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Organization of African Unity

To the International Conference on "Women as Partner for Peace" Kigali, Rwanda

We all know that without peace there can be no development, and that without development there can be no peace. Experience further teaches us that there cannot be either durable peace or sustainable development if women, who are more than half of society, are either excluded from, or confined to the periphery of the peace and development enterprise. Quite clearly, therefore, women should be key actors in peace and development matters. This is why the Organization of African Unity (OAU) welcomes and supports initiatives directed at bringing women into the mainstream of Africa's peace and development processes.

For its part, the OAU is fully convinced that the women of Africa deserve their rightful place in all our endeavours to bring about peace, security and stability on the Continent - not only because they are part of humanity, but also because of their role and contribution in all spheres of life. We all know that women and children are particularly vulnerable in situations of conflict; it is also women and children who bear the brunt of conflict. Therefore, women and children have a major stake in the avoidance of conflict and the maintenance of peace. They must, therefore, play a major part in conflict resolution and peace-building processes.

In our efforts to contain and eliminate conflicts in the Continent, the OAU, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), has established the African Women Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD). The mandate of this Committee is to advise the Secretary-General of the OAU and the Executive Secretary of the ECA on ways and means of ensuring women's effective participation in peace and development processes in the Continent. One of the distinguished members of this Committee was Mrs. Veneranda Nzambazamaria, a Rwandese National whose most untimely passing away in a tragic plane accident has been a matter of profound grief and sadness to us all.

In conclusion, I would like to commend you for organizing this important initiative, which I sincerely hope will go a long way towards producing pragmatic suggestions regarding the way forward. I, therefore, wish you most successful deliberations and look forward to receiving a report of the proceedings.

Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary-General

Addis Ababa, 24 June 2000



**Embassy of the United States of America
Office of Public Affairs
Kigali, Rwanda**

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TELEFAX

To: **His Excellency Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary General
Organization of African Unity
Addis Ababa**

cc. **Dr Mary Maboreke**

Fax: (251)-1-513036
(251)-1-512622

Number of Pages: 2 (Incl. cover page)

Date: June 21, 2000

Subject: **International Conference on Women as Partners for Peace."**

The attached letter invites His Excellency Salim Ahmed Salim to send a message to the conference

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
ARRIVAL DATE 22/06/00
FILE NO: _____



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Office of Public Affairs
P.O. Box 28
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His Excellency Salim Ahmed Salim
Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity
Addis Ababa
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Your Excellency,

RE: International Conference "Women as Partners for Peace"

I want to thank you for your acceptance to have the Organization of African Unity represented at the forthcoming conference on 'Women as Partners for Peace'. We have received your confirmation that Dr. Mary Maboreke will be joining us as one of the participants in the conference.

The conference will be opened by His Excellency President Paul Kagame and will be receiving a message from President Bill Clinton. We also hope to receive a message from the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan. We would also like to ask you to graciously accept an invitation to send a message to the conference.

We believe that you have looked through the draft agenda and have discovered that we are expecting the Televised Town Meeting to be attended by:

Ambassador Berhanu Dinka

- United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General to the Great Lakes Region.

Ambassador Karmel Marjone

- United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for the DRC

Ambassador Linda Tar-Whelan

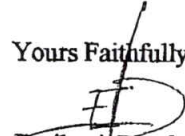
- United States Ambassador to the United Nations for Women's Issues

Dr. Olara Otunnu

- United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children in Armed Conflicts.

We look forward to your response and thank you once again.

Yours Faithfully


Ergibe A. Boyd
Public Affairs Officer

cc. Dr Mary Maboreke
Fax: 251-1-512622