

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL OPEN DAY FOR WOMEN AND PEACE

HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE 7- JULY 2, 2010

By 2 July, 22 countries will have held their Open Day for Peace. Preparatory meetings for upcoming Open Days are also underway worldwide. Highlights so far include:

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a public message in support of the Open Day, noting that “sustainable peace is possible only with women’s full participation – their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace”.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Open Day was planned in conjunction with the launch of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan on Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. There was a colourful and musical march



Preparatory meeting in Sierra Leone

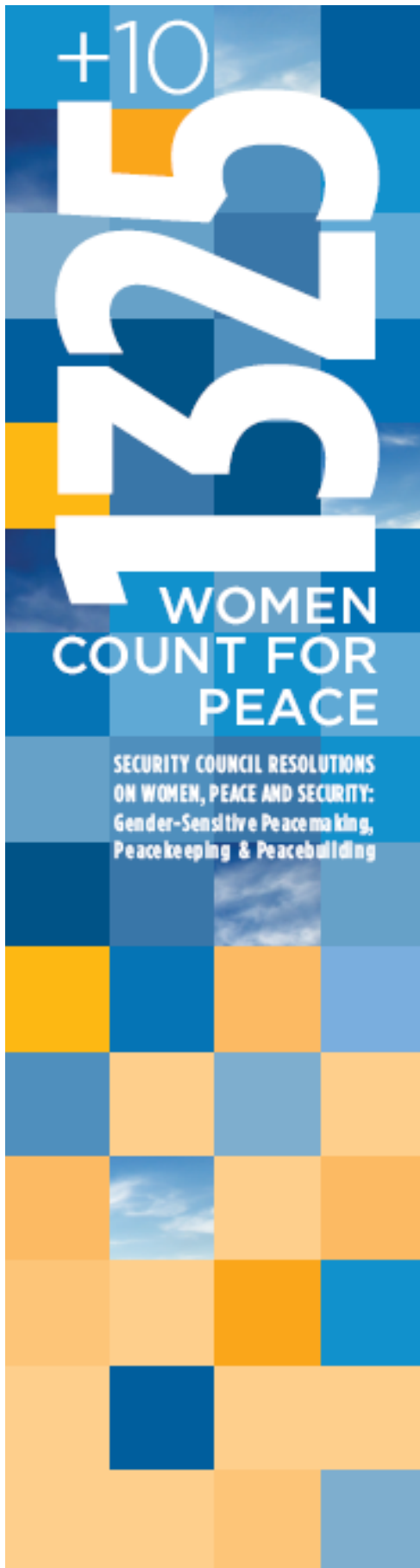
of women from the security forces, civil society organizations, and girl students from at least seven schools, to the meeting venue. Key issues raised by the women included violence against women, investing in the future of Sierra Leone, investing in girls, constitutional review process and resource allocation.

In **Liberia**, women peace leaders presented Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ellen Margreth Løj with a policy statement which highlighted three areas of concern: sexual violence, peace-



Liberia

building and security sector reform, with specific actions under each area required to promote and sustain peace and security in Liberia. Special Representative Løj said that she was there to listen to the women on behalf of the entire UN System in Liberia, adding that the points they raised were extremely relevant to the challenges in there.



Kosovo

At the Open Day event in **Kosovo**, women peace activists voiced concerns related to women's human, economic and social security. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General promised to relay their views to Secretary-General Ban.

As a culmination of regional meetings in **Sudan**, an Open Day was held at the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) headquarters in Khartoum. Women from all regions in the country (i.e., Southern Sudan, Darfur, Eastern Sudan, Nuba Mountains, Blue Nile State and Khartoum), delivered



Sudan

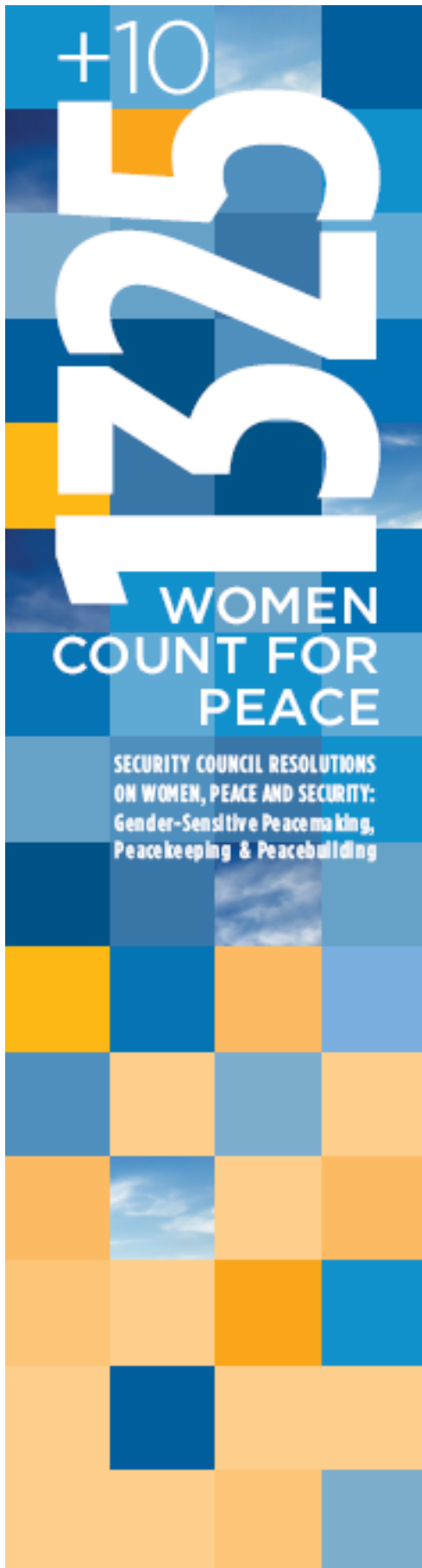
their messages to the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UNIFEM Executive Director and UNAMID gender advisor. The messages centered on: increasing representation in decision-making; ensuring protection of women's rights and from conflict; ending impunity for war crimes, including sexual violence; and participation in and promotion of peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

In **Somalia**, the Open Day saw the participation of about 40 women, UN officials, and international and local media. In addition to making recommendations to the UN, international community, and Somali Government, the women



Somalia

committed to forming a task force on Resolution 1325 to raise awareness and push for the comprehensive implementation of the resolution.



In **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, women met with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Alan Doss, Deputy SRSG Sarasoro, and heads of UN agencies in the country. Showing its strong commitment to the adoption and full implementation of the National Action Plan for 1325, the government signed the *Acte d' Engagement*. The *Acte d' Engagement* calls for concrete measures such as increasing the participation of women in decision-making on peace and security; and enforcing laws on the advancement of women, gender parity, and punishment for perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

In **Afghanistan**, women met with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Staffan de Mistura to communicate their proposals on security, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, justice and accountability, provision of basic services, and sexual violence. "The answer to this conflict is dialogue – dialogue with certain very firm lines. And one line is the Constitution – inside the Constitution there is enough space to protect the gains made by women," said the SRSG.



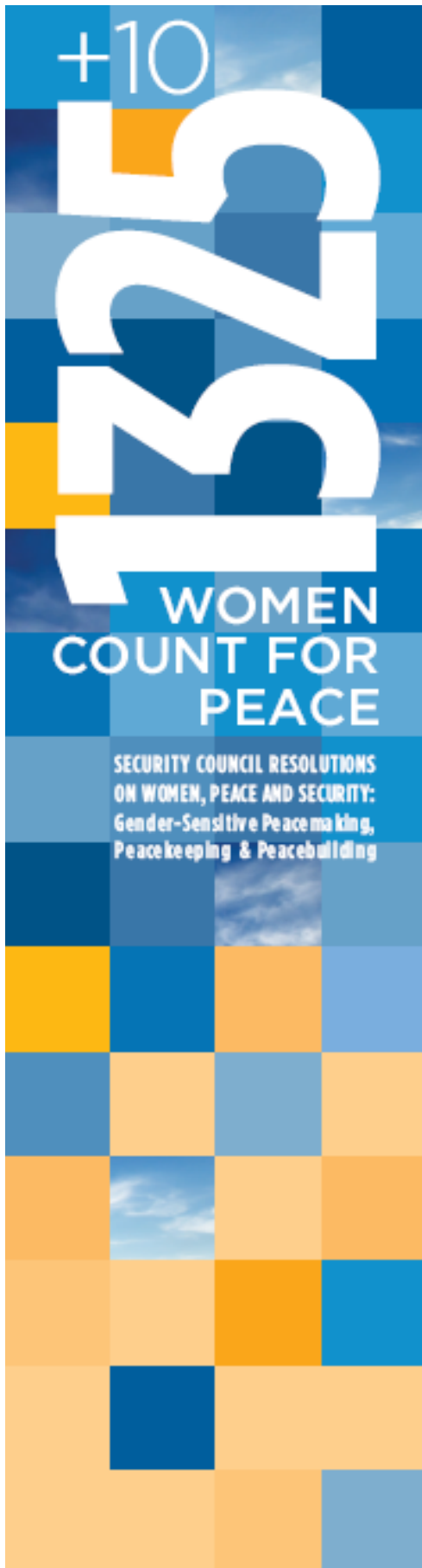
Afghanistan



Timor Leste

In **Timor Leste**, women had a dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ameerah Haq. The women presented their recommendations to the SRSG, which included but not limited to promotion of gender parity in the national police, gender

mainstreaming in the police and military, and establishment of an international tribunal on crimes committed during conflict. In the district of Covalima where high levels of gender-based violence were reported, the SRSG and other UN officials visited a shelter for victims of domestic or sexual violence, and participated in a related event that gathered about 50 women and men from civil society, government, police, church and media.



Burundi

In response to women’s demands in **Burundi**, ERSG Charles Petrie identified concrete measures, including but not limited to: holding an Open Day on an annual basis; establishing a committee to monitor the implementation of priority actions; and

supporting “basket fund” for women’s empowerment and gender equality.



Nepal

Women activists from 25 organizations in **Nepal** met with Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Karin Landgren, and acting UN Resident Coordinator, Gillian Mellso. They raised their key concerns relating to relief

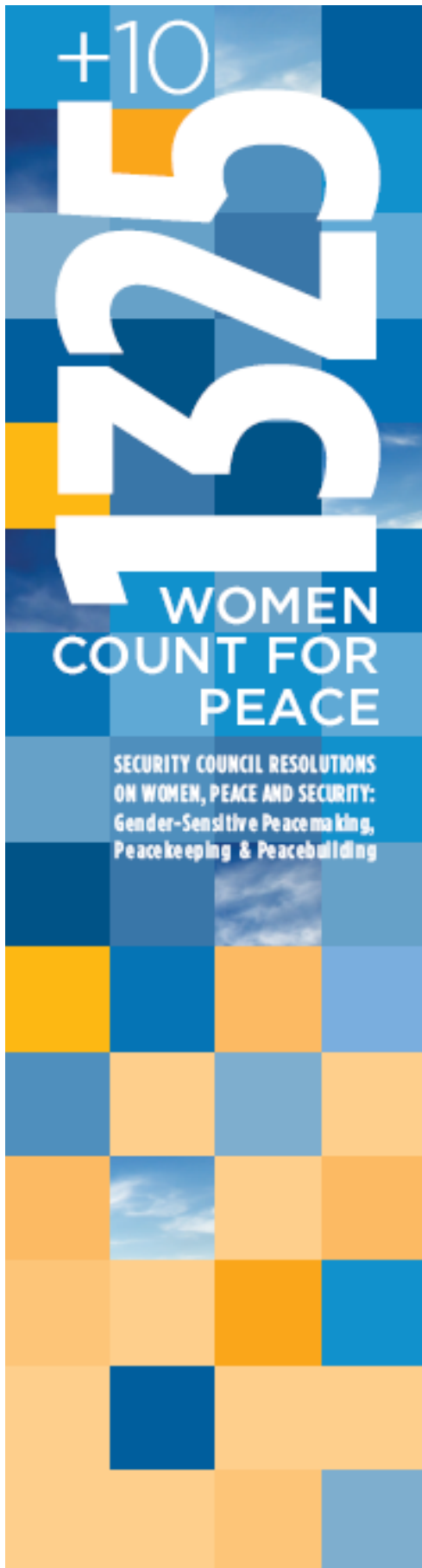
and recovery, protection and justice, governance, participation, and funding on the issue of women and peacebuilding. The Representative of the Secretary-General expressed support to the recommendations put forward at the meeting, “The UN system stands ready to support these important initiatives.”

In a meeting with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Joseph Mutaboba, women leaders and peace activists in **Guinea-Bissau** voiced their messages on justice and impunity, conflict resolution and prevention, security and defense sector reform, and human development and accountability issues. They proposed for at least 25 percent women’s



Guinea-Bissau

representation in peace and decision-making processes. They also suggested the international community to evaluate the impact of its interventions in the country in a gender-sensitive manner.



Western Sahara

In **Pakistan**, representatives from women's peace organizations presented Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Assistance to Pakistan, Jean-Maurice Ripert, with a set of key proposals: women's representation at all levels and stages in negotiating and sustaining peace; zero tolerance to sexual and gender-based violence, and provision of adequate support and protection to victims; and budgeting of women's needs in all recovery processes. The women also asked the government to prioritize women's well-being in rehabilitation. In addition, they underscored the importance of developing national and regional action plans on Security Council resolution 1325.

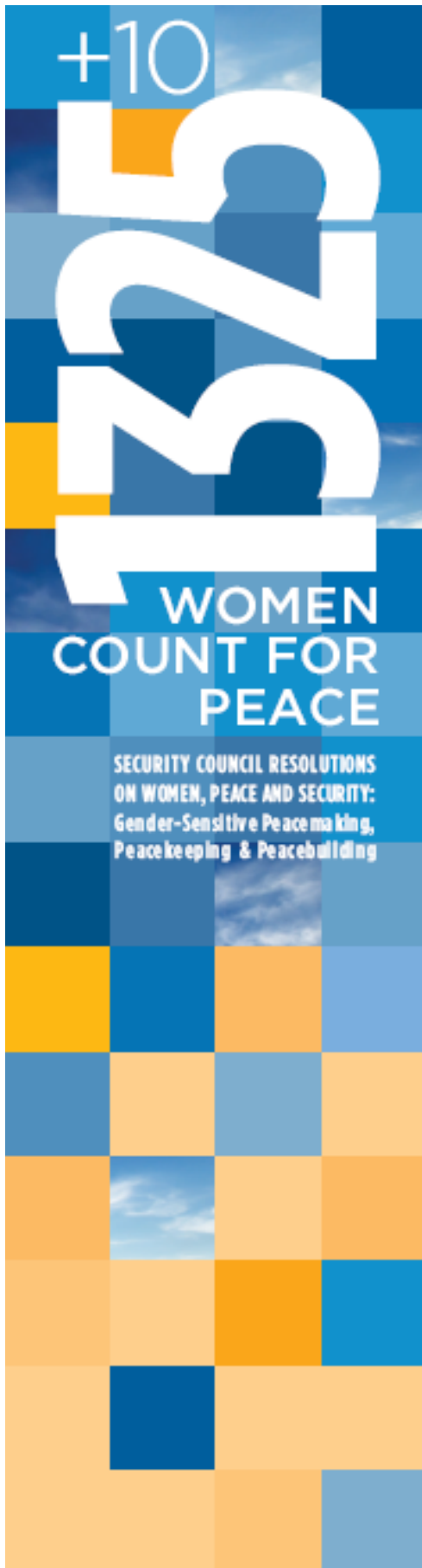
In **West Africa**, women leaders met with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, Said Djinnit, who welcomed progress made in the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325 in the region, and underscored the importance of supporting the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States, Mano River Union, governments and civil society to realize the different aspects of the resolution at the national and regional level. To this end, the SRSR announced a regional conference in September to identify challenges and opportunities on the implementation of the resolution.



Preparatory meeting in Cote d'Ivoire

Women in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** met with the UN Resident Coordinator, Yuri Afanasiev, and senior government representatives. Among the issues discussed at the meeting were the inclusion of gender analysis in school programs; school segregation system being harmful to peace and security; low levels of women's participation in the police and army; and the need to improve the transfer of information on gender-based violence between the police, prosecutor's office, courts and media.

The meeting of women with the UN Resident Coordinator in **Serbia**, William Infante, focused on the non-transparent and non-inclusive drafting of the National Action Plan (NAP) on 1325, and the lack of implementation of the legal framework in the country. Some of the recommendations offered were leadership of government and parliamentary gender mechanisms in the drafting process, background check on involvement in war crimes for military personnel being sent overseas on peace missions, and regulation of the private security sector.



Preparatory meeting in Haiti

More than 50 participants representing women's groups took part in the meeting with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in **Haiti**. Women requested that the following actions be taken: promoting gender-sensitive resettlement programmes; increasing the number of female police officers; setting up of an elections gender monitoring mechanism; and promoting the adoption of the list system to increase women's political participation among others. The SRSG assured the women of his full support and made specific commitments, including but not limited to: measures to increase the security of women

and girls in IDP camps and to increase the number of female UN and national police officers patrolling in IDP camps; and promotion of women's participation in reconstruction and of women's capacity-building opportunities.



Afghanistan

At the cross-regional (Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan and Tajikistan) consultation Open Day in **Tajikistan**, participants appealed to the Secretary-General and Security Council for mandatory reporting on the

implementation of SCR 1325. In particular, the participants

offered recommendations such as: taking measures to address violence against women and girls; intensifying efforts to prevent potential conflicts; urging governments to elaborate National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security in cooperation with civil society; and ensuring accountability in the implementation of international humanitarian law and increased prosecution of war crimes.

Other recommendations included application of international norms and commitments for the protection of women and children's human rights; establishment of special women's advisory bodies within cross-regional organizations, and of international women's peace corps; and capacity-development initiatives directed towards the most vulnerable and excluded groups of women. The participants also supported the indicators suggested by the Secretary General in his April 2010 report to the Security Council, and requested the Council to endorse these indicators.

Show your support for Resolution 1325 by signing up to the **Global Petition** at www.saynotoviolence.org.