Infographic
Women’s role in Burundi’s Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and Implementation (1996-2014)

BACKGROUND ON THE ARUSHA PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AGREEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION (1996-2014)
Arusha process: A armed conflict at varying levels of intensity was rampant in Burundi following independence in 1962. The war that began in 1993 was triggered three months after Burundi’s first democratic election, when the elected leader was assassinated by members of the military. The war killed tens of thousands of people and displaced more than a million. The Arusha process gave rise of international and regional concern for the instability, violence, and humanitarian crises across the Great Lakes region, and the potential impact of an escalation of the war in Burundi. The peace process began in 1999, and culminated in all Burundi’s political parties signing an agreement of Arusha in August 2000 and the start of a political transition. The constitution was approved by referendum in October 2008, when 70% voted in favour of the new constitution.

WOMEN’S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

WOMEN’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

Women formed a strong coalition across ethnic lines and with the support of the mediators and international actors successfully advocated for increased representation in negotiating delegations, formal observer roles for women, and inclusion of their preferences on the agenda.

Women observers formulated positions and written submissions on topics under discussion, used their physical presence to gain access to negotiators and mediators, and worked to build links between parties in order to move the process forward.

More than half of the recommendations of the 8-party Women’s Conference held in July 2000 on topics such as peace, justice, and gender equality were included in the Arusha Peace Agreement.

Factors enabling women’s influence
Strong coalition building
Successful transfer of experience
Support from regional and international actors
Beneficial early involvement
Existence of prior commitments

Factors constraining women’s influence
Exclusionary selection criteria and non-transparent procedures
Resistance of conflict parties
Vocal support from non-sexist and anti-sexist mediators

This infographic is based on a case study published by the Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative (IPT) as part of the series “Women in Peace and Transition Processes” that analyzes the conditions under which women participated in and influenced peace, political reform, and constitution-making processes worldwide. To discover other infographics and our case study series, visit our website: www.inclusipeace.org