Infographic
Women’s role in Guatemala’s peace process (1994–1999)

BACKGROUND ON GUATEMALA’S PEACE PROCESS (1994-1999)
The negotiations for a Firm and Lasting Peace that took place from 1996 to 1996 aimed at ending Guatemala’s protracted civil war. While a five-point agreement was reached and brought to formal end to the armed conflict, the agreement has only been partially implemented due to the rejection of necessary constitutional amendments by referendum in 1999. Levels of violence remain high in Guatemala.

WOMEN’S INCLUSION IN THE PROCESS

Assembly of Civil Society: Official consultative body set up in parallel to the negotiations

- Only a few women delegates
- No official gender quota

Transferred recommendations addressing the causes of the conflict

Presence of women in the other sectors

WOMEN’S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE PROCESS

Women within the Assembly of Civil Society managed to include gender perspectives in 1/5 of the 1/5 final accord and shaped provisions addressing broader social issues.

Women’s organizations built a strong coalition that enabled them to articulate joint positions, manage internal disagreements, and effectively bring their issues onto the negotiation agenda.

The Women’s Section of the Assembly of Civil Society deployed effective advocacy strategies to transfer inputs to the official negotiations, both formally and informally, with the help of UNF member Luz Mendieta, who used her access to the negotiation table to promote their proposals.

FACTORS ENABLING WOMEN’S INFLUENCE

- Effective coalition-building among women’s organizations
- Advocacy strategies to foster proposals to the official negotiations
- Support of the mediators
- Influence of the World Conference on Women and Beijing Declaration

FACTORS CONSTRAINING WOMEN’S INFLUENCE

- Resistance of the business sector and political parties
- Lack of public buy-in: extreme rejection by referendum
- Negative attitudes of non-participants

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

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