

**Council of Women World Leaders**  
**Private Meeting of Council Members and High-Level Leaders**

Convened on the occasion of  
*The International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development,  
International Peace and Security*

Monrovia, Liberia  
7 March 2009

Hosted by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President, Republic of Liberia  
Chair: Council of Women World Leaders

In attendance:

H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President, Republic of Liberia  
H.E. Tarja Halonen, President, Republic of Finland  
H.E. Luisa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister, Mozambique  
H.E. Paul Kigame, President of Rwanda  
H.E. The Right Honorable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General, Canada  
H.E. Mary T. Robinson, President, Ireland (1990-1997)  
H.E. Ruth Dreifuss, President, Switzerland (1998-1999)  
H.E. Maria Liberia-Peters, Prime Minister, Netherlands Antilles (1984-86, 1988-1994)  
Honorable Margot Wallström, Vice President, European Commission  
H.E. Maria-Teresa Fernandez de la Vega Sanz, First Vice President, Spain  
H.E. Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice President, Republic of The Gambia  
H.E. Androulla Vassiliou, Health Commissioner, European Commission  
Ms. Rachel Mayanja, U.N. Assistant Secretary General  
Ms. Ines Alberdi, Executive Director, UNIFEM  
Honorable Olubanke King-Akerele, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Liberia  
Honorable Catherine Namugala, Minister of Tourism, Environment & Natural Resources,  
Republic of Zambia  
H.E. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Minister of Finance, Nigeria (2003-2006)  
H.E. Elisabeth Rehn, Minister of Defense, Finland (1990-1995)  
H.E. Ursula Plassnik, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Austria (2004-2008)  
Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to Liberia  
Ambassador Karen B. Stewart, U.S. Assistant Secretary for the Bureau for Democracy,  
Human Rights and Labor  
Honorable Swanee Hunt, Chair, Institute for Inclusive Security; U.S. Ambassador to Austria  
(1993-1997)  
Baroness Valerie Amos, House of Lords, United Kingdom  
Ms. Pamela White, Mission Director, USAID  
Ms. Musimbi Kanyoro, Director, Population Program, David and Lucile Packard Foundation  
Counselor Yvette Chesson-Wureh, International Colloquium Manager  
Ms. Laura Liswood, Secretary General, Council of Women World Leaders  
Ms. Patricia Deyton, Senior Advisor, Council of Women World Leaders  
Ms. Heather Grady, Policy Director, Realizing Rights, the Ethical Globalization Initiative  
*Other notable guests and aides*

The meeting was convened on the grounds of the Executive Residence of the President of the Republic of Liberia by Council Chair, the Honorable Mary T. Robinson, as an official meeting of the Council of Women World Leaders. President Robinson affirmed the wisdom of convening the Council Meeting upon the occasion of the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership, International Peace and Security as a tangible gesture of support and opportunity.

President Robinson reviewed the history and background of the Council which has expanded to include 37 members, which she described as a "genuine political mass." She further noted that as the Council grows it will be looked to for leadership and can and should act upon issues of global importance. She then called upon assembled Council members and guests to endorse by acclamation a letter addressing the humanitarian crises unfolding in The Sudan as a result of the decision of the Sudanese government to revoke the licenses of 13 humanitarian agencies representing 70% of the U.N. capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance to two and a half million women, men, and children displaced by war in Darfur. The letter, addressed to H.E. Omar Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of Sudan, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, and H.E. Jean Ping, President of the African Union Commission, was approved by voice acclamation. The letter was sent the following day; a copy is attached to this report (Appendix 1).

President Robinson introduced Laura Liswood, Secretary General of the Council, who provided the assembled body with a report of the Council's activities. She emphasized the Council's mission and its role to provide architecture for women leaders. Liswood presented information on the Council's current activities, including:

- The *Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Series*, a series of high-level symposiums focusing on the progress women worldwide have achieved and what challenges remain ahead in key areas of leadership.
- The Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health with women ministers of health, carried out in partnership with Realizing Rights, Results for Development, and the World Health Organization.
- The Ministerial Initiative for the Environment, and plans to develop a Ministerial Initiative for Education.
- The Fellowship Programs for graduate students from Harvard and Columbia Universities, the new Public Health Graduate Fellowship Program, and the South Pacific Emerging Women Leaders program.

Liswood closed her remarks by noting that the Council exists for its members and invited the membership to consider ideas for its use of the organization.

President Robinson shared the development of the Ministerial Initiative of the Council of Women World Leaders and expressed appreciation to the Hon. Madeleine K. Albright, U.S. Secretary of State (1997-2001), for her engagement as the first Chair of the Ministerial Initiative. She introduced European Commission Vice President Margot Wallström, current Chair of the Council's Ministerial Initiative.

Ms. Wallström discussed the value of the ministerial meetings convened by the Council with an emphasis upon the Road to Copenhagen and the necessity for the involvement of women

ministers of the environment in that process. She also indicated the importance of gender and justice issues. She closed her remarks by recognizing the dedication and value of Laura Liswood in her role as Secretary General of the Council.

President Robinson introduced H.E. Tarja Halonen as the incoming Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders. President Halonen assumed leadership of the Council meeting at this time.

President Halonen gave a presentation on the importance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 (the “Resolution”), outlining the work done by Finland to support the Resolution and called for the Council to become more engaged in support of the Resolution.

President Halonen introduced H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia and host of the Council meeting. President Sirleaf honored the memory of Angie Brooks, the first African woman to chair the U.N. General Assembly, who was a trail blazer for justice and a dear person to Liberian women. She described the founding of the Angie Brooks International Center for Women’s Empowerment, Leadership Development, Peace and Security (the “Center”) and the groundbreaking ceremony that will take place on March 8, 2009, at the University of Liberia where the Center will reside.

President Halonen introduced H.E. Ruth Dreifuss, who gave a presentation on her work with the “1000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe” project (Appendix 2).

President Halonen introduced H.E. Luisa Dias Diogo, who gave a presentation on current initiatives to promote gender equity in Mozambique, noting the importance of economic empowerment and education (Appendix 3). She indicated that the use of gender mainstreaming processes and data are now used in all interventions.

President Halonen introduced H.E. Maria Liberia-Peters, who extended a warm expression of appreciation to President Robinson for her leadership as Chair of the Council for the past six years (Appendix 4).

The meeting of the Council concluded with deep appreciation expressed to President Sirleaf for her generous hospitality.

## Appendix 1

7 March 2009

To H.E. Omar al-Bashir, President, Republic of Sudan  
To Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General, United Nations  
To H.E. Jean Ping, President, African Union Commission

At a meeting of the Council of Women World Leaders and special guests convened during the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security in Liberia on 7 March, deep concern was expressed at the imminent consequences of the decision of the Government of Sudan to revoke the licenses to operate in Sudan of 13 humanitarian agencies. These agencies represent approximately 70% of the UN capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance to two and a half million women, men, and children displaced by war in Darfur. They also provide similar assistance to hundreds of thousands across the North of Sudan. We know these agencies well from their work in Darfur and in other countries around the world, and can vouch for their impartiality and integrity as humanitarian actors, concerned only with the welfare of people affected by conflict and natural disasters.

These agencies provide life-saving support on a daily basis to those suffering on any side in the conflict, including clean water and sanitation, food, shelter and basic medical services. There will surely be terrible human consequences from their absence in Darfur and the North of Sudan, even for a short period.

We appeal to President Omar al-Bashir, to the UN Secretary General, and to the President of the African Union Commission to work together to reverse this decision. We ask that the Government of Sudan find other avenues to express rejection of the ICC ruling that will not hurt the poorest and most vulnerable women and their families in Darfur.

Respectfully,

H. E. Mary Robinson, Outgoing Chair, Council of Women World Leaders  
H. E. Tarja Halonen, Incoming Chair, Council of Women World Leaders

And the Undersigned Members and Guests of the Council of Women World Leaders:

H. E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President, Republic of Liberia  
Honorable Margot Wallström, Vice President, European Commission  
H. E. Androulla Vassiliou, Commissioner for Health, European Commission  
H. E. Maria Liberia-Peters, former President, Netherlands Antilles  
H. E. Ruth Dreifuss, former President, Switzerland  
H. E. Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega Sanz, First Vice President, Spain  
H.E. Isatou Njie-Saidy, Vice President, Republic of Gambia  
H. E. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, former Minister of Finance, Nigeria  
H.E. Elisabeth Rehn, former Minister of Defense, Finland  
H. E. Ursula Plassnik, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Austria  
H.E. the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General, Canada  
Baroness Valerie Amos, House of Lords, United Kingdom  
Ambassador Swanee Hunt, United States of America

Monrovia, Liberia

## Appendix 2

### The 1000 PeaceWomen Across the Globe Project

Remarks Delivered at the Meeting of the Council of Women World Leaders  
Monrovia, March 8, 2009

by

Ruth Dreifuss

Former President of the Swiss Confederation and Former Minister of Home Affairs

It is a pleasure for me to introduce you to an exciting project that I had the privilege to be connected with, that I have supported all along, and that I was also able to bring to the Monrovia Women's Colloquium in form of an exhibit, because it fits so wonderfully with the aim of this international conference.

I want to briefly describe the goals and objectives of the *1000PeaceWomen Across the Globe* organization, how it came about, how it continues to develop and what its current goals are.

From its beginning, in 2001/02, the project was based on a simple idea. The idea came from Dr. Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, at that time member of the Swiss Parliament and the Council of Europe. She said to herself: 'The world of war is the world of men. Women on the other hand usually take over the responsibility to reconstruct destroyed villages, devastated societies, and silently work to create peace. Why is women's peace work hardly made public, let alone recognized? Not that spectacular peace work, like the signing of a peace accord between two heads of state. But rather,' she said, 'the peace work that women do by helping orphans that have become victims of war or whose parents died of AIDS; or who courageously stand up for human rights in circumstances where they may become victimized themselves; or who tirelessly work for providing improved livelihood opportunities for entire populations; or who create programs to clear their environment from landmines. How about making these women visible by nominating 1000 of these generally unknown women who create peace in these practical ways for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005?'

And Liberia – with its remarkable story of thousands of women peacemakers – is a perfect example for what Gaby Vermot meant with her idea.

The number 1000 served as a metaphor so to speak, as a symbol for the hundred of thousands of women who silently work, day after day, to create peace in such a down to earth manner. The year 2005 was chosen, to commemorate the fact that in 1905 Bertha von Suttner, the Austrian pacifist, was the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Since then, 12 women in all received the Nobel Peace Prize among many dozens of men and several peace organizations, such as the *ICRC* or *Doctors without Borders*. And the core of this idea to collectively nominate 1000 outstanding women peacemakers around the globe for the Nobel Peace prize in 2005 was not only to provide visibility, recognition and appreciation of women's very special peace efforts but to also tip that uneven scale between women and men.

Thus the idea *1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005* gradually took shape. A Swiss association was created, a small secretariat was set up, and an international team of regional coordinators was established with the task to search for the 1000 nominees. This group met

twice a year, developed the stringent selection criteria (such as women of integrity and courage, be it working at the grassroots or in government, whose work has been long-term and sustainable and who focused on the well-being of the community). The group also developed an expanded peace concept defined as human security and justice—not simply the absence of war. In other words peace is conflict management and resolution, education for everyone, absence of all forms of violence, access to land and clean water, etc. Peace is also the equality between men and women, and the freedom of opinion.

Although the most important goal as of 2003 was to nominate 1000 women for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005, two more goals were added: The visibility that the project wanted to create for 1000 women working for peace should not just end in 2005 but should persist and become an ongoing goal; and thirdly, women's special peace strategies, methods and achievements should also be scientifically researched. The conclusions of this research should then be made available to governments, international organizations and civil society.

On January 31, 2005, after two years of intensive work, the nomination letter, signed by our Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey, was handed to the Nobel Prize committee in Oslo.

In June 2005, the project group organized some 40 press conferences around the world to publicly announce the names of the nominated women. The media echo was quite remarkable. In many regions the nominated women all of a sudden became visible, they were celebrated and their work got attention.

Additionally, and this is to fulfill the second goal of the project, a book documenting the work of these nominees and an exhibition was being prepared in order to provide some more sustainability to the project. Until today the book (or parts thereof) was translated into German, Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian. The exhibition – that is now at the Samuel Doe Stadium – features the 1000 women. And, until today, the exhibit has been shown some 1000 times worldwide. After the Colloquium, I will handle over some books and the whole exhibition to the *Angie Brooks International Center for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace & Security*.

Two remarkable Liberian women are among the Nobel Prize nominees: Mary Brownell and Ruth Sando Perry. It was a privilege for me to meet Mary Brownell as well as four others of the 1000 nominees attending this conference, namely Ambassador Swanee Hunt from the USA, Asha Haga Elmi from Somalia, as well as two nominees from Kenya, Litha Musyimi-Ogana and Musimbi Kanyoro. These women and all the other stories of other women peacemakers' achievements in the book demonstrate that their resistance, their resilience, their immense courage and unfaltering determination, have made a world of difference.

Naturally, the disappointment was huge when on October 7 the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize 2005 was announced: Mr. Mohamed ElBaradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Despite of this disappointment the project staff, coordinators and volunteers, continue to work unperturbed. The focus over the next few years continues to be the same and, additionally, *PeaceWomen Across The Globe*, PWAG, works for sustainable peace by encouraging networking among women peace makers thus also enhancing and augmenting,

or capitalizing, if you will, on women's peace work. In this context a possible collaboration with the planned *Angie Brooks International Center* seems to offer itself.

PWAG has now also become an international initiative although the secretariat continues to be in Bern. Programs are going on all around the world, coordinated by the international team. For example: One focus has also been creating awareness for the implementation of the UN Resolution 1325; a workshop on femicide was organized in El Salvador and Mexico; a peace education training was held in Azerbaijan; a campaign in West Africa is under way against the use of small arms; documentary films are produced and research is being done.

By building a strong and global network of women peacebuilders *PeaceWomen Across the Globe* wants to create a platform, where the expertise of the PeaceWomen can systematically be offered to interested parties and provide an important contribution to promoting women's participation on all levels of peacebuilding. The thematic focus for the next few years has been set on conflict transformation, ecological security and livelihoods, and on violence prevention against women. Thus PeaceWomen acting as experts, consultants or mediators, will increasingly take part in peace processes and will ever more participate in decision-making bodies.

**For more information see [www.1000peacewomen.org](http://www.1000peacewomen.org)**

## Appendix 3



**REPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUE**

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**Gabinete da Primeira-Ministra**

**Council of Women World Leaders**

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

**Statement**

by

**H.E. Dr. Luísa Dias Diogo**  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique**

**Monrovia, Liberia, 07 March, 2009**

**Your Excellency**

**Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia,**

**Your Excellency**

**Madam Tarja Halonen, President of Finland,**

**Your Excellency**

**Madam Mary Robinson, Chairperson of the Council of Women World Leaders,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great honor for me to be here today and to address this important meeting of the *Council of Women World Leaders* on the occasion of the *International Colloquium on Women Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security*.

Allow me to express my profound gratitude to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and President Mary Robinson for the kind invitation extended to me and indeed for the opportunity provided to the whole membership of the Council to take stock of the business and activities of the *Council of Women World Leaders*.

Today's timely meeting offers a unique opportunity for all of us to exchange views and experiences on issues of common interest, such as the empowerment of women, in particular those related to the role of women in peace and security.

Therefore, I wish to commend most sincerely the Council members for the very interesting presentations just made on the current initiatives and activities that contribute to the advancement of the role of women in society.

As I said in the plenary session of the Colloquium, there could have not been a more appropriate venue than Liberia to discuss how far we went in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, since its adoption in the year 2000. Liberia,

under the commendable leadership of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has made important progress not just towards the consolidation of peace and advancement of women, but also to the strengthening of the well-being of its people as a whole.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In Mozambique, with a view to ensuring gender mainstreaming in the country's development policies we have established a Ministry responsible for Women Affairs.

In order to best implement and control Government progress, a National Council for Woman Advancement was created to supervise and monitor the implementation of policies and programs in the area of empowerment of women and gender equality. This Council produced as deliverables the National Plan for Woman Advancement and the National Action Plan for Preventing and Combating the Violence against Woman (2008 – 2012).

This process has required a sound and strong leadership that is committed to women emancipation and empowerment. In Mozambique, with strong political will and personal commitment of President Armando Emilio Guebuza, it was possible to move forward the women empowerment agenda with a positive impact on our economic development process.

The Government of Mozambique encourages the establishment of women's networks, groups and associations throughout the country, including in the area of business aimed at promoting the development foundation and pro-women actions.

In the socio-economic field, efforts for the empowerment of women are centred in girl's emancipation and ensure access to education, so that women can be equipped with the necessary skills to take advantage of business opportunities available in the country.

Like many of you present here today, we in Mozambique believe in education as a fundamental tool for the empowerment of women. Therefore, besides formal education, the Government runs training programs in business management and leadership to enable women to play a pivotal role in business and development process of the country.

Our investment in women's education has heavily focused on girl's enrolment and placing of proper incentives so as to have them continuing their schooling from earlier stages of their education through the complete empowerment of their personality.

In fact, girl's enrolment improved to 73% in 2008 while the national enrolment rate is 99%. For that reason, the challenge we are grappling with is to continue to invest in the education of women, consolidate gender mainstreaming in all interventions, so as to ensure that the improvement of the quality of life of the Mozambicans reaches equitably both men and women.

All these achievements have been backed by policies that favour gender equity and fundamentally by an investment in women's education, consolidate gender mainstreaming, so as to ensure a balanced quality of life for both men and women in Mozambique.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

While we are moving towards the gender equality more reflections are needed and additional focus must be defined.

It is a general consensus that the education, the definition of policies, strategies and enabling legislation are key to promote gender equality and they create the favourable environment to produce "Roll Models", so important to be taken as reference to follow in the process of political and social empowerment of women.

The question now is what about the African economic "Roll Models"? How to build the woman's economic autonomy? How to make the empowerment of women more sustainable? Education is fundamental but economic empowerment is also important.

In Mozambique, we have started with this process at the level of all our 128 districts. We are allocating financial resources in a decentralized manner to finance productive projects for food production, creation of more job opportunities and to promote entrepreneurship initiatives having women at the centre as the main target group.

Since 2007, more than 25.943 projects have been approved and 107.950 new jobs have been created. It is being successful.

We defined new procedures such as simplified mechanisms for enterprise's registration and simplified regime for small and micro tax payers. These procedures are contributing to improve the business environment and to facilitate the informal economic agents.

We also approved the new Family Law that emphasizes the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women in matters related to the family's property management. In other hand, the Land's Law establishes an equal access to it, both for men and women.

To ensure an effective operationalization of these tools, we need to strengthen the women in order to become the "Roll Models" in the economic area! We need to have much more women who everyday salute money with a good morning and in returns money bows to them in sign of respect!

Indeed, each business-woman from the formal sector, each economic agent from the informal sector and each small holder farmer can say – Yes, I can make it happen! and yes, I am capable!

Definitely, she is capable to get the knowledge, skills and tools to produce more and increase her income. The income of the family, and income of the community and finally the income of the country!

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Although significant progress has been made in the field of women empowerment and gender equality in political, economic and social spheres in the African Continent, there are still challenges of great magnitude to eradicate violence against women and girls.

Therefore, I strongly believe that the combination of all above measures, *inter-alia*, adopting pro-women legislation; investing in girls' education; women training in professional skills; promoting women self association and others will enable women to significantly contribute

to the efforts towards poverty reduction and achievement of sustainable socio-economic development of our African Continent.

These are challenges that can not be successfully addressed by one country alone. The struggle for women's empowerment, leadership development, international peace and security require full commitment not just from governments, but equally from all stakeholders, including civil society organizations and NGO's.

Today's meeting will certainly contribute to the achievement of such objectives.

**Dear Sisters,**

Violence against women and gender inequality are pernicious and abhorrent phenomena but with weaknesses.

**Jointly**, with the right policies, strategies, actions and strong leadership, we will, for sure, overcome them and continue to build a better future for ourselves and for the generations still to come!

I thank you for your kind attention!

## Appendix 4

Madame President Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,

Among the many “mijlpalen,” destiny planned the stepping down of our Honorable Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, the Honorable Mary Robinson, during this historical event here in Liberia. Tonight she will be passing the “torch” on to the President of the Republic of Finland, President Tarja Halonen.

The French say “Partir, c’est mourir.” But in this case the English saying that “those who live on in the heart of others shall never die” is also very appropriate!

One of the briefings I had the honor to receive when adventuring myself in the field of politics many years ago was: “whenever you step down from either a post or engagement, always do it “en majeure!”

President Mary Robinson in her own unique way has touched the heart of many all over the globe. Be it as President of Ireland, High Commissioner of Human Rights at the United Nations, and for the past six years, among the many other engagements, Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders.

During President Robinson’s tenure, the Council welcomed 8 new members. We also mourned together the loss of 3 of our members, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, and Prime Minister Maria de Lourdes Pintasilgo. We commemorate them in great love and respect for their achievements. May they be granted eternal peace and happiness after substantial hard work and labor for the better of mankind.

The Harvard Kennedy School of Government served as a critical launching pad for the Council. President Robinson’s infectious dynamism helped the Council grow significantly, but it was soon apparent that the Council was a big fish in a small pond. The fish needed to move to larger and deeper waters, so in 2004, President Robinson organized and arranged for the Council’s move from the Kennedy School of Government to the Aspen Institute in Washington, DC. The geographical location facilitated expansion of work with members and others for very interesting conferences, network meetings and presence internationally.

The cherry on the icing was in May 2008 when the Council became an official policy program of the Aspen Institute.

Conscious of the fact that if women’s leadership is of great importance for sustained equality, development, and peace, we have to continue to promote women participation at all levels of social and political life. The Council, therefore in conjunction with the Aspen Institute, has sponsored a series of roundtable discussions focusing on the progress that women have achieved worldwide, but even more important on the challenges that lie ahead in key areas of leadership.

Recognizing the importance of Global Health as a pre-condition for Human Development, extra impetus was given by the Council to the Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global

Health, a four year initiative (October 2007 – October 2011), funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to strengthen the leadership capacity of Ministers of Health and their senior staff. Three organizations have bundled together to make this initiative work. I am referring to Realizing Rights, the Health Financing Task Force and the Council of Women World Leaders. This initiative is to promote pro-poor health financing reforms and harmonization and alignment in donor funds for health. The initiative supports the World Health Organization (WHO) in its development of the first-ever global report on women's health and President Robinson has a dual role as she is actively involved in two of the collaborating partners, namely Realizing Rights and the Council of Women World Leaders. President Robinson also secured this grant for Council work.

Today we witnessed the epic first day of the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security.

Madame President Robinson, when I say that you have to step down "en majeure," here is it. This Colloquium vibrates success. Along with Her Excellency President Johnson Sirleaf and Her Excellency President Halonen and all the others who have worked so hard to guarantee a successful meeting here in Liberia, we acknowledge that President Robinson has played a crucial role in this Colloquium, as she has been involved in every stage of development of this event and directed the Council's activities within it.

Please, I invite you to stand and honor President Mary Robinson's dedication to the Council of Women World Leaders!

MLP

Monrovia, March 8, 2009