

Opening Remarks at the

Event to celebrate the seventh anniversary of  
United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325  
on Women, Peace and Security

Zone 2, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, IDRC  
14h00, Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Maureen O'Neil  
President, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to IDRC. Mesdames et messieurs, bonjour et bienvenue au CRDI.

**Points to highlight on 1325/the presentation**

We're gathering today to celebrate the seventh anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, an event co-sponsored by the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee and by Peace, Conflict and Development, here at IDRC.

La résolution 1325 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies est le fruit de la reconnaissance des répercussions sexospécifiques de la guerre sur les femmes et les jeunes filles. Elle souligne la nécessité de tenir compte des questions sexospécifiques dans les opérations de maintien de la paix et le fait que les droits des femmes et des jeunes filles doivent être protégés par le droit humanitaire et les droits de la personne. Cependant, elle affirme également le rôle important des femmes dans la prévention et la résolution des conflits et dans la consolidation de la paix.

To highlight this last point, we are also launching the book *Women Building Peace Between India and Pakistan*, edited by Shree Mulay and Jackie Kirk, who will present later. This book emerged from a workshop on the topic that was sponsored by IDRC's Peace, Conflict and Development program; the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee and Peace; CIDA, the Canadian Consortium on Human Security; and McGill University.

**Introductions**

We have a very interesting panel for you today.

Suzanne Taylor, at IDRC's Evaluation Unit, who co-authored a chapter on Canada and 1325 in the "Women Building Peace Between India and Pakistan";

Diana Rivington, Director, Equality Between Women and Men, at the Canadian International Development Agency.

Jackie Kirk, Ph.D., Education Advisor, International Rescue Committee, Research Associate at the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, and member of the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group and co-editor of the book *Women Building Peace Between India and Pakistan*.

Shree Mulay, Ph.D., Professor at McGill University's Department of Medicine and former Director of the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women and co-editor of the book *Women Building Peace Between India and Pakistan*.

And we're very lucky to have Senator Mobina Jaffer, who will give us opening remarks on UNSCR 1325.

### **On Senator Mobina Jaffer**

Since her appointment to the Senate of Canada in 2001, Senator Mobina Jaffer has been a strong voice in the struggle to end violence against all women. She is a member of several Senate committees, including as Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Committee. As well, Senator Jaffer served as Canada's Special Envoy to the Peace Process in Sudan from 2002 to 2006.

De 2002 à 2005, la sénatrice Jaffer a été présidente du Comité canadien sur les femmes, la paix et la sécurité. Pendant cette période, entre autres réalisations, elle a placé à l'avant-plan le sort des femmes afghanes et irakiennes. Elle a également fait en sorte que l'on tienne compte des femmes dans le processus de paix au Darfour.

Senator Jaffer believes that the key to peace is the inclusion of women in the peace process, as outlined in UNSCR 1325.

Please join me in welcoming Senator Jaffer to IDRC and in inviting her to share with us some opening remarks.