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Conference Room 6 UN

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### Nuclear Weapons and UN SC Res. 1325 on Women Peace and Security

Before you start the clock, I would like to tip my hat to the people of New Zealand, to the spirit of David Longe, Marilyn Ware, sister Hobbs and the leadership of Helen Clark who have demonstrated that you can survive very nicely if you don't follow the nuclear leader.

I will put my cards on the table:

The reason the nuclear weapon issue must return to the front pages, and to all debates, including presidential, is because it will be used as ONE of the pretexts for the attack on Iran- a war that must be avoided, like all future wars, at any cost. Of course there are other reasons to remind the world that, on balance, anything nuclear is not good for women, children and other living things.

I used to say, even in these hallowed halls, women, women everywhere and not enough in power. But my views have evolved. It takes more than ovaries to qualify women for participation at any table where the fate of human kind is at stake- that is, at all decision-making tables. We need progressive women, women who are inclusive in their thinking and doing, who are gender equality sensitive; who embrace non-violence and dialogue. And who will abolish nuclear weapons and war.

And lastly, I believe that SC Res. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security must be required in all trainings, briefings, and other preparations for any diplomat or staff person at any level before coming to the United Nations and for all commanders and troops in peace keeping missions.

Let's remember the shoulders, in addition to New Zealand's, on which we stand today.

Forty- six years ago, in this country, women gathered in Wash DC to figure out how to stop atmospheric nuclear testing. Radiation from atomic bombs rained down from the skies onto pastures where cows were grazing. We gave their milk to our children and Strontium 90 showed up in baby teeth. Women Strike for Peace was born and after 2 years of teaching newspaper editors how to spell Strontium 90, Pres. Kennedy signed what I call the half ban treaty, outlawing atmospheric nuclear testing. How did we know this would result in pushing testing under ground? Kennedy's science adviser, Jerome Weisner, gave the women credit for educating the public on the dangers of atmospheric atomic testing.

Underground testing puts nukes out of sight, out of mind.

Thirty one years ago today, Reagan and Gorbachev, at the Reykjavik summit came the closest we have ever come to eliminate nuclear weapons. It is not an impossible dream.

Twenty -five years ago, June 12, 1982, over a million people voted with their feet in front of the United Nations and in Central Park at a demonstration to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

But nothing good lasts unless nourished. Sustaining momentum is the hardest part of organizing. People need to be inspired, educated, and motivated to act. Even diplomatic people.

Seven years ago women from civil society, I was among them, sat around the table with women from UNIFEM and drafted what would become SC Res 1325 on women, peace and security. It was unanimously adopted by the SC on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000 and, according to Article 25 of the UN Charter, and according to the former lawyer for the UN, it is the law. International Law. And member states are required to carry it out. That means the UN is required to implement it as well.

At the drafting table we struggled with ideas. One compromise we unfortunately made was not to include proposed language on disarmament, including nuclear disarmament. And last year, in Conf. Room 4, on October 11<sup>th</sup>, I called for resumption of 6 nation talks on North Korea and for a 1325 test. That every decision taken be scrutinized for its impact on women.

So here we are, sitting once again, in an effort to rid the world of nuclear weapons in the interest of the health and survival of women, children and other living things and the earth, and in the interest of preventing violence and war.

What should we do about everything we've heard here?

First, in a few days the Security Council will hold discussions on 1325 and may offer some new commitments for its implementation and accountability. Even though I am particular about the values of the women at the table, it is better to have women, and one woman does not women make, than none, and of course better to have a critical mass of women.

We need to be sure that every SC Res passed takes 1325 into account. Where are the women, how does the proposed resolution affect the protection of women, the prevention of violence and how does it assure the participation of women. The 3 P's of 1325!

I suggest, that SC Res 1325 be harmonized with national, state and local legislation as well. It is not meant just for the Security Council. It has basic principles that require the participation, and we have interpreted that to mean the full and equal participation, of women in all decision making. I firmly believe, that with caring women we have a better chance of ridding the world of nuclear weapons. And, "If we could eliminate apartheid", said Bishop Tutu, "why not war?"

There is no question about the improved recognition in the world that women exist, women have needs, there are more of us, and in certain places we see that more women are visible – but still sorely lacking in positions of authority.

There are only 17 countries in the world, out of 189 surveyed, with 30% or more women in Parliament, and another 33 countries have 20% or more (The US lags behind. We are number 67 with only 16%). There are still countries with absolutely no women in parliament, so women have no voice.

In Swaziland one in every 3 women has experienced violence before the age of 18 and every 2 out of 3 women suffer from violence and sexual abuse between the ages of 18 and 24. Until the new constitution was adopted last year, women could not own property, they had the legal status of minors, they could not open a bank account...and their lives are so fraught with suffering that if they live they are called violence survivors. Swaziland is not an aberration.

I heard just this week that the best antidote to polygamy in Africa is HIV Aids....imagine finding a silver lining in Aids.

If more caring women were in governments don't you think we would have had a better check on climate change, the result of human activity? Climate change affects women harshly. Resource depletion means women must walk further for water and wood. They become exhausted, get raped or killed en route and those who return have insufficient fuel and water to support their families.

I do not have to recite the economics of nuclear weapons...in my country alone we spend upwards of \$50 –75 Billion a year on war heads, delivery systems, and new designs....money that would eradicate guinea worm, would provide desperately needed clean water, would build schools, train teachers, provide literacy for women and buy cheap antiviral medicines for HIV Aids and condoms....you know these issues. Nuclear weapons are not only dangerous for our health; they are a drain on the economy of all 8 nuclear weapons states. As long as there are nuclear weapons states more states will want them and will divert desperately needs funds from human security for weapons of unimaginable destruction. There is no excuse to deny 58 cents to cure pneumonia in 20 % of children who die under the age of 5; no excuse to deny 42 cents to cure a child of diarrhea; or 2 20-cent tetanus shots to a mother to prevent infant mortality at birth.

People claim that no nuclear bomb has been used since Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Well, that's simply not true. Every day the power of a nation equipped with a nuclear arsenal is used to force other nations into positions they might not otherwise have supported. Except New Zealand. If nuclear weapons are not on the front pages it is not because they have disappeared or are no longer a danger. So we need to figure out how to re mobilize a concerned citizenry everywhere before one of the thousands of nuclear bombs is dropped or has an accident. Radiation from nuclear weapons does not respect borders, has no

passport, and the poison moves with the winds and rains and spreads its cancer everywhere...

Without dropping a bomb, our country at least, and probably the 7 others, uses them every day. Every warhead today contains 20 times the destructive power of Hiroshima. And that power to destroy the world lies behind every so-called conventional war we are waging today. When a US government person walks in your door, you know that there is a powerful nuclear arsenal in his quiver. So it changes the dynamics of the conversation...if we want you to join NAFTA or CAFTA you don't have much choice. New Zealand demonstrated that there is a choice, but it takes courage.

Nuclear weapons detonate and devastate without ever being launched....

For economic reasons, for health reasons, for political reasons, for legal reasons, and for moral reasons, we must abolish nuclear weapons now. Each of those reasons affects women. Scilla Ellworthy once did a survey of how many women are engaged in decision making in the nuclear chain. Virtually none. And the only reason to include caring outspoken women in those decisions would be to assure their demise.

We are facing an election in our country, which will affect the whole world. 2 of the 3 leading candidates, and one with less support, have come out calling for a nuclear free future. A third candidate, who may be the winner, has said that all options are on the table....that sounds like saber rattling to me.

1325, if fully implemented, would go a long way to support the elimination of nuclear weapons. Because it calls for the 3 P's, the participation of women at all levels of governance, that includes the UN, for the prevention of violence and the protection of women from violence. The mere possession of nuclear weapons represents violence.

Under the NPT we are required to eliminate them.

Let's start again now.