



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Seminar on Women's Participation in Peace Operations

LUSAKA, Zambia (October 11, 2009) – The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre (PPC) is hosting a *Women in Peace Operations* seminar for female police officers working within South African Development Community (SADC) countries.

The seminar will provide a venue for women leaders to come together and discuss women's participation in peace operations and develop a shared understanding of the challenges they encounter when dealing with gender mainstreaming. This training will enhance the officers' policing capabilities and positively affect their contributions within the women's network of Southern African Regional Police Chief Council Organisation (SARPCCO).

"In order to build a successful and sustainable state of peace, gender equality and perspectives must be integrated into all areas of a peace operation," said Suzanne Monaghan, President of the PPC. "This seminar not only promotes gender mainstreaming, but also allows female officers to share with and learn from each other."

Taking place from October 12 to 15, this activity will bring together 20 female and 10 male police officers from the SADC countries (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia). The first two days will involve presentations from specialists who will talk about contemporary complex peace operations, the importance of integrating more female police officers in missions as well as gender issues. The last two days are exclusively for the female officers and will take the form of a training course which will empower and build the capacity of the female police officers to integrate gender mainstreaming into their work.

"Having representation from six different SADC countries will build the necessary momentum towards gender equality and a shared understanding between all police officers in the field," said Wayne Martin, Director of the Africa Program at the PPC. "We are delighted that the head of the peacekeeping department of five national police services will also attend and show their support for this initiative."

The media are invited to attend the closing ceremony on October 13, at 6 p.m., at the Protea Hotel Safari Lodge, Plot 1887 Kamaila Road, Chisamba, Lusaka Zambia.

The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre is a Canadian institution dedicated to making international peace operations more effective through research, education, training and capacity building.

Information:

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