

The Institute for Inclusive Security

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations to increase the capacity for women's leadership in peace building were developed by a coalition of women convened by The Institute for Inclusive Security in January 2009. They include women from Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, Israel, Kashmir, Lebanon, Liberia, Palestine, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Uganda.

TO IMPROVE CAPACITY BUILDING FOR WOMEN'S ENGAGEMENT IN DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE:

GOVERNMENTS SHOULD

1. Create, in consultation with civil society, a well-funded, comprehensive national strategy for promoting women's participation in all levels of government.
2. In countries where quotas do not exist, establish a quota for at least 30 percent women's representation in political parties, local and national legislatures, and the executive branch. Special efforts should be made to raise awareness among minority populations of these quotas so that women from these communities can take advantage of these mechanisms.
3. Form an independent oversight body that includes women civil society leaders, to monitor and report on national implementation of existing international resolutions on women such as UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

DONORS AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD

1. Establish an independent trust fund to train women to be competitive in local and national elections.
2. Mandate at least 30 percent women's representation in all formal election-monitoring bodies.
3. Provide targeted training for women in the legislature and in the executive branch to become effective policymakers. Training would include sessions on:
 - i. Democratic development
 - ii. Budgeting
 - iii. Legislation drafting
 - iv. Confidence building/leadership
 - v. Public policy
 - vi. Coalition building
 - vii. Gender-sensitive leadership
4. Provide targeted funding and training to build knowledge of and skills in issues of peace and security among members of women's caucuses (in countries where women's caucuses exist).

5. Support, in collaboration with local civil-society organizations, programs to bring elected women leaders to rural communities to share their experiences and encourage local women to run for political office.
6. Adopt policies and processes to expand institutional gender awareness.
7. Establish specific programs to facilitate economic access and opportunities for women.
8. Create incentives to encourage contractors to subcontract to local and national women consultants and women-led enterprises using the proposal scoring process. Calls for project proposals should be more widely published and disseminated so that women-led organizations can participate in the bidding process.
9. Require high-level delegations to conflict areas to meet with local women's organizations.

CONTRACTORS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD

1. Include local women as part of the proposed team of implementers where contracted work is to be completed.
2. Require consultation with women's organizations on the local, regional, and national levels in the design, implementation, and monitoring of all projects.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND THINK TANKS SHOULD

1. Develop and maintain an online database of local women researchers in conflict countries so that academic institutions and think tanks can more effectively utilize local knowledge and perspectives.
2. Establish a program on women and political leadership within political science departments of government-funded colleges and universities to highlight women's contributions to the promotion of democratic development and good governance.
3. Consult with local women researchers and civil-society organizations in conflict areas to ensure contextualized, gender-sensitive research and publications.