

**Vital Voices
The White House**

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Background:

Vital Voices was launched by the U.S. Government in 1997 to amplify and support the voices of emerging women leaders. Building on the promise of the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, and through the leadership of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Vital Voices has placed issues concerning the lives of women in the mainstream of American foreign policy.

In the three years since the launch of Vital Voices, women around the world have been significantly impacted. The initiative has developed new government programs and policies to support the political and economic advancement of women worldwide. Vital Voices has helped women run for elected office, start and grow small businesses and craft new legislation. Additionally, Vital Voices has engaged the private sector to share their expertise with women by offering political, media and leadership training, exchanges, internships, consulting, grants and public service announcements. Vital Voices is creating unprecedented partnerships and has unleashed a growing global movement of people who support women building strong democracies.

Category I. Provide Better Services

There are numerous examples of Vital Voices partnering with nonprofit organizations to realize their common objective of amplifying and supporting the voices of emerging women leaders. With the assistance of nonprofits, Vital Voices has been able to enhance and extend the longevity of its programs

As a follow up to the September 1998 Vital Voices Northern Ireland conference, a number of nonprofits worked with Vital Voices to bring a group of women legislators and political party leaders from Ireland to the US for leadership training. With the assistance of the Ireland Leadership Program at American University, the US government hosted a reception for this group at the State Department and facilitated a series of foreign policy briefings. In partnership with the Irish Institute at Boston College, the Irish visitors were able to meet with state and federal level elected officials at a meeting in Boston hosted by the State Department. Street Law Inc. of Washington DC hosted community leaders and civil rights activists from Northern Ireland as well. Also, the New Community Corporation of Newark New Jersey expanded its community-training program to include the women from Northern Ireland.

To better understand the global impact of Vital Voices and to strategize next steps, the Stanley Foundation hosted a three day retreat for 15 Vital Voices alumnae from all around the world in Airlie, Virginia. The retreat resulted in the Vital Voices mission statement, an affirmation of support from the Open Society Institute in Moscow and a strengthening of the Vital Voices network. US government officials responsible for developing Vital Voices within the US government joined the 15 Stanley Foundation retreat participants and developed a US government program for them.

In another successful collaboration, the AFL/CIO funded and sponsored participants of several grass roots labor leaders in the Vital Voices Latin American conference in Uruguay in October 1998. The Union's assistance provided expertise to the other conference participants and wide exposure and networking opportunities for the grass root labor women themselves.

Category IV. Leveraging Resources

Vital Voices has relied heavily on receiving in-kind training, support, and expertise from government and non-governmental experts, as well as leverage corporate support. Organizations such as Discovery Communications, McKinsey & Co., the World Bank and Georgetown University have partnered with Vital Voices to host technology training sessions, fund Web site development, coordinate research symposiums and engage additional private and public sector partners, among other things.

V. Sharing Information

Vital Voices is working toward creating the premiere live global community for women on the web. In partnership with American Online and a grouping of other telecommunications and technology companies, the Web site would help raise awareness of training and business opportunities available to women. The Web site would connect participants of Vital Voices programs around the world, could offer follow-up online training courses and track the progress and success of women assisted by Vital Voices programs. A main objective of the Web site is to expand the network of women leaders around the world to 100,000. Through engaging women around the world, Vital Voices envisions the Web site to be driven by the spirit and ideas of this programs global network. Being plugged into this network will give the Web site more original, cutting edge, global content than any other women's Web site.



Info on WGP - 1st Draft + Proposal

VITAL VOICES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

"Today, more than at any other time in history, women have the opportunity and the responsibility not only to raise their own voices, but to empower others to raise theirs as well. Vital Voices is about ensuring that women have the tools they need to build vibrant democracies, free market economies, and peaceful, just societies all over the world"

-- First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Executive Summary

Today, the full participation of women is not only a matter of fundamental human rights; it is also a matter of necessity. In this century, democratic progress, economic progress, and social progress will all depend upon the progress of women. That was the message that came out of the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

Despite the great strides women have made worldwide, they still face gross inequities and injustices. Almost 600,000 women a year die in childbirth, and many of them could have been saved with basic reproductive care. Women perform 66 percent of the world's work and earn only 10 percent of its income. At a time when educating girls is the single most important investment developing countries can make, more than 600 million girls are not in school. Every day, women are subjected to violence, fed less and last, and denied credit, jobs, health care, a political voice, and basic dignity.

In these historic times, countries are beginning to understand that issues affecting women are not marginal, but central to their goals of building democracy and civil society, peace and free market economies. When women are at the table, when women are healthy and educated, when women have economic opportunities, their families, communities, and nations thrive. At the same time, globalization has tied our fates together, presenting the United States with a responsibility and opportunity to empower emerging women leaders to make great progress on behalf of themselves and their nations.

Vital Voices Global Partnership (VVGP) is a new non-profit organization dedicated to giving women the tools of opportunity they need to succeed in their economies, their democracies, and every sector of their societies. It will spotlight – and address – pressing challenges facing women in every region of the world, from the struggle to earn women the right to vote in Kuwait to the battle to end gender apartheid in Afghanistan. VVGP was formed to build on the significant achievements of the government's Vital Voices Democracy Initiative, led by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Introduction

Vital Voices Global Partnership (VVGP) is a new non-profit organization dedicated to giving women the tools of opportunity they need to succeed in their economies, their democracies, and every sector of their societies. It will spotlight – and address – pressing challenges facing women in every region of the world, from the struggle to elect women to public office in Haiti to the battle to earn women the right to vote in Kuwait. VVGP was formed to build on the significant achievements of the government's Vital Voices Democracy Initiative, led by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The Vital Voices Democracy Initiative has taught us what emerging women leaders need to succeed. They need training to improve their skills in everything from business to advocacy to communications. They need partners to help them raise their voices, spotlight their struggles and triumphs, and solve their most critical problems. They need opportunities – both electronically and in person – to network, to build coalitions and learn from one another. VVGP is uniquely suited to meet these challenges.

VVGP has created a Board of Directors made up of prominent and committed Americans – and will soon create an international advisory board. We will involve experts, activists, and private-sector supporters from all over the world. U.S. companies such as Discovery Communications and McKinsey & Company are already actively participating in VVGP. Podesta.Com, IBM, American Ireland Fund, Stream International, Shrum, Devine and Donilon and other organizations that are part of the Vital Voices network have committed to continuing their involvement.

Raising Women's Voices – Priorities for a New Century

During its first year, the Vital Voices Global Partnership will focus on four key programs.

1. Training.

In the first year, VVGP will host six weeklong training sessions – three focusing on leadership and advocacy and three on business and employment skills. We will target countries where the needs, and our potential impact, are greatest. Some of these sessions will take place in the U.S., and others will be held abroad. Each training session will reach approximately 20 emerging women leaders.

These sessions will build on the lessons learned by the government's Vital Voices Democracy Initiative. During the many Vital Voices conferences, forums, and events, thousands of women leaders were asked about their most critical needs. Time and again, they have identified concrete, lifelong skills that emerging women leaders must have to succeed in the political and economic lives of their countries. Those are the skills that the VVGP training sessions will focus on teaching the participants.

“ Advancing the status of women is the right thing to do; and frankly it is the smart thing to do.”

-- U.S. Secretary of State
Madeleine K. Albright

In the area of political participation, women from new democracies will learn, for example, about running for office, drafting legislation, advocating for issues, public speaking, the media, and fundraising. During the business and employment sessions, women from new market economies will gain job, technology, and negotiation skills -- and learn about creating small businesses, writing a business plan, communications, government regulations, marketing, and management

The Vital Voices Democracy Initiative already has held several such exchanges and trainings, which have given women invaluable assistance. For example, in 1999, a group of women from Northern Ireland came to Washington, D.C. for a weeklong training session on political leadership, communications, and advocacy. These women were both Catholics and Protestants, and they represented political parties, community groups, and trade unions. In February 2000, women from around the Western Hemisphere came together to share their resources and successes on a variety of fronts. These sessions were led by a wide range of national experts, who are part of a vast group of Vital Voices associates and will continue to donate their time and skills to VVGP in the U.S. and around the world.

partners, evaluated against specific criteria, and ultimately selected by the VVGP board. Once selected, VVGP will marshal its resources on behalf of the organizations, targeting its approach to their unique needs. Some groups may only need direct funding, while others may also need technical assistance, such as strategies for advocating for a bill in their legislatures or teaching women how to build a small business.

Finally, having set concrete goals for each organization and issue, VVGP will track their progress, posting updates on the website, and comprehensively reviewing each campaign at the Annual Summit.

4. Website

The Internet has revolutionized communications around the world – from the largest cities to the smallest villages. With a highly innovative website, we will bring the Vital Voices Global Partnership on-line. This new website will create communities of women who can work together and learn from each other without regard to geography; provide updates to donors about the progress of particular women and their projects; and serve as a one-stop-shop for journalists and others who want up-to-date information about women's issues, and the leaders championing them.

We will work with a web design firm to create a site that is easy to reach, and easy to use. Many women work in isolated communities, unaware that help could just be a click-of-mouse away. A woman, for example, who wants to pass domestic violence legislation might learn everything she needs to know by simply e-mailing someone who already has drafted similar legislation in another country.

When these women, their supporters, and others log onto the website, they will initially find three general content areas – economics and business, politics and public policy, and legal and human rights. They will be connected to listservs and bulletin boards to discuss important topics with experts and among themselves. They will find the latest articles and newsfeeds, and a calendar of events around the world. They will be linked to local VVGP groups and other relevant organizations -- and be able to find monthly updates on critical issues. Some women will be able to find important information translated into their own language. And every person who uses the site will have access to the entire Vital Voices archive, including video footage, speeches, participants' success stories, recommended experts, and a database of women's groups organized by country and issue.

These initial core functions were chosen based on interviews with emerging women leaders, who, in the first year, will be the site's primary users. In the subsequent years, we will continue to update and expand the site, depending on the feedback we receive, and our evolving needs and resources. For example, as the site grows, we may add regional content translated into appropriate languages, international chat rooms, on-line training, original content, and options for users to donate on-line, sign up to volunteer, and access a comprehensive directory of experts.

What world leaders are saying about Vital Voices:

"The Vital Voices experience has changed my life. Before I had vowed never again to run for political office. It was just too difficult. I had been shot at. But, after hearing so many brave, strong women come forward, I know that I will run for office again. I will not give up."

-- Jocelyn Lassegue, Member of the Haitian Cabinet

"We want...all the women to live in a better world with better opportunities for themselves and for their daughters...We need to work collectively as Somali women in the country, but...we need all the support we can get from our sisters all over the world through Vital Voices."

-- Nasri Adams, who worked in Somalia to convince young militias to turn over their weapons in exchange for education and training.

"What Hillary has done with this Vital Voices movement is simply to give voice and power to practical and compassionate women who find real human answers to human problems, and who don't let...fear of those who are different from them or desire for personal recognition get in the way of their desire to perfect democracy."

-- President Bill Clinton, The 1999 National Democratic Institute Dinner

"There have been hundreds of conferences in Northern Ireland, dozens of them for women, but the unprecedented Vital Voices conference put women in Northern Ireland on the world stage."

-- Baroness May Blood, Northern Ireland Community Activist

As a follow-up to the Vital Voices in Latin America, we developed a database which includes 1000 women in Argentina. This database has been very successful for networking and helping women politicians. Before this was created, men told us that no woman was interested in politics. Now, we know interested women are out there.

-- Monique Thiteux Altschul, NGO leader in Argentina

I guess one of the biggest victories in our democracy is that every citizen...can create an organization...do what they wish...and gain success. The Vital Voices movement could be very, very important for Mongolia because the women, who have created the networks through NGOs, are working together and are ready to have their voices heard.

-- Narangerel Rinchin, elected official in Mongolia

"Vital Voices are voices of hope, voices of progress, voices of women around the world inspired by opportunities of cooperation and solidarity."

-- Mission Statement written by a group of Vital Voices from around the world at the Vital Voices retreat at Airlie Center, Virginia, February 15, 2000.



The President's Interagency Council on Women

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary ChairSecretary of State Madeleine K. Albright
ChairSecretary of Health and Human Services
Donna Shalala, Immediate Past ChairDATE: 7/17/00TO: Melanne & ShirleyORGANIZATION: WHPHONE: 456-6266 FAX: 456-6244FROM: TheresaPHONE: (202) 647 - ⁵⁴⁴⁰~~5440~~ FAX: (202) 647 - 5337

MESSAGE:

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): (3)

Examples of UV Partnerships

Ireland Leadership Program at American University As a follow up to the Vital Voices Northern Ireland conference in September 1998, the Ireland leadership program brought a group of women legislators and political party leaders to US for leadership training. The US government hosted a reception for this group at the State Department and facilitated a series foreign policy briefings

The Irish Institute at Boston College brought over a group of women legislators and women in political parties from Ireland and Northern Ireland as a follow up to the Vital Voices Northern Ireland conference in September 1998 for meeting in Washington and Boston with elected officials at state and federal level. This included receptions and meetings hosted at the State Department.

Street Law Inc. of Washington DC hosted a group of young community leaders and civil rights advocates from Northern Ireland as a follow up to the Vital Voices Northern Ireland conference in September 1998.

Women's Campaign International Vital Voices Latin America did a series of political trade and craft skills training involving a number of Vital Voices conference participants.

The New Community Corporation of Newark New Jersey expanded its community-training program to include women community leaders from Northern Ireland

The Stanley foundation from Muscadine Iowa To better understand the Global impact of Vital Voices and to strategize next steps, the Stanley Foundation hosted a three day retreat for 15 Vital Voices alumnae from all around the world in Airlie, VA. The retreat resulted in the Vital Voices mission statement, an affirmation of support from the Open Society Institute in Moscow and a strengthening of the Vital Voices network. US government officials responsible for developing Vital Voices within the US government joined the 15 Stanley Foundation retreat participants and developed a US government program for them.

AFL/CIO funded and sponsored participants of several grass roots labor leaders in the Vital Voices Latin American conference in Uruguay in October 1998, thereby providing expertise to the other conference participants and providing wide exposure and networking opportunities for the grass root labor women themselves.

Turkey US Chamber of Commerce hosted a meeting and dinner for Central Asian women participants of the Vital Voices Roundtable held in Istanbul, Turkey in November 1999.

Counterpart International conducted a roundtable discussion and workshop on Microcredit programs for Vital Voices Exchange participants from the Baltic States and Russia.

The National Democratic Institute hosted a day long training session on democracy and political leadership for the Vital Voices Exchange participants from the Baltic States and Russia.

The National Commission on Working Women hosted a lunch and business discussion with businesses from Latin America as a follow up to the Vital Voices Latin American conference.

The American Association of University Women provided a free workshop and training for Vital Voices participants of the Baltic States and Russia dealing with issue advocacy and promoting a women's agenda for effective government action.

Discovery Communications Foundation funded and executed a public service announcement promoting Vital V as a global democracy network and aired the PSA on Discovery channels world wide.

International Foundation for Election Systems partnered with Vital Voices Democracy Initiative to host a workshop at the UN in June 2000 on the impact of women's political participation.

The Global Fund for Women in Palo Alto Ca partnered with the USG to provide grants for grass roots women to attend the Vital Voices conference in LA and to provide grants for follow up activities

Ruby - VVGP/WDI Partnership
Voices of Hope... info on WDI

Voices of Progress...

Voices of Women Around the World...

"We know that we cannot build the kind of future we want without the contributions of women. And we know that around the world, women will only be able to contribute to our full potential if we have equal access, equal rights, equal protection and a fair chance at the levers of economic and political power. Advancing the status of women is the right thing to do; and, frankly, it is the smart thing to do."

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright



Vital Voices is raising the voices of emerging women leaders worldwide who are forging the way towards democracy.

Vital Voices is an ongoing global initiative that implements U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's commitment to promote the advancement of women as a U.S. foreign policy objective. This initiative is an outgrowth of the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and enjoys the active support and leadership of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Vital Voices conferences launch regional initiatives to give citizens in emerging democracies and countries in transition the skills, tools, and resources to empower themselves, their communities, and their countries. Regional Initiatives have been launched for Eastern and Central Europe, Northern Ireland, the Americas, the Baltics, and Russia. *Vital Voices* Global and Regional Roundtables and Exchanges have been held in Palermo, Italy, Reykjavik, Iceland, Istanbul, Turkey, and Washington, DC.

The *Vital Voices* Democracy Initiative has had measurable impact throughout the world since it's launch almost three years ago. The initiative has created new government programs and policies to support the political and economic advancement of women throughout the world. The initiative has also leveraged private sector support in the form of in-kind political, media and leadership training, exchanges, internships, consulting, grants, and public service announcements. *Vital Voices* has help women run for elected office, start and grow small business, get new legislation passed. *Vital Voices* is creating unprecedented partnerships and has unleashed a growing global network of people who support women building strong democracies.

Check out the *Vital Voices* website at <http://www.usia.gov/vitalvoices> or email us at vitalvoices@hotmail.com

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Vital Voices.....Listen.



American Ireland Fund

Ruby -
hope this is
helpful. -

DRAFT
Vital Voices Global Partnership

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Let me know. Proposal Content

Organization Background: - Alyse

I. OVERVIEW OF THE USG VITAL VOICES GLOBAL DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE (VVDI)

From the battle for human rights in Afghanistan to democracy in Nigeria, from free elections in Indonesia to revived hope for peace in Northern Ireland, the turn of the century is a time of global change and unparalleled possibilities. Fueling this movement towards democracy are innovative women activists around the world working at the grassroots, pushing governments, legal systems, and societies to do more.

The *Vital Voices* Global Democracy Initiative was launched by the U.S. Government in 1997 to amplify and support the voices of these emerging women leaders. Building on the promise of the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women, and through the active leadership and powerful partnership of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, *Vital Voices* has placed issues concerning the lives of women right where they belong - in the mainstream of American foreign policy.

In three years the *Vital Voices* Initiative has significantly impacted the lives of countless women throughout the world. Through *Vital Voices* we have developed new government programs and policies to support the political and economic advancement of women worldwide. We have also engaged the private sector to share their expertise with women by offering political, media and leadership training, exchanges, internships, consulting, grants and public service announcements. *Vital Voices* has helped women run for elected office, start and grow small businesses and craft new legislation. *Vital Voices* is creating unprecedented partnerships and has unleashed a growing global movement of people who support women building strong democracies.

II. HISTORY OF USG VITAL VOICES DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

USG's VVDI was created to fulfill an unmet need which was identified by a U.S. Ambassador working in the field. (not in Washington) *Vital Voices* conferences and projects have been generated in response to requests that came from women throughout the world (not because policy makers in Washington thought it would be a good idea)

Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative (VVDI) in the U.S. Government was able to position issues affecting the lives of women as an integral part of American foreign policy. VVDI created a mechanism to leverage resources in State Department and throughout the U.S. government (tapping the resources of all of our federal agencies) to raise support for and the profile of issues affecting the lives of women and the role women are playing throughout the world to strengthen democracy. This was unprecedented work.

VV has been approached by other governments to help them create mechanisms within their own government to support the important role women are playing.

USG Vital Voices/State Department Regional Bureau Partnership

USG Vital Voices conferences and projects were coordinated by the Vital Voices office in the President's Interagency Council on Women (S/PICW) at the State Department in coordination with the State Department Regional Bureaus (**SEE TAB A**)

Prior to the Conference:

- Regional Bureaus were responsible for coordinating efforts of the State Department, including US embassies in the region, to support and generate funding for conference and follow-up activities.
- S/PICW coordinated interagency support and recruited and engaged NGOs' and private sector representatives' involvement in the conference and follow-up activities (***although there was extensive interest from the private sector in donating there time and resources to follow-up training sessions, in-kind products, exchanges, mentoring and grants – USG regulations limited S/PICW's ability to fully tap private sector resources and expertise.) (SEE TAB B)**

Following the Conference:

- Regional Bureaus integrated the Vital Voices initiative into their work by coordinating and funding follow-up mechanisms and activities in the region. (**SEE TAB C, D, E**)
- Following the initial VV conference the Vital Voices Office was responsible for organizing follow-up meetings with US participants and monitoring US private sector follow-up activities.

The Vital Voices office in the President's Interagency Council on women played the important role over the last three years of launching regional VV initiatives. Before the end of the administration a Vital Voices Democracy Initiative will have been launched in almost every region of the world –through conferences, training sessions, roundtables, and projects. The regional bureaus – but even more so – our embassies overseas will continue to play the important role of integrating the initiative into their work through follow-up projects and activities. Almost every one of our embassies and Regional Bureaus at the State Department have designated a women's issues officer to integrate women into the mainstream. This was not done because it was mandated by the Secretary of State. It was done because our foreign policy institution has recognized the critical role the women play in building democracy, bolstering economies, and sustaining peace. (**SEE TAB F**)

III. VVDI IMPACT ON WOMEN – GLOBALLY

Women throughout the world have taken ownership of the *Vital Voices Initiative*; they are using Vital Voices to:

- Bring women in their countries together around common issues
- Raise awareness and recognition about the issues women are facing
- Create new legislation
- Sharing best practices
- Increase funding to democracy building and income generation projects

Success Stories from Vital Voices Participants (SEE TAB G)

IV. FUTURE OF VITAL VOICES DEMOCRACY INITIATIVE

By the end of this year, the role of the USG Vital Voices office work with regional bureaus to launch regional initiatives and integrate women into their policy framework will be done. What is needed now is a mechanism to support the follow-up activities and projects which have been planned beyond this administration and continue to be generated by the State Department's Regional Bureaus and our embassies throughout the world in response to needs identified on the ground. This mechanism of support must be a non-governmental entity with the ability to leverage private sector resources and expertise for Vital Voices projects.

Regardless of which administration takes office in January, there has been a great need identified by our embassies throughout the world to continue to find ways to support the important role that women play in strengthening democracy and economic development.

VVGP has received an enthusiastic response from the State Department foreign and civil services officers in Washington and at our embassies. They are encouraged to learn that the initiative will have life beyond this administration and will be strengthened by additional private sector support. These officers will remain in their jobs in a new administration and have expressed great interest in working with VVGP to support women in their host countries and around the world.

The next step in this process is to establish the *Vital Voices Global Partnership*, a non-governmental, non-profit corporation which will build on the success of VVDI by developing stronger linkages with the private sector, international organizations and other governments throughout the world to leverage mainstream support, resources, expertise, and recognition for:

- The Vital Voices follow-up activities and projects planned by the Regional Bureaus and our embassies
- Women democracy builders and the local Vital Voices chapters which are springing up throughout the world.

V. VITAL VOICES GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP - THE NICHE

There are thousands of organizations throughout the world who are doing critical and impactful work on international women's issues but they are:

- Not working strategically enough with governments to integrate women into national policy framework;
- Under resourced - The current pool of private sector resources dedicated to women's issues is not large enough to accommodate all the work that needs to be done – they need to tap new corporate resources for funding;
- Not connected to each other – they need to share information/best practices/networking;
- Don't have a strong and visible public profile – mainstream public and mainstream media are not aware of the work of women's organizations work and it's impact on societies/economies.
- Not tapping goodwill of mainstream public to build support for their cause

The Vital Voices Democracy Initiative was able to expand the pool of U.S. government resources for women --- it can play the same critical role in the private sector.

The Vital Voices Global Partnership is not another NGO – VV will continue to serve as a catalyst, bringing people and resources together, working in cooperation (not in competition with existing NGOs --- VVGP will:

- Create strategic partnerships between governments, international organizations and NGOs in target countries throughout the world – integrating women into mainstream policy framework;
- Increase the pool of resources dedicated to international women's issues and democracy by leveraging new investors and building private sector partnerships and new government initiatives;
- Raise the public profile of these organizations and women leaders;
- Connect people, partners, and the progress women are making around the world. VVGP will connect women around the world to share successful strategies and tap the good will of citizens who want to get involved globally - sharing their expertise and strengthening the role of women.

It has been an incredible time in history of significant change. The Vital Voices Global Partnership will take the next step in institutionalizing this change by building partnerships with governments, NGOs and the private sector throughout the world.

VI. VITAL VOICES VISION

Vision of the Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative in the US Government:

"Integrating Women into the mainstream of American Foreign Policy is not just the right thing to do but, the smart thing to do."

- articulated by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on many occasions

Vital Voices Global Partnership Vision:

Amplify the voices of women to change the mainstream, global status and perception of women – allow people, corporations, governments, and international institutions to recognize and support women as critical assets in building prosperous economies, strong democracies, and sustainable peace.

VII. VVGP CRITICAL GOALS

1. Integrate women into mainstream policy framework of governments, international organizations, and private sector initiatives. VVGP would also develop strategic partnerships between these institutions and emerging women leaders throughout the world to ensure long-term sustainability.
2. Engage corporations throughout the world in supporting women to expand the pool of resources dedicated to women's issues. See women as an asset to building strong democracies and prosperous economies
3. Serve as a catalyst to bring people and partners together worldwide to provide women with the tools, skills, and resources they need. VVGP would harness a growing global network of people who support women democracy builders.
4. Raise the public profile of issues women are facing throughout the world to a new level through the mainstream media, PR and Ad Campaigns.

VIII. VITAL VOICES RESOURCES

Although VVGP is a new organization it has established significant resources:

- A global network of thousands of emerging women leaders throughout the world
- Private sector partners
- NGO partners
- American experts
- Good relationships with leaders in other governments around the world
- A network of high profile leaders in this country and around the world who support VV
- An archive of:
 - speeches given by HRC / MKA and other leaders
 - interviews with emerging leaders
 - press
 - reports
- A Director who served as Deputy Director of VVDI and had four years experience building the initiative from the ground up.

Request Summary

IX. VVGP IN-KIND SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Vital Voices Democracy Initiative has relied heavily on receiving in-kind training, support, and expertise from government and non-governmental experts. VVDI has also been able leverage some corporate support. VVDI has never been able to do this through an official mechanism.

The Vital Voices Global Partnership will build on this model. Using a minimal amount of program funding, VVGP will leverage private sector resources and the time and expertise of individuals to implement the goals of the organization.

The Vital Voices Global Partnership be in the position to expand the VV network of individual and corporate support by developing official support mechanisms:

- **VV Partner Organizations (SEE TAB H)**
VVGP will forge innovative partnerships with organizations such as the American Chamber of Commerce, the World Bank., Georgetown University, these organizations would provide in-kind services such as:
 - Host training sessions for VV women from around he world who are in Washington, DC for VV exchange and training programs
 - Coordinate of research symposiums
 - Send U.S. experts to conduct training sessions overseas
 - Provide VVGP with staff – interns./ research assistants/ experts
 - Develop VVGP working groups on critical issues
 - Host VVGP public forums, events, receptions for visiting VVGP International Honorary Advisors
 - Host fundraising events for VVGP
 - Engage additional private and public sector partners
- **Corporate Circle**
Corporations such as Discovery Communications and McKinsey & Co. who commit to supporting VVGP in implementing it's vision by providing in-kind services, products, training, resources, and funding such as:
 - Donate computers to VV women's organizations overseas-
 - Host technology training sessions in the US and abroad
 - Provide strategic advice for VVGP program implementation
 - Provide VVGP with services such as advertising, marketing and PR to promote VVGP programs
 - Fund website development
 - Host VVGP fundraising/awareness raising events
 - Engage additional private sector support
 - Develop and air Vital Voices Public Service Announcements

- **VV Associates**

VVGP will identify and develop partnerships with individuals who will lend their regional or issue specific expertise (political organizing/ microcredit) to *Vital Voices* projects and activities such as:

- Travel overseas and offer pro-bono training to VV women
- Mentor women on-line (starting and growing a business/developing a website, running for office)
- Lend expertise as a member of a VVGP Critical Issue – Experts Working Group (Technology for Economic Development)

- **VV Board**

VVGP will build a Board of established men and women and an International Honorary Advisory Board comprised of women world leaders who would lend their name, wisdom, support, and expertise to support VVGP through activities such as:

- Host Vital Voices Roundtable Discussions
- Speak at Vital Voices Conferences
- Leverage Private sector resources
- Leverage partnerships with governments and international institutions
- Participate in public events and serve as a VVGP spokesperson in the media to raise awareness for VVGP and VV causes
- Participate in an on-line chats on the VVGP website
- Lend Expert Advice

- **Vital Voices Supporters (SEE TAB I, J)**

Emerging women leaders throughout the world who have participated in VV activities are enthusiastic that VV global movement of women democracy builders will continue and be strengthened through the support of VVGP. These women leaders have offered to lend there support to the VV cause as spokespeople for the organization or through letters of recommendation. As one *Vital Voices* participant articulated:

“When I came to the Vital Voices Global Exchange I wanted to gain information about how to strengthen my organization and I did - Vital Voices has given me a global platform to share Citigroup’s important work to empower women through microcredit projects. As I am leaving the Vital Voices Exchange I am more interested in how I can strengthen Vital Voices because I have seen the powerful role it can play in empowering women and economies worldwide.”

- Anita Gupta, Head of Public Relations
Emerging Markets
Citigroup, India

Program Outline

X. VVGP PROGRAM

Statistics on overall need (SEE TAB K)

A. Support for Vital Voices Regional Initiatives through Networking and Skills Building

Overall Goals:

- Develop a truly public-private partnership – VVGP will form a strategic partnership with the USG.
- Build upon and strengthen VVDI Regional Initiatives through networking and skills building
- Leverage private sector resources and expertise to support VVDI Regional Initiatives
- Raise public awareness and press attention for VVDI regional Initiatives.

The Need:

The Vital Voices Global Democracy Initiative fostered the creation of vibrant regional networks of women who are determined to continue to share information and develop strategic partnerships. Dozens of Vital Voices Regional follow-up training sessions, conferences, and projects are planned for 2000-2001 and we anticipate more follow-up activities will be planned for the future. These activities are being coordinated by the State Department's Regional Bureaus, the Public Diplomacy Bureau (coordinates international exchanges), and our embassies overseas. The USG is prohibited from soliciting the private sector to support these projects. The USG has expressed interest matching USG funds with in-kind products and services from the private sector and USG representatives involved in the VV initiative have expressed great enthusiasm in working with VVGP to build upon and strengthen VV Regional Initiatives through private sector participation.

Addressing the Need:

Phase I.

Initially the *Vital Voices* Global Partnership serve as a clearinghouse, working with our network of VV women and with the USG reps., VVGP will monitor VV follow-up projects and match private sector resources in the form of training, products and services to support these activities.

Phase II.

VVGP will support the development of regional *Vital Voices* Chapters.

Successful *Vital Voices* Chapters have already been created in Russia, Bulgaria, and Haiti. Women who have participated in *Vital Voices* activities have been in contact with *Vital Voices* about setting up regional chapters. These chapters will lend international

credibility to the organization and will keep VVGP connected to emerging women leaders and democracy building organizations throughout the world. The Regional VV Chapters will serve different purposes in different countries depending on the needs.

VVGP will support VV Regional Chapters by:

- Featuring the Chair of the Regional Chapter as a VVGP Global Partner
- Providing VVGP logo
- Featuring Chapters Activities on the VVGP website and in a quarterly global newsletter
- Creating home page featuring the Chapter and it's activities on the VV website
- Focusing international press attention to the Chapters activities
- Direct interested funders and experts to regional projects
- Offering participation and public platform at VVGP Annual Summit
- Offering issue driven list-serv memberships
- Featuring in VV Global Directory
- Eventually offering additionally membership privileges

VVGP will not support the regional chapters financially

Guidelines

- VV Regional Chapters must apply (on-line) and be approved the VVGP Board (Initiatially VVGP will make established VV Chapters official and approach a few additional women leaders about creating chapters)
- Must be consortium of at least five organizations who support .
- Must hold regular meetings
- Regional Chapters mission/vision must match VVGP overall mission/vision

Phase III.

VVGP will coordinate and host VV Regional Training Seminars in partnership with the USG and other governments, international institutions, and the private sector.

(SEE TAB L)

OVERVIEW OF VITAL VOICES REGIONAL ACTIVITIES:

AFRICA

Phase I.

- The State Department's Africa Bureau in partnership with VVDI and VVGP coordinate a roundtable with women leaders and President Clinton during his upcoming trip to Africa. (very tentative)

Phase II.

- VVGP will work with VV alumnae, democracy and women's organizations, and women leaders in Africa to develop regional chapters in key countries in Africa (Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Ghana) to link women in Africa to VV

Phase III.

- VVGP, in partnership with Hearst and the French Government, will host a West Africa Advocacy and Communications Training Seminar (could be announced during the President's trip.) (tentative)

AMERICAS

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Phase I.

- State Department's Public Diplomacy Bureau will host a Vital Voices follow-up visitors exchange program which will bring 19 women from throughout the Americas to Washington, DC in late August 2000. The theme of the exchange is building support networks for women in politics. VVGP tap private sector experts to host a day of political training and networking. VVGP will work with WomenNewsLink to get international press attention for the emerging women leaders who participate in the program.
- Continue to support VVDI regional follow-up activities by leveraging private sector support

Phase II.

- VVGP will work with VV alumnae, democracy and women's organizations, and women leaders throughout the Americas to develop regional chapters to link women in Latin America and the Caribbean to the VV Global Network.

Phase III.

- VVGP, in partnership with the Women's Museum in Texas (will provide funding) will host an Advocacy, Communications, and Technology Training Seminar with emerging women leaders of the Western Hemisphere.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**Phase I.**

- VVGP will consult with the State Department's EAP Bureau and USAID at our embassy in Jakarta to build an advocacy network to support Indonesian Women during the decentralization process.

Phase II.

- VVGP will work with VV alumnae, democracy and women's organizations, and women leaders throughout the EAP to develop regional chapters in key countries in Africa (Cambodia, Indonesia, Korea, China) to link women in EAP to VV.

Phase III.

- VVGP will leverage private sector support in implementing the Advocacy Network in Indonesia. Because Indonesia is such a vast country, VVGP should connect members of the Advocacy Network via the internet and by setting up list-servs and websites.

EUROPE

Phase I.

- The State Department in Partnership with NDI host a conference in Scotland brining together women members of parliament from England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Wales and Scotland as part of the Vital Voices Initiative in Northern Ireland. The goal of the conference will be to develop a women's caucus of the Isles. VVGP will set up a mechanism via the internet to keep the women participants connected by developing a website and a list-serv.
- VVGP will consult with the European Bureau at the State Department and with the Governments of Lithuania and Iceland as they plan for a Vital Voices conference in Lithuania in June 2001 as part of the Vital Voices Initiative for the Nordics, Baltics and Russia.

Phase II.

- VVGP will continue to support VV Chapters which have already been established and work with VV alumnae, democracy and women's organizations, and women leaders throughout Europe to develop regional chapters in key countries.

Phase III.

- VVGP, will support the Lithuania Vital Voices conference by engaging private sector experts in participating in the conference, conducting a training session during the conference, keeping participants linked-up after the conference, and leveraging private sector support for follow-up activities.

NEAR EAST ASIA

Phase II.

- VVGP will work with VV alumnae, democracy and women's organizations, and women leaders throughout the Middle East to develop regional chapters in key countries in Africa (VV has worked extensively with women working for the right to vote in Kuwait) (Jordan, Yemen and Oman have expressed interest in getting connected to the VV Network)

Phase III.

- Women in Kuwait are very likely to get the right to vote and run for elected office within the next year. VVGP will send VV Associate with an expertise in the field of politics and communications will wok with women political advocates and leaders on developing and implementing strategies and a campaign to – get women out to vote and get women to run for elected office.
- The U.S. Embassy in Oman and the Government of Yeman have both expressed interest in hosting Vital Voices Regional Conferences. VVGP could support those effort by leveraging private sector participation in the conference and in follow-up activities.

RUSSIA/NIS

Phase II.

- VVGP will work with VVDI and our embassy in Moscow and the Soros Foundation to develop a Vital Voices Initiative for Russia

Phase III.

- VVGP could support this initiative by sending VV associates to Russia (travel funded by Soros) to conduct training sessions or VVGP could organize a training session in Washington, DC where VV-Russia women would travel to the US (funded by Soros to receive training by VV Associates)

SOUTH ASIA

Phase I.

- VVGP consults US Consulate in Mumbai as they lay the ground work to develop a VV Initiative for India and later expand it globally.
A VV India Women's Economic Empowerment Conference is being planned for 2001, with possible announcement by the Presidents of the US and India during there meeting in the Fall as one of the US commitments to continue to work with India to strengthen their economy.

Phase II.

- VVGP will work with VV alumnae, democracy and women's organizations, and women leaders in South Asia to develop regional chapters in key countries in South Asia.

Phase III.

- VVGP will support the Economic Empowerment Conference in Mumbai by engage private sector experts in participating in the conference, conducting a training session during the conference, keeping participants linked-up after the conference, and leveraging private sector support for follow-up activities.

B. *VITAL VOICES* GLOBAL CRITICAL ISSUES PROGRAM

Overall Goals:

- Integrate women into the mainstream policy framework of international initiatives
- Leverage private sector partners to lend resources and expertise
- Serve as a catalyst to bring people together to share successful strategies and provide a network of international support
- Raise public awareness and mainstream press attention for women and the issue

Critical Issue – #1:

Technology for Economic Development

Need

Initial research on women in technology found that there are very few international, gender specific organizations dedicated to increasing women's access to the web. Additionally, there very few statistics and research projects focused on women. There is a need for more on-line training and support for women to use the web as a tool to start, build and promote businesses, networks, and organizations on the web.

Addressing the Need

The *Vital Voices* Global Partnership will form a strategic alliance with major, multi-national telecommunications and technology corporations, governments, and international organizations to give more women around the world the tools, skills, resources and networks of support they need to thrive in the new internet economy.

AOL and the Digital Opportunity Partnership Alliance (a grouping of telecommunications and technology companies committed to getting people around the world on-line and giving them access to state of the art training, venture capital funds to build tech businesses and a network of support) has expressed interest in working with VVGP to:

- Integrate women and girls into the mainstream framework of the Digital Opportunity Partnership Proposal for the G-8 Summit (SEE TAB M)
- Increase women's access to the web
- Raise awareness about DOPA and recruit women to participate in DOPA's training center programs
- Support women in the third world building tech businesses and in e-commerce
- Build a global community of women on the web
- Help DOPA have further impact through network building and support
- Recruit and support women building businesses in the tech industry and e-commerce through DOPA's incubators program.

Technology for Economic Development: The Program

- **CREATE EXPERTS WORKING GROUP** - Create a working group of organizations and institutions who have expertise in women in technology or in technology to create the program with the aim of integrating women into the mainstream policy framework of the DOPA Initiative.
 - **U.S. corporate/foundation models for technology training:** Citisoft (Boston), Three Guineas Fund (Silicon Valley)
 - **Academic institutions conducting research on women technology:** MIT, Stanford, Harvard, Berkeley, Georgetown (Science and Tech Program)
 - **Organizations committed to getting more women in tech jobs:** Center for Women in Technology
 - **Technology training organizations:** New Horizons for Learning
 - **US Government programs to support women in technology:** USAID's WIDTECH Program
- **TAP GLOBAL NETWORK** - Tap the *Vital Voices* global network of thousands of emerging women leaders - most of whom are heads of organizations and associations which serve thousands of women in their countries – to identify women participants for DOPA's training centers throughout the world. VVGP will also nominate emerging women business leaders throughout the world who are interested and show potential in developing businesses in the technology industry to be part of DOPA's incubator program.
- **SHARE INFORMATION FOR GREATER IMPACT**- The women selected by VVGP to participate in the program would become part of VVGP's digital alliance network. These women would be required to return to their homes and spread the training and education they gained to other women within their organizations or networks. (using a train the trainer model)
- **CREATE A NETWORK OF SUPPORT** - VVGP, in partnership with private sector partners, academic institutions and international organizations will host a conference which would bring together selected women participants of DOPA's - program after they returned home. The purpose of the conference would be to:
 - share successful strategies with other participants from around the world
 - participate in follow-up training sessions
 - Provide DOPA with feedback about the impact of the program
 - link-up with US tech experts and venture capitalists
 - raise awareness through press attention
 - leverage additional support from governments private sector corporations

- **The VVGP website will provide additional support and networking opportunities for all women participants of DOPA's training program and e-business incubators**

C. WEBSITE (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION)

The DOPA should partner with VVGP to create the premiere "live" global community for women on the web.

The Website content will be driven by the Vital Voices Network of 10,000 emerging women leaders throughout the world. Over the next few month VVGP will be in contact with the network to inform them of the organizations about the development of a website which aims to be their home on the world wide web.

WEBSITE CONTENT AND FOCUS FOR DOPA PARTNERSHIP

- The website would help raise awareness about DOPA's training program and e-business incubators to women worldwide (the Vital Voices network alone consists of over 10,000 emerging women leaders from around the world)
- The website would connect women participants of DOPA's training programs throughout the world.
- The website could offer follow-up on-line training courses
- The website could host a tech mentors program
- The website could track DOPA's women participants progress and feature success stories of women who started e-businesses or built a website for their organization after their DOPA training programs
- In addition the website will offer
 - Updates on Vital Voices projects throughout the world
 - News/current events
 - Links to women's orgs. throughout the world (a worldwide women's digest to the web)
 - Upcoming conferences and events
 - The status of women (in technology, economics, politics, health, social, education, legal)
 - Success stories and innovative partnerships
 - On-line chats, listservs
 - Profiles of women leaders – worldwide (business, politics, law, social)
 - Archives of articles, speeches, essays
 - On-line interviews
 - Experts and resources

D. VVGP ANNUAL GLOBAL SUMMIT (See TAB N)

XI. BUILDING VVGP BRAND AND NETWORK

A. BUILDING VV GLOBAL NETWORK (SEE TAB O)

“our wealth is in our global network of women leaders”

- VVGP aims to significantly expand the *Vital Voices* Network of 10,000 emerging women leaders throughout the world to 100,000. This is the number of emerging women leaders in our database who we communicate with via blast fax updates, list-servs, our website, and a quarterly newsletter. VVGP will create a powerful and connected force – VVGP will harness and support this growing global movement.
- Keeping connected with our VV Regional Chapters throughout the world, engaging women leaders throughout the world (our international honorary advisors), and allowing our website to be driven by the spirit and ideas of our global network validates VVGP as a truly global entity.
- Being plugged in to our global network will supply us with more original, cutting edge, global content than any other women’s website.

B. RAISING AWARENESS AND INCREASING SUPPORT FOR VVGP

JULY 2000

G-8 Announcement with Women and the Digital Divide (tentative)

SEPTEMBER 2000

Marieclaire has expressed interest in hosting an event during the U.N. General Assembly which would feature Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the group of women Foreign Ministers throughout the world. Secretary Albright has pulled this group of women together for the last three years and their numbers have doubled since the first meeting in 1997. Last year the group or G-14 as Secretary Albright calls it, collaborated on a letter to the Secretary General on combined global effort to combat trafficking in women. This year there is interest in focusing their meeting on the Vital Voices Initiative and Marieclaire plans to invite New York’s top 50 women in business to the event to gain there support for Vital Voices. (tentative) **(SEE TAB P)**

DECEMBER 2000

Officially Launch Website (?)

JANUARY 2001

VVGP should launch the *evoice: Emerging Global Voice Program* on the web and at college campuses throughout the U.S. *evoice* aims to connect the voices of young women, raise awareness about the work of young women leaders around the world, and harness the energy, innovative ideas, and enthusiasm of young women in the U.S. to support women throughout the world. Evoice programs could include:

evoice page on the VVGP website – created and driven by young women and girls, featuring press written by young women journalism students from around the world, monthly features highlighting young women leaders around the world. A calendar of

young women's events, chat rooms, list-servs, updates from *evoice* campus chapters, and information about developing a campus chapter.

***evoice* campus chapters** - would help drive the content of the website, organize speaker series for visiting VV women, organize campaigns around critical issues, build innovative partnerships with VVGP, and send a representative to the VVGP annual summit.

***evoice* I-witness** – VVGP would build a partnership with journalism schools throughout the world to recruit young women journalists to write regular news reports on women in their countries to be posted on the VVGP website.

***evoice* global community** – VVGP would recruit young women with advance website design skills to develop websites for VV Regional Chapter or a women's organization overseas in need of a website. Webmasters would work on-line, connecting with their Chapter/organization via e-mail and teaching the organizations staff how to update the website.

MARCH 2001

VVGP should create VV Cause Marketing Campaign for International Women's Month. VVGP should approach women's retail stores to be part of a campaign to support Vital Voices by donating a percentage of their proceeds during the month of March to a women's organizations throughout the world selected by VVGP. Each store would "adopt" a different organization and could track the organizations progress through updates on our website and feature stories in our quarterly newsletter. VVGP would also serve as a pass through organization for tax purposes.

JULY 2001

VVGP should work with partners in the entertainment/music industry to host a global women's rock concert: *Amplify Women's Voices Around the World*. VVGP should approach Sara McLachlin founder of the Lilith Fair, perhaps she would be interested in working with VVGP and other partners like Oxygen Media to take her Fair global.

HOLIDAY 2001

Release of Faces of Vital Voices – Annie Liebowitz Book

Annie Liebowitz has expressed interest in working with VVGP to develop a Vital Voices Coffee table book of photographs of Emerging women leaders throughout the world who are part of the VV network. The pictures taken by Annie and a team of international women photographers would be accompanied by success stories and quotes from the Vital Voices.

XII. VVGP - Horizons

JULY 2000 – December 2000

Map VVGP Overall Strategic Plan
Build VV GP Board
Build VVGP Global Network and Develop First Group of Regional VV Chapters
Build and Promote VVGP Brand
Launch First VVGP Critical Global Issue
Support VVDI Projects
Generate Core Funding Base

JANUARY 2001 – DECEMBER 2001

Expand VVGP Staff
Host 3-4 VV Regional Training to Support VVDI
Continue to Build VVGP Global Network and Regional Chapters
Continue to Build VVGP Brand – public events, media campaigns, cause marketing
Plan First VVGP Annual Summit
Release Next Version of the Website
Select and Launch Second Critical Issue

JANUARY 2002 AND BEYOND

Host 4-5 VV Regional Training to Support VVDI
Continue to Build VVGP Global Network and Regional Chapters
Continue to Build VVGP Brand – public events, media campaigns, cause marketing
Host Second VVGP Annual Summit
Continue to Build Website
Select and Launch Second Critical Issue