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His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
UN Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017

Winnie Byanyima  
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23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015, Oxford, UK

Dear Secretary-General,

As the UN and Member States prepare for the High Level Review of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in October, I would like to share Oxfam's new report, which summarises key progress and challenges to date and identifies crucial priorities for action by the UN and Member States.

I want to recognise the UN's role in advances in the Women, Peace and Security agenda. A total of seven UN Security Council resolutions have strengthened the normative framework. The UN has also made valuable contributions by increasing the deployment of gender advisors and appointing more women in senior positions in field missions (although targets for women in senior roles have been missed). Your reports as Secretary-General have helpfully highlighted progress and gaps.

However, Oxfam's report – *Women, Peace and Security: Keeping the Promise* – finds that worldwide progress has been sporadic. Women remain underrepresented in peace processes and security institutions at all levels. Transparency and political accountability is inconsistent, while greater efforts are needed to prevent conflict and gender-based violence.

Collectively, funding for Women, Peace and Security activities remains inadequate.

Our report concludes that the High Level Review must produce commitments that prioritise

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asking such deficiencies. I ask you and your colleagues to:

1. press the UN Security Council and influential Member States to agree strong commitments that address women's participation in peace and security, conflict prevention, gender-based violence, monitoring and implementation, and financing;
2. build on positive measures by the UN, including by increasing the number of women in senior roles across the UN's peace, security and development architecture.

We hope UN colleagues currently preparing for the High Level Review find the report's analysis and recommendations useful, and welcome any comments you and your colleagues may have.

Yours sincerely,

*Winnie Byanyima*

Winnie Byanyima

Executive Director, Oxfam International

CC: Zainab Hawa Bangura, Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict; Helen Clark, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women; Stephen O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.

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