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Zagreb, July 19, 2006 – Women's Lobby for Peace, Security, and Justice in South East Europe wholeheartedly supports appeal of the International Women's Commission (IWC) for a Just and Sustainable Peace between Israel and Palestine of July 13, calling an end to the violence in Israel, Lebanon, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

A group of women political leaders and women's rights activists from countries of South East Europe still struggling to recover from the aftermath of a brutal war, met in Zagreb, Croatia on 15-19 July 2006 with support from UNIFEM, to deliberate recent and ongoing political developments in their countries and their implication 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.

On the background of resurging violence in the Middle East, the South East Europe Women's Lobby expresses its alarm at the absence of national, regional and international leadership in bringing the violence in Lebanon, Israel and Palestine to a halt. The Lobby urges political leaders to heed the call of the IWC, as well as involve its members, themselves leaders and experts that are capable in supporting mediation efforts aimed at encouraging all parties to restart political dialogue and negotiation.

# 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**

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#### 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

#### Kosova

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 Kosova Women's Lobby

Teuta Sahatqija

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

Igballe Rogova

Executive Director of Kosova Women's Network, Member of the Kosova 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

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