CALL FOR ACTION ON GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE BY
INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT, LEADERSHIP,
DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
MONROVIA, LIBERIA 7-8 March, 2009

We participants in the Gender and Climate Change sessions representing women leaders of
governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations, academia, media and other
stakeholders thank Their Excellencies, President Ellen Johnsson-Sirleaf of the Republic of Liberia
and President Tarja Halonen of the Republic of Finland for convening the International Colloquium on
Women's Empowerment, Leadership, Development, International Peace and Security 7-8 March
in Monrovia, Liberia. The colloquium provided a forum to reflect on the impact of climate change in
developing countries on the daily lives of women, in particular, and also women's possibilities to
participate in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In the light of our deliberations we:

**Recognise** that climate change will undermine most seriously efforts to poverty eradication and
achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, so that it raises serious questions of climate justice
and equity. Recognise that a gender sensitive strategy is a precondition to the rising challenges of
sustainable development.

**Note** with concern the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change presented in its 4th
Assessment Report, that climate change may affect most strongly the poorest regions and people,
especially women, young people and children through impacts on agriculture, food security and
availability of water, which are traditionally women's tasks in many developing countries.

**Recognise** that women and young people have the skills and capacities to adapt to climate change,
but they can also be powerful actors e.g. by planting trees, maintaining forests and developing
ecological food production and sustainable household energy which are also creating new sustainable
jobs. Likewise they can play central role in changing the consumption and production patterns to
sustainable ones. Thus awareness raising, information and using traditional knowledge as well
strengthening women's networks is important.

**Acknowledge** the historic momentum of the ongoing negotiations on a new global and comprehensive
climate agreement and the commitment of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change to agree on the new commitments and action in Copenhagen in December 2009.

**Call upon** all Parties and relevant intergovernmental and nongovernmental organisations and other
stakeholders to co-operate and to do their utmost to achieve the new agreement on climate change,
and in this process pay particular attention to encouraging women to participate in the negotiations and
urge parties to incorporate gender considerations into the new agreement in order to lay foundation for
gender-sensitive efforts to implement the agreement in the most cost effective way.

**Further call upon** governments and other stakeholders to create an enabling environment for
participation of women at the local, national regional and international level in decision making on
climate change and in activities to implement these decisions.

**Request** governments, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
Change and the UN system in the context of delivering as one, other relevant international
organisations and financing institutions in the context of current and coming programmes and priorities
to support the implementation of the climate commitments and actions by planning for information
sharing, training and other forms of capacity building to encourage women's participation in the
mitigation and adaptation activities including risk prevention and management as well as making the
necessary resources and technology available both for men and women. Special consideration need to
be given to developing gender sensitive financing.