

STRATEGIZING FOR PEACE: THE CRITICAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN SUDAN

In November 2006, The Initiative for Inclusive Security convened a diverse group of 50 women leaders from the governments of National Unity and Southern Sudan as well as civil society for a consultation on increasing women's participation in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Together they identified the objectives below as critical to achieving this goal.

GOAL

Increased women's inclusion as leaders in peace building.

OBJECTIVES

- 1. To formulate 'pro-poor' economic policies, increase transparency in economic decision-making, and ensure women access to economic opportunities.**
 - Women-led organizations receive an equitable share of support from all levels of government and donors.
 - All commissions, especially the land, oil and civil service commissions, have at least 30 percent representation of women.
 - Sudanese governments and donors use transparent and broadly participatory planning and budgeting processes, mainstreaming gender in all policies and practices,
- 2. To enhance cooperation among women at all levels, especially in political decision-making.**
 - Women political leaders are supported through opportunities to exchange experiences and receive advice and information.
 - Discussion fora exist that involve diverse groups of women leaders.
 - Women leaders in the public sector, private sector and civil society cooperate and have means of regular communication.
- 3. To fulfill a nationwide 30 percent quota for women's political participation at all levels of government, to increase gradually until arriving at a guarantee of 50 percent participation by women.**
 - Existing quotas are fulfilled.
 - Legislative opportunities such as constitutional reviews and drafting committees are used to increase quotas.
 - Women are recruited to fill positions in the public sector at all levels.
- 4. To ensure that legislation guarantees women's rights, and holds governments accountable for women's participation in government and the economy.**
 - The electoral law mandates affirmative action to ensure women an equal right to participate in the electoral process.
 - The labor law and civil service reform protect and enhance women's rights in the workforce.
 - The human rights commissions and human rights laws guard the rights of women.
- 5. To enhance the leadership capacity of women and women's organizations to influence laws and policy making.**
 - Women's groups are mobilized and supported in their advocacy to ensure the census accurately counts women and women-headed households and reflects women's contributions to the economy.
 - Funding for women's leadership capacity building increases.
 - The next generation of women leaders and those with less experience are mentored.
 - An information source on national, regional and international meetings, mechanisms, training opportunities, sources of funding, and statistical data on women is established.

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