



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

November 21 2006

Co-operation agreement signed by UN-INSTRAW and MINUSTAH

Through an agreement signed today in Santo Domingo, the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) have further enhanced their co-operation.

The UN-INSTRAW Director and Special Representative to Secretary General in Haiti met during a short visit at the UN-INSTRAW headquarters in the Dominican Republic. Both top UN officials have reached an agreement to collaborate in providing logistical support and access to facilities for UN peacekeepers in Haiti.

As part of this agreement, a liaison office and common training and conference facilities have been established and made available to MINUSTAH personnel on the premises of UN-INSTRAW headquarters located in the neighboring country.

Led by Special Representative to the Secretary General in Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Ambassador Edmond Mulet, the official delegation was composed of various UN high-ranking officers.

"UN-INSTRAW and MINUSTAH had previously initiated cooperative efforts in the areas of research and field work. Thanks to this agreement, the partnership has now been considerably strengthened. Both institutions will greatly benefit from this positive step", said Mr. Edmond Mulet who emphasized he was "grateful" to the UN-INSTRAW for the help MINUSTAH has been given.

"Promoting the full participation of women in helping to rebuild conflict and post-conflict societies is one of our major concerns," stressed Carmen Moreno, UN-INSTRAW Director. "We welcome this agreement not as an end in itself but rather as the beginning of a long series of actions to encourage more female involvement in UN peacekeeping operations," she added.

The deal came as the result of months of intense and permanent relationship between UN-INSTRAW and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and represents a step further in strengthening ties between both institutions.

Last May, the Communications and Information Technology Service (CITS) of DPKO held its annual planning meeting for all missions at the UN-INSTRAW office. More than 45 Information Technology and Communications chiefs from all peacekeeping missions were brought together to attend this meeting.

More recently, UN-INSTRAW and DPKO have been carrying out a research study aimed at increasing the number of women applying for positions within DPKO. Other collaborative projects between both institutions will be developed in the areas of training and research.

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Press contact:

Mr. Laurent Duvillier [UN-INSTRAW]
Tel: 809-685.21.11 ext. 227
Fax: 809-685.21.17
E-mail: lduvillier@un-instraw.org