

Invitation to a Panel Discussion and Q&A on

***Women and Peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region***

**Tuesday 4th June 2013, 1.15pm**

**Trusteeship Council Chamber (CB)**

The Permanent Mission of Ireland invites you to a High Level Panel discussion on Women and Peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region, with the participation of **Special Envoy Mary Robinson**, **Special Representative Zainab Bangura**, women’s civil society leader and Ugandan lawyer and peacebuilder **Lina Zedriga** and **Ireland’s Development Minister Joe Costello.**

The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region, signed on 24th February, offers the potential for a new departure towards sustainable peace. It represents a critical opportunity to be seized.

Women have long suffered disproportionately as a result of the chronic violence in eastern DRC. The time for women’s empowerment as peacebuilders in the region has arrived.

On 4th June, the panellists will address the role that women can play in helping to translate into reality the commitments of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework and in building peace, security and development in the DRC and the region. Presentations by the panellists will be followed by a substantial question and answer session.

The meeting is open to Member States, UN staff and interested civil society organisations.

**We hope to see you there!**