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Quotes of the Week

Posted by [Maggie Fick \(/blogs/maggie-fick\)](#) on Apr 26, 2009

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 (<http://www.enoughproject.org/print/1707>)



Speaking last week at a [panel discussion](#)

(<http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/news-event-news/41/335-crisis-in-darfur-where-are-the-windows-to-peace-panel-discussion>)

hosted by the [Nobel Women's Initiative](#) (<http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/>) in Washington, D.C., Nobel laureate Wangari Maathai discussed prospects for peace in Sudan and had these [wise words](#) (http://www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/images/stories/PressRelease_Apr09.pdf) on the future of a credible peace process in Darfur and throughout the country:

It is vital that any and all peace talks include the women of Sudan, who are already building a path to peace through their efforts to create dialogue and a consultation process... **When women are not part of the peace process, their access to justice, reparations and the full range of their rights is jeopardized.**

Also on the panel, Carla Koppell, the director of the [Institute for Inclusive Security](#) (http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/7_the_initiative_for_inclusive_security.cfm), urged the international community to:

[C]onvene other players, not the same armed actors, to shift incentives in negotiations to offer more seats for women, and ask for women's groups' input in a formal way.

The perspectives of Maathai and Koppell and leaders like them must not be ignored as the international community works to build a credible peace process for Darfur. Including women from the ground up is the only way to ensure that peace in Darfur—and throughout Sudan—is realized for *all* of its people.

Photo: Panel discussion in Washington, D.C., courtesy of the Nobel Women's Initiative

 (<http://www.urlfan.com/?via=b>)