



“Institutionalizing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325”

Press Release

Cairo Egypt, November, 2006 - Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak will chair the Regional Seminar entitled “Institutionalizing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325” that will take place from November 20th -22nd at the Four Seasons Plaza in Cairo, Egypt.

The seminar organized by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement in partnership with the United Nations Women's Fund (UNIFEM) and in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNFPA, UNDP, and the Regional Bureau and the World Bank, aims at building effective women peace regional networks and promoting the culture of peace in the region.

The main objective of the three-day workshop is to form a Platform for Action on security council resolution 1325 in addition to generating support for the establishment of an effective cross regional women's peace network to act as advocate for the implementation of the resolution in context of the conflicts in the regional.

Resolution 1325, issued in 2000, reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision- making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution. It urges UN Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.

It is expected at the conclusion of this meeting that the participants will issue a joint letter to the Security Council and the new Secretary General with concrete recommendations for systematic implementation of SCR 1325 provisions at all levels.

The Regional Seminar will convene peace advocates, women's movement members, and officials of women's ministries from the Arab world to explore efforts to help activate the Resolution in the region, taking into consideration the specific character and requirements of each nation. The event comes as a follow-up to the Movement's first regional workshop entitled The Road to UNSC 1325 – Women, Peace and Security – Future Perspectives", held in May 2004 in Cairo, Egypt.

Participants will look together at existing strategies being undertaken by various women's groups around the world to tackle the obstacles hindering the proper implementation of UNSC1325, such as building cross-regional peace networks. In addition, they will discuss ways to enhance the efforts in the region to build a culture of peace and tolerance.

The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement was founded on the principle that women can and should be more visibly represented in all aspects of peace building because their participation has been proven to enhance the outcome. According to H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, founder and chair of The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, "our primary responsibility is to raise awareness of the importance of women's wider participation in preventing violence, resolving conflicts, and creating conditions conducive to peace and its consolidation."

In its own capacity, UNIFEM has adopted and promoted resolution 1325 from the beginning and has been the main partner of the The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement efforts to consolidate women's peace efforts in the region.

Building on its work in Africa throughout the 1990s, UNIFEM now works in over 30 countries worldwide to respond to armed conflict.

UNIFEM's programming and advocacy follow a four-pronged strategy to:

1. Increase the availability of targeted information on the impact of conflict on women and their role in preventing conflict and building peace;
2. Strengthen approaches to humanitarian protection and assistance for women affected by conflict;
3. Foster the contribution of women to conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building at national, regional and international levels; and
4. Strengthen the focus on gender justice through administrative, constitutional, legislative, judicial and electoral reform in conflict-affected areas.