



9 October 2013

Dear Ms. Pappas,

We have received your letter dated 23 September 2013 and we applaud the work Forward Global Women is undertaking to train global women peace-makers and activists on conflict resolution and negotiations, especially in the context of United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, remains deeply committed to working with Member States and the civil society in working in 40 countries to support the implementation of the Resolution provisions. At the country levels, we have assisted Member States such as Afghanistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Uganda to develop and refine indicators as contained under their National Action Plans and they have been released for national implementation. Last year, we worked with the Pacific women's groups to develop and subsequently launch the Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security; working with civil society counterparts – especially women's groups – to ensure that their voices are reflected in the development of these Plans and their implementation.

In countries like Afghanistan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Pakistan, and Nepal we have assisted grassroots women's groups to advocate and access safe Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services. To that end, we have recently developed a training module, directed at peace-keepers and civil society groups in the Latin America and Caribbean regions to train stakeholders in accessing safe GBV and SRH services in conflict and post-conflict settings. We are also currently working with women's groups in camps and communities in Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Turkey to enable Syrian refugees to access services and scale up community-driven protection mechanisms.

In disaster and conflict-affected settings, UNFPA has a mandate to oversee inter-agency coordination of GBV prevention and response initiatives as part of the GBV Area of Responsibility of the Global Protection Cluster. At present, UNFPA is working hand-in-hand with Government and civil society partners to coordinate GBV efforts in nearly 30 crisis-affected countries. In line with this mandate and reflecting our commitment to gender-responsive planning and decision-making, UNFPA has developed a system to support improved collection, storage, sharing and analysis of GBV data in humanitarian contexts. This data has been used to inform various reports to the UN Secretary General in response to the recent resolutions focused on ending conflict-related sexual violence.

UNFPA is a key member of the UN inter-agency Task Force that has been set-up to guide implementation of the SCR 1325 and has been a visible leader in ensuring that the mandate is recognized and acted upon in the field. During the last 13 years since the Resolution was passed, we have spear-headed a wide range of activities aimed at narrowing "the gap between the provisions of this legal instrument and the reality on the ground." At the global level, we worked as a member of the Inter-

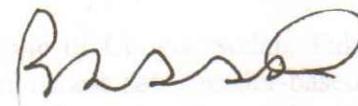
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agency Task Force to design 26 indicators for the UN Secretary General's report on the SCR 1325 that was submitted to the Security Council in October 2010, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the resolution. These indicators serve as a common basis for reporting by relevant UN entities, other international and regional organizations, and Member States, on the implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) in 2010 and beyond.

We remain deeply committed to stand by and partner with civil society groups in implementing the important provisions of the SCR 1325 and wish your organization and the sister organizations all success in your commendable work in assisting women and girls affected by conflict and violence.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin
Executive Director

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and
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