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**Zagreb, July 19, 2006 – Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in South East Europe wholeheartedly supports a Just and Sustainable Settlement for Kosovo**

A group of women political leaders and women's rights activists from countries of South East Europe who are still struggling to recover fully from the aftermath of a brutal war met in Zagreb, Croatia on 15-19 July, 2006 with support from UNIFEM. The group deliberated over the recent and ongoing political developments in their countries and the implications for peace and security for the region's citizens and for women in particular.

Following intensive dialogue the group decided to establish a regional **Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in South East Europe** dedicated to advocating for political action to advance peace and stability in South East Europe as well as for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (October 2000) that calls upon all state parties to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels.

Pursuant to this aim the Women's Lobby:

**Calls upon** the international community to resolve the status of Kosovo as soon as possible, as an imperative for regional lasting stability, respecting the political will of the majority in Kosovo, and with full guarantees for minorities;

**Urges** the international community, Kosovo and Serbia, to further insist on solving the problem of missing people on both sides;

**Demands** the safe and sustainable return of refugees;

**Requests** the international community to provide the necessary support to Kosovo to speed up economic progress and reforms that are needed to pave the way for its eventual integration into the European Union;

**Calls upon** the Serb minority in Kosovo to join Kosovo institutions in order to define and fully realize their legitimate interests independently of external pressures; in this regard the Women's Lobby is ready to facilitate visits by women leaders and activists from countries of the region and women from minority groups living in Kosovo to engage in dialogue and promote better mutual understanding among all groups and communities living in Kosovo;

**Demands** the participation of women in negotiating teams in compliance with UNSC Resolution 1325 and notes that the inclusion of women only stands to contribute to the success of the peace process;

**Calls upon** all parties to the negotiations to avoid interim arrangements that risk prolonging instability in the region and prevent the peoples of Kosovo and Serbia from focusing their full attention on economic recovery, urging them to take into full account the aspirations of the people of Kosovo for peace, stability and development.

**Women's Lobby for Peace, Security and Justice in South East Europe members:**

**Albania**

Marieta Zaqe

Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Equal Opportunities

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Memnuna Zvezdic

Director of Zene Zenama

**Croatia**

Gordana Sobol

Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Gender Equality

Morana Palikovic

Head of Members from HNS political party in Zagreb City Assembly, Head of Municipal Committee for National Minorities

**Kosovo**

Nekibe Kelmendi

Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Public Services, Local Administration and Media

Edita Tahiri

Head of Democratic Alternative of Kosova, Member of the Kosovo Women's Lobby

Teuta Sahatqija

Vice President of ORA political party, Chief of the parliamentarian group of ORA

Igballe Rogova

Executive Director of Kosovo Women's Network, Member of the Kosovo Women's Lobby

**Macedonia**

Irina Pockova

President of Women's Chapter of Social Democratic Alliance political party in Sv. Nikola

**Montenegro**

Nada Drobnjak

Director of the Office for Gender Equality in Office of the Prime Minister

**Serbia**

Sonja Biserko

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights

Natasa Kandic

Human Rights Fund

Slavica Stojanovic

Member of Women in Black