

**Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice
in Southeast Europe Issue Statement Calling for Support
of Women Candidates in Kosovo National Elections.**

For immediate release

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The Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe (RWL), a regional network of prominent women leaders including politicians, members of parliaments, holders of governmental positions and representatives from civil society, has issued a statement calling for the support of the participation of women in the upcoming Kosovo national elections on November 17, 2007. The statement is motivated by the as yet untapped potential of women politicians in influencing the politics of peace and reconciliation in the post-conflict context of Southeast Europe.

The Regional Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in Southeast Europe was established in 2006 with support from UNIFEM. The Lobby promotes advocacy and political action to advance peace and stability in the region, including full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security", which calls for increased representation of women at all decision-making levels. The group includes members from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

To draw national, regional and international attention to the need for greater support of women candidates and support for women politicians, the RWL is releasing statements in Albanian, English and Serbian calling for the support of women candidates on November 17, 2007 in the Kosovo elections.