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## **WOMEN'S GROUPS PRESCRIBE POLITICAL VIAGRA FOR WORLD LEADERS**

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Women's organizations worldwide are gravely concerned by the state of negotiations on the World Summit. We are especially appalled by the unilateralism and unwillingness of the US to compromise. We are dismayed by the impotence of so many governments – especially the US – who clearly lack the political will to reach a groundbreaking agreement on development, human rights, peace and UN reform.

Despite the fact that the outcomes of UN conferences of the 1990s have recently been reaffirmed by all governments – the Beijing Platform for Action as recently as March 2005 – governments are now showing little courage to live up to those commitments.

The paragraph proposed by Brazil on increasing the capacities of adults and adolescents to protect themselves from HIV infection, has not been supported widely, and is in danger of being diluted by US language that is a covert attempt at inserting “abstinence-only education” as a main prevention approach.

The text on the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts is being held hostage to language on “foreign occupation” – an intractable debate at the UN that should not be used to derail this crucial paragraph.

The agreement on the Responsibility to Protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity is still held up by squabbles over its title.

The establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission is caught up in insistence by the US that it remain under the complete control of the permanent members of the Security Council.

Even issues the US allegedly cares about have been severely undermined by the chaos caused by its own obstructionist tactics in the Summit. For example, the creation of the Human Rights Council is now in serious jeopardy, since consideration of its composition and functioning is now to be discussed in the future, and not at the Summit itself.

Women of the world are watching and expect more from their governments. The well-being of billions of poor and marginalized women, girls, men and boys is at stake. The future of multilateralism, international cooperation, and the UN itself, is in the balance.

We expect political will, courage, and a sustained commitment to human rights, democracy, development and peace.

At this final stage of the Summit negotiations, nothing else will do.

**Statement by:**

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