based perspective is a growing paradigm for understanding global vulnerabilities through a people-centered lens.

Global security and national security should be mutually reinforcing; however, having secure borders does not inevitably mean secure individuals. While protecting citizens from foreign attack is a necessary condition for security, it is not a sufficient action. Over the past century, far more people have been killed by their own governments and compatriots than by foreign armies. Combining those statistics with deaths from famine, drought, and migration, the scope of individual security reaches far beyond secure borders. Furthermore, evidence routinely shows that women and other marginalized populations are more susceptible to these threats due to their subordinate economic, social, and geographic status.

Several key factors currently contribute to making global security a particularly salient issue at this time. Globalization has created a new level of threat to the security of individuals through variations in economic influence, prevalence and transmission of infectious disease, incidence of human trafficking, and international terrorism. However, a more connected global community also offers an enhanced opportunity to combine national efforts and understanding for a coordinated resistance to the forces that threaten human well-being and survival. This dichotomy of elevated threats and increased opportunities is echoed through the gendered perspective; as stated above, women may be more vulnerable to these threats but also may possess the ability to be agents of change through their central responsibilities as household caretakers and community organizers, particularly with regards to natural resource management and conflict prevention. In addition to their more traditional role as familial and community centerpieces, increasingly women are acquiring leadership roles in local and national governments as well as international organizations. The growing number of women in positions of high leadership may signal a significant paradigm shift in how security is both perceived and achieved.

In 1994, the United Nations Development Programme released its annual *Human Development Report*, now considered a milestone publication in the field of human security, arguing that tackling the problem of global insecurity can be best achieved by ensuring that all individuals experience both freedom from want and freedom from fear. The breadth of the global security concept remains contentious. While the *Human Security Report* focuses on violent threats to individuals, proponents of a broader concept of global security, as delineated in the *Human Security Now* report, argue that threats considered must include hunger, disease, natural disasters, poverty, lack of state capacity, and socio-economic and political inequality. Access to food, shelter, health, education, freedom from violence, safety during disasters, good governance, and respect for human rights are all basic elements of global security. Recent attention by the military on the effects of climate change on national security illustrate the deep divide that remains between traditional and global security; published reports contain few, if any, references to the specific effects of a changing climate of women, children, the elderly, or the disabled. While much work has been done in recognizing the ways in which problems transcend borders and the role of non-state actors, fewer discussions and policies have adequately considered the fundamental difference and inequalities between women's and men's security.

While the study of global security and its inclusion in specific national security agendas is rising, one of the primary criticisms is that the concept's vagueness undermines its effectiveness. To better understand the breadth of global security and effectively inform policymaking to incorporate a global security approach, the Council of Women World Leaders has established its ***Levers of Global Security*** series. Included within the broader program of ***Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute***, a series of thematic roundtables will be convened in Washington DC and New York over the coming year in an endeavor to analyze different aspects of governance, society, environment, and politics as they relate to global security through a gendered lens to better support and empower the most marginal members of our global society.

WOMEN'S VOICES AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Levers of Global Security Proposed Roundtables

SEPTEMBER 2007 – SEPTEMBER 2008

Levers of Global Security: Examining How a Changing Climate Impacts Women

The intersection between environmental changes and security has often focused on issues of international conflict and current responses entail improving environmental management at a global level. It is clear, however, that inequities driven and exacerbated by climate change have significant impact at the individual and community levels. The most marginal members of a population—usually women, children, the elderly, and the disabled—are considered most vulnerable to climate change effects because their economic marginality is highly correlated with their geographic marginality. In its *Changing the Climate: Why Women's Perspectives Matter*, Women's Environment & Development Organization holds that in looking at the effects of climate change on global security through a gendered lens reveals that women are both “the most vulnerable and the best poised to curb the effects of climate change.” United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has publicly acknowledged that 2007 is a critical time to address strategically and globally the effects of climate change, in large part due to a change in the political atmosphere. In partnership with *Women's Environment & Development Organization*, this roundtable will bring together experts in the field to inform high-level advocacy and policymaking on the linkages between climate change and global security, in anticipation of the High Level Summit on Climate Change being convened on Friday, 21st September 2007 prior to the General Assembly on September 24th, 2007.

Levers of Global Security: Role and Contribution of Women in Multitrack Diplomacy

Seeking to highlight the active role of women within the parameters of the evolving discourse on global security, this roundtable will examine the role and contributions that women make to multitrack diplomacy efforts worldwide. It will facilitate an in-depth analysis and discussion of how women diplomats, working in a multitude of capacities at all levels, work towards building sustainable and durable peace and security. Advocates from government, intra-government, and the non-government sectors have emphasized that it is imperative to recognize the leadership and innovative role that women take in conflict resolution and peace-building in households, communities, national governments, and international organizations. These efforts in all sectors must be supported and incorporated into conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction frameworks. Working in proposed partnership with an expert organization on global security, some of the questions investigated will include how women can build a link between separate avenues of diplomacy; effective means of incorporating the perspectives from civil society and non-governmental conflict resolution stakeholders; and methods for increasing the number of women in diplomatic roles. *December 2007/January 2008*

Levers of Global Security: Policing & Protective Services – Women's Roles and Gendered Impact

On the occasion of International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, President of the General Assembly Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa stated that “peacekeepers not only carry out their mandated tasks; they create a lasting legacy by exemplifying how military and police can engage in humanitarian work while interacting respectfully with civil society.” She referred to the first-ever all-female contingent of United Nations Police sent from India to Liberia as a “shining example,” further stating that “these Blue Berets are not only helping to restore the rule of law, they are also serving as role models for Liberian women.” Reports from different nations around the world show that women have been appointed to the police force primarily to deal with specific law enforcement issues, including recovery of abducted women and girls and victims of crimes such as rape, kidnapping, sexual harassment, and dowry deaths. Despite recent increases in women in protective service positions, a considerable gap remains worldwide between the participation of women and men in police forces. In proposed partnership with the *National Center for Women & Policing*, this roundtable seeks to examine the specific roles—either formally or de facto—that women in policing and protective services play in ensuring global security. *Spring 2008*

Levers of Global Security: Securing the Right to Have Rights

Within the concept of citizenship, individuals are generally entitled to three basic rights: the right to reside permanently within the boundaries of the nation-state and the ability to return from abroad; the right to be protected by the nation-state both within and outside the boundaries; and the rights of individual empowerment that include the right to vote, hold office, participate in decision-making, social action, protection and economic pursuits. Individuals who are denied to right to citizenship are subsequently denied access to suffrage, public services, justice, and rule of law as well as the ability to move freely within, to and from their country of origin or residence. Thus, the denial of citizenship is a threat to individual security. Studies on women and citizenship show that many countries throughout the world continue to have differential legislation by gender. Refugees International estimates that there are over 11 million stateless people and maintains that women and girls without an official national identity are extremely vulnerable to trafficking, exploitation, intimidation, sexual abuse, and HIV/AIDS because of a lack of access to basic services and the looming threat of deportation. In proposed partnership with *International Rescue Committee* (NY) and *Aspen Institute's Justice and Society Program*, this roundtable endeavours to examine the factors that create statelessness, the spectrum of effects of such status, and the possible solutions to decreasing the incidences of individuals without a state identity. *Spring 2008*

Message from the Secretary General

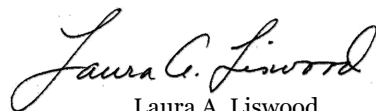
Often women are exceptionally active and involved at the grassroots level—delivering services, helping other women and girls, whether in health issues, economic empowerment, political participation, clean water or domestic violence. These activities at the community level are extremely important as women and girls often are underserved. Women now hold many high level positions but are not organized in the same way that women at the grassroots are. We are helping to fill that gap. The Filipino women say that “to cook rice cakes you need heat at the top and heat at the bottom.” The Council and its Ministerial Initiative have been formed to do that.

In truth, there are few organizations with the scope and authority that ours has. Many don't even realize how many women have made it to the highest elected office around the world. By bringing these leaders together, their voices can work together to move issues of concern to women to the forefront. In 2002 we formalized the Council's Ministerial Initiative with Madeleine Albright as its chair. There are now over 500 women at this high level. I am a strong believer that women need to be at the table to influence policy and the world's agenda. Men have done it forever—for them it is called the G-8, the United Nations, NATO, parliament, Congress.

The 'power of the mirror' is an important concept of knowing what you can be by what you see and who you see doing it. It is a major part in our own belief about what we are entitled to be or what we can imagine becoming. It is easy to imagine yourself becoming a doctor, if your mother was a doctor or a police officer if your mother was a captain in the police department.

The power of the mirror image came to me after I interviewed the President of Iceland. After she had been president for eight years, she would go around the country and meet children under 8 years of age. She noticed that the children believed that only a woman could be president and the boys were actually unsure if they could become president. They had never seen a male president—and had difficulty imagining becoming one.

Seeing a group of women in the highest leadership role helps remove a psychological barrier for both women and men. And every time a woman takes on a new responsibility, such as secretary of state or national security advisor, we move inch by inch closer to a mirror that reflects all possibilities.



Laura A. Liswood
Secretary General

Upcoming Events

Roundtable:

Levers of Human Security: Examining How a Changing Climate Impacts Women

On the Occasion of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Session on Climate Change and the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Presented by: Council of Women World Leaders, the Women's Environment and Development Organization & The Heinrich Böll Foundation

German House, UN Plaza, New York, NY USA

September 21st, 2007 - 1:15pm — 3:00pm

Council Member Awarded:

President Michelle Bachelet of Chile will be presented with the New York Democracy Forum's Presidential Medal by President Mary Robinson (1990-97) of Ireland at the National Endowment for Democracy's Annual Dinner

New York, NY USA

September 24th, 2007 - 6:30pm

Roundtable:

World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report 2007

Saadia Zahidi, Director, Women's Programme, World Economic Forum

Presented by: Council of Women World Leaders
Washington, DC USA

November 8th, 2007 - 12:00pm — 2:00pm

Press & Media Inquiries, or to schedule an interview with Secretary General Laura Liswood please contact:

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Programs Overview

Ministerial Fellows Exchange Program

The Ministerial Fellows Exchange Program has been developed to promote and support women's governmental leadership and gender aware policy development through cross-cultural exchange. The program, funded by the US Department of State, provides current and rising women government leaders from the United States and Africa with the opportunity to enhance and support each other's work through sharing expertise and best practices, while enabling participants to develop a greater understanding of foreign needs, priorities and policy development, particularly as they impact women and women's lives.

Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Roundtable Series

The Council, in conjunction with the Aspen Institute, sponsors a series of roundtable discussions focusing on the progress that women worldwide have achieved and what challenges lie ahead in key areas of leadership. At each roundtable, recognized experts in their fields discuss where the gaps are in progress toward equality for women while suggesting next actions required for change to occur more rapidly. In the fall of 2007, the Series will be named for The Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Series, in honor of the first female U.S. Secretary of State and founding chair of the Council's Ministerial Initiative.

2005 Roundtables

- Women's Empowerment: Countries Closing the Gender Gap
- Is 2008 the Year of the Woman President of the United States?
- The Status of Women in the Middle East

2006 Roundtables

- Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success
- Strengthening Global Security
- The Status of Women in Sweden: World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report
- A Conversation with Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia
- A Discussion of Girls' Education and the Goal of Universal Access to Education
- Breakfast and Dialogue with Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia
- Girls' Education Expert Working Group: Case Studies of Post-Conflict Reconstruction
- Extreme Jobs: The Allure of the 70-Hour Work Week

2007 Roundtables

- Making a Difference in Women's Political Leadership: The Case of Liberia
- Cross-Cultural Partnerships as a Catalyst of Women's Leadership and Empowerment
- Levers of Global Security: *Examining How a Changing Climate Impacts Women*
- Women's Empowerment: *Countries Closing the Gender Gap*
- Intersections of Education, Health & Finance: Cross-Sectoral Policy Creation & Implementation

Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health

The Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health, implemented in partnership with Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, and The Health Financing Task Force, is a unique four-year program whose goal is to build the capacity, effectiveness and leadership of ministries of health worldwide in order to address critical health issues through individual and collective action for strategic change. The Initiative will address health challenges globally and will also specifically address selected policy areas in depth to include health budgeting for equity, trends in donor assistance for health, strengthening health systems, and reproductive health. The Council oversees the Ministerial Consultative Group on Women's Health, with informal meetings of Ministers of Health from the *Women's Ministerial Network* with the Director General of the World Health Organization.

New Zealand Fellows Program

South Pacific Emerging Women Leaders Program. The Council, with the support of the Government of New Zealand, provides Leadership Training for emerging women leaders from the South Pacific Island States in partnership with the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Strategically selected cohorts of emerging women leaders return to their countries equipped to lead in areas of economic and development reform and become part of a Network of Women Leaders who share a common goals and understanding to enhance good governance.

Girls Education Expert Working Group Series

Girls Education Expert Working Group Series is an innovative program to support current efforts towards realizing the goal of universal access to and success within education. The Series will influence and encourage the development and implementation of effective, proactive, and strategic government policy and programs for the realization of girls' access to a full and equitable education throughout the world. By identifying both key areas of concern and case studies of success to influence and support the work of individual ministries within their governments, the Series will facilitate the creation of a collaborative network of ministers to enhance the creation and implementation of policies that increase access to and success within education systems for all children.

2007 Graduate Student Fellows Program

In a unique opportunity to work directly with a set of international leaders, graduate students from Harvard and Columbia Universities spend the summer in the offices of key leaders in government, in philanthropic foundations, and at major policy institutions. In these placements, the Fellows both observe the ways in which leadership is manifested and work directly on issues being addressed by the leaders.

Summer 2007 Graduate Student Fellows Placements

- ◇ Office of Mary Robinson, President of Ireland (1990-97), Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative in New York City, NY
- ◇ The F.W. DeKlerk Foundation in Cape Town, South Africa
- ◇ The Il Faro Foundation in Rome, Italy
- ◇ Office of Madeleine K. Albright, The Albright Group in Washington, DC
- ◇ Office of Secretary General Laura Liswood, Council of Women World Leaders in Washington, DC
- ◇ New York Stock Exchange Internship in New York, NY
- ◇ Office of Saadia Zahidi, Director of the Women's Programme, World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland
- ◇ Office of the Honorable Vabah Gayflor, Minister of Gender and Development in Monrovia, Liberia
- ◇ Office of the Honorable Elena Salgado, Minister of Health in Madrid, Spain
- ◇ Office of Professor Taipale, Director General STAKES, National Research & Development Centre for Welfare & Health in Helsinki, Finland
- ◇ Office of Alyson Bailes, Director, Stockholm Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in Stockholm, Sweden
- ◇ Office of the President, The Club of Madrid in Madrid, Spain