



“MAPPING PEACE”

A TOOL FOR MEASUREMENT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

GENEVA, 14 APRIL 2005 – 61ST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Strategists have always been very keen on mapping war, conflicts and disasters. Numerous maps assess situations in the world that reflect and review casualties. This means that so far we have only been confronting situations where there was not peace. Consequently, ‘Peace’ has not yet received enough attention, much less the attention it deserves. This project aims at developing, for the first time, a new vision and framework for addressing peace and contributing to the process of measuring successes, achievements, and weaknesses at a global scale, in order to make improvements with a more transparent approach.

OBJECTIVE

The objective is to create a tool for women and partners for peace to raise a true awareness on the construction of peace in the world, as much on successful initiatives as on situations that still garner attention (e.g. alert with terrorists, growing violence with minorities, and insecurity due to unresolved problems, such as with internal refugees).

METHODOLOGY

The general idea is to create a world map. This map is the tool to analyze and mark the « State of Peace of the World ». By flagging places in the world where there are different categories of peace achievements: stable peace, unstable peace, alarming situations, etc., one will be able to better grasp the potential forces to strengthen, as well as the weaknesses to address. The ‘degradation of peace’ could be flagged with different colors and description of problem areas, and subsequently it will be not only geographically visible but the regional environment will also be clearer. This map is a tool for analyzing better, discussing on what actions to be taken depending on the stage of deterioration of peace factors or on imminent conflicts/wars as well as marking the achievement and strategies taken along each step of a peace process.

WOMEN MAPPING PEACE

Women are recognized agents of peace. Several women's non-governmental organizations have been keen in the stabilization of peace, as well as in the prevention of conflicts. Therefore, another important utilization of these « Peace Maps » consists of recognizing women's organizations that have been active in peace processes throughout the world, noting their strategies of success. Those maps could be distributed worldwide and posted on a website, serving as models of best practices. They would serve as concrete, simple, and inexpensive instruments, allowing groups to network worldwide. A Peace Map would also demonstrate, promote, and encourage women to work in their own region but also to join together with a common vision of Peace in the world.

THE “MAPPING PEACE TASK FORCE”

The idea of « Peace Mapping » was born in the Working Group on Peace in 2004. A Task Force was assigned to take the leadership of the project and further develop and designing it. After reviewing existing peace maps, the Task Force concluded that although some maps exist, they do not have the same purpose as proposed here and are not including women on the contingency linked to peace – such as for the UN peace-keeping forces, refugees and displaced people in post-conflict situations, accounts of material, aid and food, etc. This project was presented for the 1st time at the Conference « Women Defending Peace », in November 2004 at ILO in Geneva, and was adopted in its plan of action that mentions.

*“A huge number of excellent ideas, proposals and experiences emerged during our conference discussions. They run from establishing a World Bank for Peace Initiatives, run by women, to preparing a **Map of Peace** that identifies the locations of ongoing activities involving Women Defending Peace; from establishing an early-warning network that tracks trouble spots and dangerous situations, to engaging in a dialogue with those who have political, economic or media power; from ensuring no less than 40% participation of women at the negotiating table [...] This program will involve the media and use other effective means to bring to the world's attention violence against women and girls including trafficking, in order to end impunity and enforce the rule of law. We will expand initiatives like the **Map of Peace** to track all endeavors and resources directed to this area.”* Excerpt from the plan of action:

<http://www.dcaf.ch/wdp/>

Committee on the Status of Women
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“Mapping Peace” Task Force

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