

N-PEACE Network

Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment



Report for

Consultation Workshop on N-PEACE Network Nepal

26 May 2011

Kathmandu, NEPAL



N-PEACE Network

Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment

Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DIG	Deputy Inspector General of police
DSP	Deputy Superintendant of Police
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
I/NGO	International/National Government Organization
LRP	Livelihood Recovery for Peace
NPA	National Plan of Action
OPMCM	Office of Prime Minister and Council Of Ministers
PEAC	Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SSP	Senior Superintendant of Police
TOT	Training Of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
WCSC	Women and Children Service Centre

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1 Introduction

About the Report

This is a report of the N-PEACE network (Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment) consultation meeting for Nepal, organized by the UNDP Asia Pacific Regional Centre in Bangkok and the Nepal Country Office on May 26, 2011. The report provides detailed consultation proceedings, deliberations, issues discussed and commitments made. The report is also expected to serve as a workshop output for future use by the facilitators and network members.

Source of Information

Information contained in this report was taken from presentations and group work discussions at the consultation.

Context and Background

October 2010 marked the ten-year anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS). To perform a deliberate exercise in reflecting on successes and existing challenges, the Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery team brought together representatives from civil society, government and UNDP offices from Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, with the aim to establish a multi-country network called N-PEACE. The N-PEACE network supports strengthening the role of women in leading community recovery and peace building

efforts. The members of the network identified a number of challenges and collectively discussed strategies that can be employed to bridge these gaps. The N-PEACE network provides an array of organizations and women leaders with support through training and by giving them a space to network and voice their demands, needs and contributions, both in their own country as well as across the four countries.

Based on an analysis of national priorities, developments, achievements and efforts of various women's rights movements, UNDP Nepal identified Shanti Malika, Women Human Rights Defenders and Nepal Police as the core participating organizations as part of the N-PEACE network. From the onset, the members from Nepal promoted the agenda of 'break the silence against the violence' as part of the needs on the WPS agenda.

As a next step, N-PEACE network in Nepal proposes that it will seek to enhance state-civil society collaboration on women's safety and security in addressing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Nepal adopted the National Plan of Action against Gender-based Violence (NPA-GBV) by its Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) in 2010 with the former Prime Minister declaring the year 2010 as the Year Free of Violence. In the same year, UNDP Nepal started its high-level engagement with the Nepal Police, coinciding with the above national priority.



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Objectives and Outputs from the consultation

Objectives of the consultation:

- Convene N-PEACE members and expand the network to other organizations that can contribute to and benefit from the N-PEACE network;
- Provide an overview of network activities for 2011-12 and discuss priorities for Nepal;
- Facilitate and provide the space to network, discuss and share experiences and common challenges for women in post-conflict Nepal, to be used for developing advocacy messaging.

Outputs:

- An expansion of the multi-country N-PEACE network;
- Mapping of women's priorities to form the basis for an advocacy/socialization campaign.

Participants and presenters/facilitators

The consultation workshop in Kathmandu involved twenty-five representatives from civil society, Nepal Police, and UNDP. A core team of facilitators including Ms. Kasumi Nishigaya, UNDP Nepal, Ms. Radhika Behuria, UNDP, Asia Pacific Regional Centre, Bangkok and Ms. Serena Rix Tripathee, Search for Common Ground, Nepal delivered the sessions, while presentations were also given by high-ranking officials of the Nepal Police. Annex-1 contains a list of participants.

2 Proceedings of the Consultation

The consultation was structured into different sessions comprising the welcome and opening session, the introductory session, group work and discussions.

Inaugural Session

Ms. Shoko Noda, Country Director, UNDP Nepal delivered the welcome address. In her remarks, Ms. Noda described the workshop as an opportunity to set milestones and reflect on successes and existing challenges on WPS issues in Nepal. She welcomed the guests, facilitators and participants to the consultation between women rights NGOs and the Nepal Police and expressed hope that the event will serve the network's aim to support the emerging leadership of women in conflict prevention, recovery and peace building.



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She underscored the aim of the consultation to map priority areas that can also be used to create advocacy on WPS specifically related to addressing SGBV. She encouraged participants to share their experiences with one another and ensure that they use the opportunity to contribute to the N-PEACE network so that they can learn from other countries, and also showcase good practices from Nepal. Full text of the speech is available in Annex-2

SESSION I: Regional Engagement

Strategy

Strengthening the role of women in building and restoring peace

Ms. Radhika Behuria, Specialist, Gender and Crisis, UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Center highlighted the objectives and outputs for the consultation and provided an introduction to the N-PEACE network (background, partners, core issues and future interventions). She indicated that the workshop would significantly contribute to creating synergies for greater advocacy on WPS as well as provide the opportunity to dialogue and exchange ideas among individuals working through different organizations for common objectives.



Highlights

- The establishment of the N-PEACE network was set against the background that women are often the most vulnerable in times of crisis and they usually perform multiple unrecognized roles- as combatants, activists, peace-builders, and in preventing and resolving conflicts. However there are few mechanisms and platforms where women can voice their needs and priorities, and share their contributions. At the global level there are commitments through the UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1880, UN system-wide action plan and several others that have called for measures to support local peace initiatives and to involve women in peace-building. The N-PEACE network thus provides a platform across four countries to support women and their leadership efforts in building peace.
- The N-PEACE network functions on the premise of engagement and collaboration for common issues, to coordinate efforts for efficiency and to create stronger advocacy and awareness. It not only allows women's groups and organizations to connect with each other's knowledge and experience but also helps to create interface between government and CSO partners for dialogue.
- The N-PEACE network functions as a multi-country network that facilitates three types of interventions including (i) knowledge sharing, networking and forging partnerships, (ii) capacity development and (iii) advocacy and awareness. Through the network a number of country level consultations between government and CSOs on WPS agenda have been carried out in Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste.

Following this, brief introductions were exchanged among the participants wherein participants were instructed to write (i) what they/their organization could gain/benefit from being part of N-PEACE network; and (ii) what they/their organization could offer/contribute to the N-PEACE network. (Refer to Annex-3 for participants' responses to the two questions).

SESSION II: Presentation by The Nepal Police

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP), Bimala Thapa Sharma, the Director, Women and Children Service Directorate, Nepal Police Headquarters delivered her presentation titled, 'Nepal Police in response to issues of Gender Based Violence'. Highlighting that the Nepal Police was established in 1950 and police constable Chhaitamaya Dangol was the first female police constable recruited in 1951, DIG Thapa said the Nepal Police is now following the government's policy of inclusion with a new recruitment policy for women.



Highlights

- Currently women police constitute 6.029 per cent (3,622 in number) of the Nepal police, which includes *two* DIGP, *three* Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), *four* Superintendant of Police (SP), *twelve* Deputy Superintendant of Police (DSP) and *forty-five* Inspectors among others.
- Women and Children Service Centre (WCSC) was established in line with the recommendations of "Police Reform Commission 1995". The Nepal government created permanent posting for WCSC at zonal, district and regional levels. In February 2007, the following clause was introduced 'Guarantee-fair and special treatment in the best interest of women and children, whenever they come in contact with the law is the vision of the WCSC and its mission is to provide friendly environment and accessibility to justice for women and children', and the central WCSC was upgraded as a WCSC Directorate in December 2008.
- Women police are mostly involved in the WCSC in maintaining law and order (security), police operation, traffic control, crime intelligence and investigation, information and communication technology and UN missions. There are separate buildings for WCSC in 13 districts, appointment of juvenile justice officers in 28 districts, border women and children service desk at 9 points (Kakadbhitta, Jogbani, Raxual, Belihawa, Jamuna, Trinager, Gaddachauki, Tatopani and Tribhuvan International Airport-Kathmandu), national centre for children at risk with hotline numbers, metro control hotline number, with child friendly rooms at district levels in 18 places.
- The police role in addressing GBV includes crime control and prevention, crime investigation and coordination, networking with stakeholders, and the role of women police in dealing with cases related to children and women is particularly significant. The guiding principles of women police handling such cases are family/community consultation, seeking expert's views, maintaining women and child friendly environment, evidence-based investigation and maintaining confidentiality.
- The public awareness raising activities of the Nepal Police, includes school liaison programs, public rallies and interactions, TV and radio programs and formation of district level network committees to combat SGBV. The Nepal Police has developed an approach to work for women and children through community policing, with one community police unit at central level, including 143 community service centers and 96 community service branches. Other major activities of the Nepal Police in this connection are coordination and networking with government authorities, UN agencies, I/NGOs and stakeholders, operation of crime data bank at central level and undertaking surveys in four

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regional offices, and appointment of gender focal persons.

- With regard to future plans, the Nepal Police will continue ongoing projects (joint projects with ADB, UN and NGOs) and continue to strengthen the WCSC at the district level. This will include public awareness campaigns and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials production and dissemination etc. Among other future plans are strengthening capacity, developing codes of conduct, guidebooks, instruction books for effective investigation, as well as amendment to the Police Act and Regulation.



Also, giving a presentation on 'Human Resource Strategy to Increase Gender Sensitivity', Inspector Sameer Kharel of Human Resource (HR) Department, Nepal Police Headquarters, apprised the participants that the Nepal Police had identified training (specialized and professional), sensitization programs and Police Headquarters' special directives (prevention of sexual harassment, women-friendly working environment and immediate actions against GBV) as part of its major strategies. He said they had charted out a future plan that includes expanding women and child service centers in every police unit (2-10 police personnel in each unit), strengthening capacity of WCSC, conducting training, orientation, induction/TOT and continuing to update their training manuals.

Question-Answer

- Responding to queries about the districts where the Nepal Police had carried out GBV sensitization initiatives and what training packages were being developed specifically, Inspector Kharel informed participants that GBV sensitization was being held at the district level – recently in Arghakhanci and Mahottari districts –and the area was selected on the basis of a vulnerability assessment. He replied that the curriculum has already been developed for UNSC resolution 1325 on WPS; 1820 on prevention of and responses to conflict related sexual violence, TOT for five development regions, special training package such as juvenile justice training to police constables and different induction/ orientation initiatives.
- Replying to how collection of evidence in cases of sexual harassment and domestic violence (verbal abuse) was being undertaken, Mr. Kharel said the evidence was gathered on the basis of explanation, complaint statements, sometimes eye-witnesses, confessional remarks by perpetrators, and physical bruises and wounds, if the case pertained to physical violence.



- To another query, *Ms. Thapa* responded that there had been no provision, or practice to swear-in or get newly appointed officers to sign an oath or promote officers for their demonstrated commitment to gender equality. The new Police Act may include some provisions as it has to be amended in line with gender perspectives, however she indicated that there are no specific arrangements yet.
- A participant added that the expansion of WCSC would substantially help the implementation of the national action plan on GBV at grassroots level. She also agreed that increasing the number of women police in the organization was imperative to give prime attention to combat GBV. Another participant highlighted that including police personnel from excluded and indigenous communities would also be a useful strategy in introducing an overall behavioural change and making the police force more inclusive.



SESSION III: Presentation on Nepal's emerging trends on the WPS agenda

Where we are, Where we want to go and What we need to change

The session began with a presentation by Ms. Kasumi Nishigaya, Senior Gender Adviser to UNDP Nepal on 'Nepal's Emerging Trends on WPS' focused on the current situation and future vision.



Highlights

- The key messages of UNSCRs on WPS are relevant to Nepal as UNSCR 1325 (2000) links women's experience of conflict to the maintenance of international peace and security. SCR1820 (2008) recognizes conflict-related sexual violence as a tactic of warfare and a critical component of international peace and security, requiring a peacekeeping, justice and peace negotiation response. SCR1888 (2009) strengthens tools for implementing 1820 through assigning leadership, building judicial response expertise, and reporting mechanisms. Likewise, SCR1889 (2009) addresses women's exclusion from early recovery and peace building, also bringing a focus on monitoring.

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- Women specific needs have to be addressed in conflict and post-conflict settings, and the above resolutions provide an appropriate framework for this:- **Participation** (Inclusion of women and women's interests in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts), **Prevention** (Prevention of relapse into conflict and all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls, including SGBV), **Protection** (Women's safety, physical and mental health and economic security are assured and their human rights respected) and **Relief and Recovery**.
- The legal framework, plan and policies provide an enabling environment for the implementation of WPS agenda in Nepal. The enactment of the Gender Equality Act (2006) has opened up avenues making Civil Code (Muluki Ain) null and void. The Interim Constitution (2007) has specified temporary special measures for women's representation of 33.3% in the highest decision-making body, a marked progress from the Constitution (1990) which provided women with a specific quota of 5%. Similarly, the Election Act (2007) made it mandatory that at least 33% of candidates must be women with the inclusion of disadvantaged population groups by caste, ethnicity, religion, region and ability status. The Local Governance Act (1999) has also specified quota for women's participation at the local level. The promulgation of Trafficking in Persons and Transportation Control Act (2007), Domestic Violence Crime and Punishment Act (2009), National Action Plan against GBV (2010) and National Action Plan on SCR1325 and 1820 (2010) are some of the remarkable achievements made so far on WPS issues in Nepal. These have all contributed to open a space for dialogue and activism for women to participate in public areas to shape agendas from multiple locations based on their diverse social identifies.
- There are also a number of UNDP initiatives and interventions which seek to enable women's civic and political participation, including capacity-building of newly elected parliamentarians; review of debates, discussion and dialogue with a view to constitute gender equality; civic education; citizenship cards and voter registration. Others include; timely and effective delivery of comprehensive services to GBV survivors; prompt access to justice through equity measures (e.g. legal aid, mediation and paralegal services) and gender-sensitive relief and recovery services to women and men in the affected areas, especially through livelihood recovery, social cohesion and small-scale infrastructure initiatives.



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SESSION IV: Clustering key issues

Following the presentations, participants were divided into three groups, each group being assigned the same theme/question for discussion. The groups were asked to come up with findings after discussing the themes assigned to them.



Themes for Group Work

1. Discuss in groups what areas (in addition to GBV) are important to address in the WPS agenda.
2. Choose one critical area from your group to work through the N-PEACE network in Nepal.

Presentation of group findings

Following the group discussions, each group presented highlights from their discussions and recommendations. The facilitators also asked each group to validate the areas selected by them by defining specific activities under each. The findings of each group are as follows:



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Group One:

Following a discussion about concerns for women's rights including implementation of property rights for women, better working conditions for women within the family, meaningful participation of women from local to national level, access to security and services, overcoming cultural taboos, the group put forward two critical areas of intervention:

- Public awareness raising
- Services for social protection

Why?

- Participation is a must to increase women's negotiation capacity
- Low levels of awareness on relief, recovery and justice
- Security threats to women from armed groups; high prevalence of conflict-triggered sexual violence, especially experiences from the Terai region
- No access to security without having access to services
- Relief and rehabilitation is important to ensure social protection

Activities:

- Creating packages including developing IEC Materials for public awareness
- Monitoring service delivery and advocating making delivery mechanisms more accessible



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Group Two:

After a discussion about concerns about lack of coordination resulting in duplication and improper use of resources, different donors flowing resources to the same organization for same work, lack of proper documentation and mapping of organizations and themes, nominal representation of women at policy level, lack of meaningful participation of women in decision-making, and lack of sensitivity among media on WPS issues, the group put forward two critical areas for interventions:

- Media sensitization to further WPS in Nepal
- A concerted and comprehensive capacity building initiative for women and their organizations

Why?

- Media is a powerful tool and can be used strategically to bring certain issues to the forefront and draw public attention but can also be detrimental, given how it portrays certain issues related to women and gender relations
- Media can help people build opinions so it is an important tool that can be used for public advocacy and campaigning

Activities:

- Lobbying to remove advertisements that portray women in stereotyped and negative images
- Sensitivity training to journalists so that they can report women's issues through media



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Group three:

Base on a discussion about issues related to supporting women's leadership capacities, developing skills among women, implementation of local governance acts and policies with regard to strengthening role of women, the group put forward two critical areas of intervention:

- Collaboration between men and women
- Implementation of 1325 National Action Plan, especially in the area of GBV

Why?

- Engaging men is important and strategic to achieve gender equality
- Collaboration is a must to mainstream gender on WPS issues

Activities:

- Leadership and skills development training to women in different sectors
- Support to actions identified in the National Action Plan



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Following a question and answer session between the groups, the facilitators clustered the areas of work or themes under the following categories, indicating that the theme of 'collaboration with men' could be treated as a cross-cutting issue.

1. Addressing GBV
2. Better access to social services
3. Sensitizing the media
4. Capacity development for women's leadership



SESSION V: Visioning exercise and Developing Communication Strategy

The facilitators asked the participants to develop messages and themes for advocacy on the four key issues (above). The facilitator asked participants to think about the different topics and imagine the future/vision for that area in five years. After involving the participants in a contemplative exercise, the participants were asked to share their vision with others.

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One of the participants read out her vision that she wished to see female-friendly media in the country, as well as no threats to journalists covering issues that may be viewed as sensitive. Another participant shared her vision to see mothers' groups belonging to remote areas of the country giving interview in a local community radio as a woman's activist. Another participant added that she envisioned having coverage of women affairs in all broadcasting and print media.

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The next part of the session included asking groups to:

1. Create a vision for each theme
2. Think about two breakthroughs that they would like to see happen in this theme that the N-Peace Network can contribute to?

Addressing GBV

Vision: GBV-free society in Nepal

Breakthroughs:

1. Men engaged in GBV advocacy in Nepal
2. Both male and female police officers sensitized on GBV issues

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Access to Social Service

Vision: Full implementation of laws to protect women

Breakthroughs:

1. Legal reform for rule of law undertaken and enforced
2. Level of civic awareness and civic sense increased so that legal instructions are followed

Sensitization to Media

Vision: Women-friendly Media

Breakthroughs:

1. Women journalists are able to be in decision-making levels in all kinds of media; electronic, print and online
2. Gender roles and stereotypes change and an attitudinal change towards women
3. Women's affairs/issues get ample attention in the media

Leadership Capacity Building

Vision: Equally capacitated society

Breakthroughs:

1. Comprehensive capacity building initiatives that include training on different themes, exposure visits, working opportunities, confidence building skills
2. Behavioral changes and outlook (among men and women) witnessed so that women are also able to be more confident in new roles
3. Active and meaningful participation of women seen in every area of productive and professional work

In developing a communication strategy, Ms. Serena Rix Tripathi from Search for Common Ground, drew the attention of participants to think about the following:

- Objectives: What will change?
- Target Audience: Who do we need to communicate with?
- Message for the different target audiences
- Existing channels and networks

(i) Addressing GBV

Objectives:

1. Reduce GBV cases particularly on dowry and early child marriages practices
2. Respect women and men within and outside the families at all levels

Target Audience: Within a family setting

Messages:

1. Provide daughters with better education
2. Dowry is prevalent in cities among rich families, and not only among the poor and illiterate
3. Early marriage impacts overall society

Existing Channels: Women rights forums, community groups and health workers

(ii) Access to Social Service

Objectives: Establish well-educated and secure society

Target Audience: Community, community-based organizations and groups, policy makers and advocates, political party cadres and security agencies

Messages:

To Community: (1) Public service and social security are fundamental civic rights (2) Every individual should respect another's rights

Political Parties/Cadres: Public authorities (security, judiciary and executive) should function independently

Security Forces: Respect civic rights and ensure protection to men and women, with impartiality and professional integrity

Existing Channels: Media (Advertisements, Public Service Announcements-PSA, Interaction, Interview, Documentaries), Legislation (Rules and regulations) and Civil Society Organizations-CSOs, Training, Public Awareness Building, I/NGOs Networks, School/College Curriculum

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(iii) Sensitizing the Media

Objectives: Sensitize public on gender issues by mobilizing and using the media

Target Audience: Media (from the level of reporters to decision making level), general public

Messages: (1) All types of media should give significant space to women's issues (2) Make media content friendly towards women and give importance to covering women's stories and issues (3) Change traditional gender roles and stereotypes in advertisements; (4) Gender issues are not only concern for women; engage men in this issue (5) Disseminate stories in line with gender sensitivity so that it brings about change in public opinion and belief

Existing Channels: Electronic, Print and Social Media



(iv) Leadership Capacity Development

Objectives: (1) Enhance existing capacity and confidence of women (2) Ensure meaningful participation of women

Target Audience: Women and men, Community Leaders

Messages: (1) Capacity building for women: A Solid Base for Equitable Society (2) Women coming forward is not men going backward (3) Women's empowerment means the entire country makes strides (4) Men and women are equal; let's move forward together (5) Women also have an obligation and right in the making of the motherland.

Existing Channels: Media, door-to-door campaigns, including youths and women group leaders, community based organizations' leaders

SESSION VI: N-PEACE award and advocacy; actions and commitments

The final session of the workshop began with facilitator Ms. Radhika Behuria giving brief information on the N-PEACE Award and its web portal. Information about the network and the awards can be found on www.n-peace.net. In order to also promote the nominations, winners and the concept of women's leadership at the grassroots level, the idea of hosting a "Hero's Summit" in Nepal was also discussed. Annex-4 contains concept note outlining next steps for the N-PEACE network in Nepal

In the closing session, participants were asked to provide their individual commitments and actions focusing on how they could contribute to the N-Peace network. Annex-5 provides a list of individual commitments and actions

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Annex 1: List of Participants

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Annex 2: Welcome speech by Shoko Noda, Country Director, Centre for Constitution Dialogue

26 May, 2011

- Deputy Inspector General of Nepal Police
Ms. Bimala Thapa, Director of Women's and Children's Service Centre,
- Deputy Inspector General of Nepal Police *Mr. Kuber Singh Rana*,
- Women's rights activists from Women's Human Rights Defenders,
Shanti Malika and *Sancharika Samuha*,
- Our colleague *Ms. Radhika Behuria*, Gender Specialist
from the Asia and the Pacific Regional Centre, Coordinating the N-Peace initiative,
- Colleagues from Search for Common Ground who are partners in
the network and co-facilitators today,
- *Professor Rohan Edrisinha*, Chief Technical Advisor,
Centre for Constitution Dialogue and other UNDP Nepal colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namaste and good morning to you all!

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to this important consultation workshop between women's rights NGOs and the Nepal Police, comprising of members for a Nepal chapter of the N-PEACE network.

As we know, October 2010 marked the ten-year anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. To mark this milestone and reflect on successes and existing challenges, UNDP regional centre in Bangkok and Country offices brought together representatives from civil society, government and UNDP offices from Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. At this workshop, UNDP launched its regional engagement strategy to work with and in support of Civil Society for Women, Peace and Security issues. Here the multi-country network called N-PEACE was established. The N-PEACE network- stands for and imbibes the principles of "Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment". It aims to support the emerging leadership of women in conflict prevention, dispute resolution, reconstruction and peace building at the community, national and regional levels.

The N-PEACE network seeks to provide an array of organizations and women leaders support through training and by giving them a space to network and voice their demands, needs and contributions, both in their own country as well as across the four participating countries. During the course of this consultation meeting, you will hear more about the several activities and interventions planned through the network and I hope you will provide your own insights and contribute to the process.

The N-PEACE network focuses on four high-risk crisis countries which face chronic emergencies due to being in post-conflict settings and susceptibility to natural disasters; namely Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. Despite differences in the causes and the nature of conflicts, the content of peace agreements and socio-cultural contexts, these countries are tied in together through common challenges which women face in conflicts and post-conflict settings. That they are still under-represented in conflict-resolution and peace-building, they are under-resourced and they have not received sufficient reparation and social protection services despite

their disproportionate sufferings during and after the conflict ranging from the loss of family members, sexual and gender-based violence and threats to personal safety and security. Even after the conflict, impunity of crimes against women such as SGBV prevails, allowing the vicious cycle of violence to be repeated.

In Nepal, the N-Peace network comprises of women's rights NGOs and Nepal Police. The network started only late last year, and is still in an embryonic and very young stage. However it has already managed to generate interest with regional partners and organizations, and has the potential to be a strong platform for all of you to continue engaging, and to work collectively to addressing challenges for women in Nepal. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank the organizers of this network, namely Ms. Radhika Behuria, who together with Ms. Kasumi Nishigaya, Senior Gender Advisor of UNDP Nepal and Ms. Eden Lama, who have prepared this important initiative and successfully mobilized resources to support this important agenda for Nepal. Congratulations!

UNDP recognizes the important roles that women play during and after the conflicts which are distinct and effective, but are often less visible and unrecognized by formal and mainstream peace processes. At the heart of UNDP's development agenda, is our commitment to women, peace and security, which is in line with SCRs 1325 and 1820 and UNDP's own gender policy in crisis called the Eight-Point Agenda (the flyer of which is with you all).

At the heart of UNDP's support to peace-building is a strong emphasis on democratic governance and inclusive and qualitative participation of those who have been marginalized from development in the past, namely those who come from disadvantaged castes, indigenous population groups with distinct cultures, religious minorities, women and men with disability and those who are minor or young, or from remote areas. When uneven development, poverty and corruption have been the causes of instability, UNDP acknowledges that the solutions for peace lie in equity and equality of development itself. We understand that Nepal's national agenda of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion imply rebuilding the social, economic and political fabric of societies after conflict, incorporating the contributions of women, men, girls and boys and their distinct experiences and opinions to build a lasting foundation for peace.

I am glad to learn that the N-PEACE members from Nepal have collectively identified the common agenda of addressing sexual and gender-based violence with a common slogan of "Break the Silence against Violence", coinciding with the Launch of National Plan of Action against GBV by the Office of Prime Minister in 2010. Women's personal and physical safety and security are important human rights. It is also a fundamental element to Nepal's peace. Without security and freedom from fear, women and girls cannot move freely for education, livelihood and civic and political participation. If we allow impunity of GBV to persist, women's and girls' ability to contribute and to participate in Nepal's peace and development will be seriously hampered.

The challenge of making public and private life safe for women falls on the shoulders of many public institutions, including the Nepal Police. I am glad to learn about the enthusiasm and commitment expressed by the Nepal Police as demonstrated in the Nepal Police Gender Equality Initiative jointly led by UNDP Nepal and Nepal Police to enhance its workforce capacity in gender issues across the country and at all levels by the Training Directorate, and to provide better customized services to the survivors of violence by its Women's and Children's Service Directorate respectively. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution made by UNDP's projects funded by the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery, namely Access to Justice for Consolidating Peace in Nepal Project (A2J) to support decentralized level multi-sectoral response team for GBV in seven Terai districts, and Livelihood Recovery for Peace (LRP) to help women in disadvantaged caste groups to organize themselves for individual and collective empowerment at the community level in three Terai districts. Together with Support for Participatory Constitution-Building in Nepal (SPCBN), which has supported women's causes and civil society to constitute the principles of gender equality, UNDP Nepal is already working closely with women's rights advocates for peace and development.

I understand that there are several important advocacy and capacity building initiatives that have been planned through the N-PEACE network. You will hear more about these, and I hope that you will take the opportunity to benefit from and contribute to the network. It is important that we are able to connect with one another in Nepal, but also share experiences with and learn from experiences of women and groups from other countries. We have a lot to be proud of and share from Nepal in terms of our achievements, and I would also encourage you to showcase these through the network.

An important part of the N-PEACE network is the partnerships that it has been able to establish, with regional and international partners such as AusAID, the Institute for Inclusive Security and Search for Common Ground. In fact one of the main objectives from today's workshop is to map priority areas that can also be used for creating more advocacy on issues related to addressing SGBV and working on women, peace and security issues.

In concluding, I would like to encourage your active participation and discussion in this meeting and look forward to hearing from you about the outcomes of this consultation.

I thank you for your attention.

Let's unite our hearts and minds to create enabling environment for women's personal and physical safety both in public and private.

Annex 3: Contribution to and Expectation from the N-PEACE Network

What you can contribute to the Network?

- Nepal Police can provide platform to the Network Member for capacity building initiatives and sensitivity towards GBV issues.
- Share experiences from the Terai region about impact of conflict on women and contribute to proper intervention
- Offer research and training capacities
- Sharing knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt, challenges faced
- Expertise on media messaging, hosting/ convening dialogues
- Sharing true examples of women issues and intervention in the central Terai, experience sharing from the post-conflict area

What you expect from the Network ?

- To know Nepal Peace Network and learn more
- Local issues on the subject to be updated; capacity and advocacy skills will be enhanced
- Will help me to enhance my capacity in the field of women, peace and security in Nepal as well as at regional level
- Will get insights and knowledge about the core issues of grassroots women
- Different women GBV issues of other countries and how we improve women situation of GBV in Nepal
- Localization of security issues
- Empowerment, networking
- Learning best practices for replication, capacity building
- Magnify messages that empower women in four countries; the power of many projects working towards same goal
- Me and my organization will learn multi-cultural practices and to know the status of women in peace building process
- Will enable us to learn and share each other's experiences; cost effectiveness implementation of activities
- Gaining knowledge and innovative practices of other similar countries in different contexts/contents
- Will provide common platform to promote peace and security in the member country and provide knowledge sharing & learning
- Teams work building
- Sensitize and impart information to Civil Society Organizations about the functions of the N-Peace Network and help make its activities success
- Build-up cooperation & coordination in capacity building of Nepal Police/GBV
- Will get insights into what are the priorities on Women, Peace and Security in many countries
- Sensitization on gender issues through media

Annex 4: Individual actions and commitments

What did you gain from the workshop?

- An opportunity to be the part of this initiative and contribute to a roadmap to expedite WPS issues in an organized way
- Build insights into gender issues and the way to undertake advocacy
- Received comprehensive information about the N-Peace network and Awards
- Learnt about the magnitude of GBV in different parts of the country and how the network could expand its efforts to address such issues
- Very informative, the session focusing on various UN resolutions and constitutional and legal provisions for women in Nepal
- Engaging with others, group work and brainstorming exercises were very useful to expand my learning and understanding.
- Gained some ideas to make the Human Resource of the Nepal Police gender friendly and professional
- Visioning exercise (what will happen after five years) was captivating and spectacular.
- With my participation in the workshop, I feel more committed and determined to work further on the issues of women

Commitments: What you give to the Network?

- I will help on Peace Hero Summit (to call media persons, press release etc)-Babita
- I will get involved in providing training and information programme if needed including on women and security issues-Shova Gautam
- I will help enhance capacity of women in community through training on peace and security (UN Resolution 1325 and 1820). Also will help expand the N-Peace Network-Neetu Pokharel
- Follow the road map charted out in the workshop on women, peace and security through Federation of Nepali Journalists and Nepal Magazine- Yasodha Timilsina
- Nepal Police welcomes the joint efforts to combat Gender Based Violence (GBV) for enhancing access to justice and asks for all types of Partnership and Networks to leverage the efforts for Access to Justice in terms of GBV
- I will apply the learning and skills that I gained in the workshop to the Livelihood Recovery for Peace Project functioning and operationsSensitization on gender issues through media

Annex 4: Concept Note outlining next steps for N-PEACE Network in Nepal

N-PEACE Network

Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment

The N-PEACE Network in Nepal

Background

October 2010 marked the ten-year anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (WPS). Reflecting on successes and existing challenges, UNDP developed an Engagement Strategy to work with and for civil society organizations in strengthening the role of women in building and restoring peace. UNDP's Regional Crisis Prevention and Recovery team and Country Offices have worked in partnership to gather representatives from civil society, government and UNDP/UN offices from Nepal, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, with the aim to implement the Engagement Strategy through the establishment of a multi-country network. The network, called **N-PEACE (Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment)** supports strengthening of the role of women in leading community recovery and peace building. It provides organizations and women leaders with support through training and by giving them a space to network and voice their priorities and contributions, both in their own country as well as across the four countries.

The members of the network identified a number of challenges and collectively discussed strategies that can be employed to bridge these gaps. In Nepal, based on an analysis of national priorities, achievement of women's rights movements and UNDP's country programme, the members of the network promoted the agenda of "Break the Silence against the Violence" as part of the needs on WPS. At the same time, Nepal adopted the National Plan of Action against Gender-Based Violence by its Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers in 2010, with the Prime Minister declaring the year 2010 as the Year Free of Violence. In the same year, UNDP Nepal started its high-level engagement with Nepal Police, coinciding with the above national priority.

Subsequently, a consultation and dialogue meeting was organized in Kathmandu in May 2011 to initiate a local chapter of the N-PEACE network, with existing

and new members. The consultation provided an opportunity for civil society organizations, ranging from human rights defenders to journalists and UNDP BCPR project staff working in Jaleshwar, Pokhara and Nepalgunj to interact with members from Nepal Police on how to enhance collaboration on women's safety and security in addressing SGBV. In addition, the consultation allowed for participants from these varied backgrounds to collectively discuss and agree upon a set of priorities which they could work on through the N-PEACE network in Nepal.

Emerging Priorities for the N-PEACE network in Nepal:

- » Addressing SGBV and enhancing state-civil society collaboration and cooperation through the N-PEACE platform;
- » Using and influencing the media for advocating new role models for women's leadership;
- » Supporting women's leadership and empowerment through specific capacity development initiatives; and
- » Improving social services and social protection for women.

The network members also helped to develop messaging and define target audiences for creating advocacy on these priority issues. These messages will be used by N-PEACE partner organization, Search for Common Ground (SFCG) to create advocacy and outreach pieces on WPS issues in Nepal.

N-PEACE

Next Steps

The strength of the N-PEACE initiative has been the process of defining and implementing activities with and through regional and local partners and members. The organic nature of the process has helped create the necessary ownership, both over the process and priorities identified. Hence the next steps for the network in Nepal will be in phases, in order to provide the necessary flexibility for network members to continuously engage and define future activities and interventions.

1 Creating strategic partnerships and space for dialogue: UNDP and SFCG will continue to organize regular face-to-face interactions between the network members to continue expanding the network and allow for coordination and dialogue space between the Nepal Police, civil society organizations, and potentially government stakeholders on WPS issues. The next N-PEACE network meeting will be organized in July-August 2011 in Nepal.

2 Supporting women's leadership roles: While women are often the frontline of building peace and diffusing conflicts, their contribution is rarely recognized. Consequently, the avenues/platforms where women's roles as peace builders are recognized and advocated for also remain limited. The issue of the lack of recognition accorded to women's leadership has been re-iterated by members in Nepal and other countries. In order to build on the concept of creating role models and enhancing the emerging leadership of women in post-conflict settings, two specific initiatives are planned.

- **N-PEACE awards**

In response to the issues identified by N-PEACE network members, UNDP and SFCG have developed a concept by which they can identify, document and profile the work of women leaders at the grassroots level. The purpose of this is to 'award', recognize and provide visibility to those women who are actively working and demonstrating leadership in the areas of conflict resolution, mediation, peace building and recovery at the grassroots level. This will also capture and showcase their efforts, as well as the unique indigenous mediation and peace building techniques that they may apply in their own individual contexts. The nomination and voting process for the N-PEACE awards will be carried out through an open e-platform and one winner from each country will be chosen whose work and profile will be documented using different media forms.

- **Nepal N-PEACE Champions Summit**

Since the nominations from across the country will be several and the winner only one, an N-PEACE Champions Summit is envisaged to allow for providing the space to recognize a large number of women leaders from the community and grassroots level. A Summit of this nature will provide the needed space to advocate for the emerging role of women as leaders in peace building, while also providing a common space for them to exchange their experiences, challenges and strategies.

N-PEACE Network

Engage for Peace, Equality, Access, Community and Empowerment

3

Creating advocacy and outreach on women, peace and security:

Based on the four priorities and messages developed by the network members (above) and to reach the broadest possible audience with information having the greatest possible impact, UNDP and SFCG will develop a longer term advocacy campaign containing some of the following elements:

- Public Outreach Service Announcements (POSAs)
- TV and Radio Drama Series; TV and Radio Talk Shows; TV and Radio Mini- Features
- Visual Presence (Billboards, Banners, Posters, etc.)
- Print Media (Editorials, Magazine and Newspaper Articles), and Comics
- New Media (Social Media)

4

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity development:

The Nepal N-PEACE network will also maintain its connection with the larger multi-country N -PEACE initiative and network. The members will continue to interact, exchange experiences with members from the other three countries- namely Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. To this end, specifically two regional events are planned for:

- **Regional N-PEACE network meeting** in October 2011 will serve as the annual face-to-face interaction for representatives of the N-PEACE local chapters from all four countries.

N-PEACE Training of Trainers program

which aims to build two tiers of capacity: (i) greater capacity among key civil society organizations and training institutes to serve as a regional pool of trainers across the four participating countries; and (ii) through localization of the same, support greater capacity among grassroots organizations and women leaders such that they are equipped with stronger leadership, advocacy, negotiation and mediation skills for conflict prevention, recovery and peace building.

5

Addressing Gender Based Violence:

Since SGBV was one of the key themes that N-PEACE members from Nepal had identified from the onset, and since the Nepal Police are one of the members and partners of the network, it is proposed to complete rolling out the SGBV Crime Investigation Module under Nepal Police Gender Equality Initiative. The final element of this will be completed by Metropolitan Police which is in charge with maintenance of the capital city's security and has been actively adopted community policing as an approach to citizens' safety. Participation of women's rights groups has featured prominently in its approach from the interactions at Metro Pol to community-based policing activities at the decentralized level of city administration unit, which will continue in this phase and also involve women parliamentarians from across political parties.

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N-PEACE

To join N-PEACE :
Send an email to: N-PEACE@groups.undp.org

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