



## **FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES DES CARRIERES JURIDIQUES**

*Rua Manuel Marques, 21-P, 1750-170 Lisboa ♦ Portugal  
Telf. 00 351 21 7594499 ♦ Fax 00 351 21 7594124  
www.fifcj-ifwlc.net ♦ headoffice@fifcj-ifwlc.net*

### **MAPUTO DECLARATION**

*The **International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (F.I.F.C.J.)** met in Maputo, Mozambique, on the 3rd to 5th of September 2008 in order to discuss the topic of "Women, Peace and Development".*

*The **F.I.F.C.J.** chose the African continent, and Mozambique, in order to think about Peace and Sustainable Development and the role that we, the Women can play in their promotion, and it has approved the following Declaration:*

*The **F.I.F.C.J.** thinks that we live today in a world worn out by numerous conflicts and wars, those being the result of the inequalities of wealth division and the exploitation of the world's natural resources;*

*The **F.I.F.C.J.** considers that wars have an specially grave impact on us, women, since they undermine our social, economic and political position and increase the discrimination to which we are already subject;*

*The **F.I.F.C.J.** believes that in order to obtain Peace, one must prepare it, and in order to do so it is indispensable to promote Sustainable Development, and to recognize Equality as fundamental Human Right.*



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### **I**

After an analysis of the **role of women in the processes of pacification and mediation of conflicts**, the **F.I.F.C.J.** has concluded that:

**A** - The growing recognition of Women's Human Rights by the international community, and presence of women in areas traditionally reserved to men, has changed the power equation, especially concerning the role of women in situations of conflict, as well as in their resolution. The nature of those conflicts has also changed, it has assumed now a gender dimension and an inclusive approach which comprises a gender component is needed in order to achieve their resolution.

**B** - It must be the obligation and responsibility of all negotiators, mediators and facilitators in the peace processes to effectively apply Resolution n°1325 of the U.N. Security Council, so as to encourage the parties in conflict, to create facilities for the formal participation of women in the Peace process, and it is required that the above have on their teams experts on gender, as well as an adequate technical capacity to guarantee that the negotiation on such critical matters as Constitution, power sharing, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration in civil society take into consideration, those matters that specifically affect women,

**C** - Today, about 90% of the victims of war are civilians, while about 100 years ago it was the combatants, and the majority of these civilians are women, being rape, one of the most terrible of war weapons.



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However, today, women are not only victims of war, they are also actively engaged in the military and in Peace activism.

**D** - The present day economic and financial system injures gravely Human Rights - notably the economic and social rights - of the poorest, strongly affecting women.

### II

After a discussion of **the role of women in the promotion of Sustainable Development**, the F.I.F.C.J. has concluded that:

**E** - The lasting recognition of Women's Human Rights, the guarantee of gender equality, and the elimination of all discrimination against women is the way to a Sustainable and equitable Development of the planet, which will make Peace possible.

**F** - In order to implement the Women's Human Rights through national legislation, the governments of each State, must follow the rules of the International Conventions, notably those of CEDAW.

**G** - The progress obtained through the legislation passed in many countries, including many of the African continent, must be widely divulged among women, so that they can know and exercise their rights.



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**H** - *In every country the women jurists must persist in their work of building a national juridical system that guarantees effective equality and protects women against all forms of discrimination.*

**I** - *It is necessary that the National Accounting systems of each country take into consideration the wealth produced by the non-remunerated work of women.*

### **III**

Finally, after debating questions of **Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS**, the **F.I.F.C.J.** concluded:

**J** - *Abortion without proper security is a humanitarian disaster, increased through its criminalisation, which is a clear violation of the Women's Human Rights, and it does not necessarily diminish its frequency, on the contrary, it forces women to pay with their life an interruption of an unwanted pregnancy.*

### **IV**

**The International Federation of Women in Legal Careers has approved the following Recommendations.**



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*1. Being the peaces processes an opportunity for a redefinition of the political, economic, social and civil structures of societies after a conflict, those should be utilized to guarantee the equality of participation of men and women in the enjoyment and exercise of their Human Rights.*

*2. United Nations should engage to nominate a greater number of women to its high positions and especially to those relating to the building and maintenance of Peace.*

*3. Governments should elaborate, approve and apply national action plans for the implementation of Resolution n°.1325 of the U.N. Security Council.*

*4. Within the mandate of the International Criminal Court should be criminalised certain acts of an economic or financial nature, whose aims and effects directly and necessarily impact gravely economic and social fundamental rights.*

*5. The elaboration of integral laws on the status of women, so as to facilitate the knowledge of egalitarian and anti-discriminatory legislation, as well as its widespread dissemination and its effective application by the Tribunals.*



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*6. Free access to reproductive health services including to the "morning after" pills and to safe abortion, as a guarantee of Women's Human Rights, Liberty and Justice.*

*7. Criminalisation of the deliberate spreading of the HIV/AIDS virus.*

*Maputo, 5th September 2008*



