

Appeal by the Women's Organizations in Georgia

Date: October 2, 2011

To: Co-Chairs and all participants of Geneva talks

Distinguished participants of Geneva talks, Excellences,

We take this opportunity to apply to you on behalf of undersigned Georgian women's organizations which have been working on protecting women's human rights and peace building for many years in the region. Today Geneva talks represent the only one negotiations process being conducted at official level with the facilitation of respected international mediators.

Our observation is that this process lacks voice of civil society and, in particular women's voice – voice of those who have mostly suffered from forced displacement, economic, social and psychological consequences of the armed conflicts. At the same time, we believe that all negotiations are conducted exactly with the aims of prevention of new possible escalations and improvement of the quality of life and human security of conflict-affected population.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 - so called "women's resolution" - highlights the importance of representation of women's and girls' interests in all negotiation processes, their increased participation in decision making about peace and security of women and children, and the important role of women in conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation. Currently, the UN CEDAW Committee, based on global women's consultations and experts' reports, is preparing General Recommendations for the States concerning the measures to be adopted to ensure full compliance with their obligations to protect, respect and fulfill women's human rights during and after armed conflicts and in all peace building processes.

We propose to include in the agenda of Geneva Talks (discussion about situation) vision and recommendations from the civil society, in particular, from women's organizations and women's groups; and there are capable women's organizations in all involved regions, able to contribute from each side. We, as women's organizations take the commitment to present these views in organized and concise manner, sent through official participants of negotiations to ensure that the voices of thousands women, concerned about peaceful future for children and youth, are heard and taken into consideration by all participants of Geneva talks.

We hope that distinguished participants and Co-Chairs of Geneva talks will agree with our proposal and will discuss the possibility of submitting of additional information and recommendations by women's organizations for the next round of Geneva talks.

Fully understanding the limitations of current format of Geneva talks, **we propose** to consider in future creation of complementary to Geneva Talks platform, open to civil society participation, which, in particular, will offer a real mechanism for women's participation, as it is envisaged by UNSCR 1325.

We hope very much that our proposals will be shared and our voice will be heard.

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Inga Beridze	Association 'Leaders of Future Generation'	Inga Beridze
Marina Tabukashvili	Women Fund Taso	M. Tabukashvili
Maya Chemia	Association "Samegrelo-Medea"	M. Chemia
Helen Russetskaia	Women's informational centre	H. Russetskaia
Manana Mebuke	Union of Wife's of Invalids and Lost- Widows	Manana Mebuke
Alla Bejentseva	Association Women of Multicultural Georgia	Alla Bejentseva
Roza Kukhalashvili	Women Council of Abkhazia	R. Kukhalashvili
Baia Romelashvili	"International Association Women's Movement for Equality"	B. Romelashvili
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Rusudan Marshania	Network "Sinergy" advocacy Group	R. Marshania
Charita Jashi	Caucasus Development Group	Charita Jashi
Tamar Abramishvili	Women's Education and Information Centre	T. Abramishvili
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To be continued