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"Negotiating Peace in Naburi: A Gender-Responsive EU-led Process" Simulation

Background Information:

Naburi is a fictional post-conflict country located in a geopolitically strategic region with a recent history of ethnic violence, authoritarian rule, and widespread gender-based oppression. After a devastating eight-year internal war fueled by regional rivalries, illicit arms trade, and the marginalization of women and minorities, a fragile ceasefire was signed under international pressure.

The European Union, leveraging its diplomatic capacity and commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, has been invited to lead the negotiation of a comprehensive peace agreement. The Naburi peace process is an opportunity for the EU to showcase its ability to act as a normative power and to ensure that gender equality and inclusive governance are embedded in the country's post-conflict reconstruction.

The simulation envisions the start of formal negotiations, with key national actors, international institutions, and civil society groups participating under the EU's mediation. Participants will be asked to draft proposals on transitional justice, disarmament and reintegration, power-sharing mechanisms, and measures to prevent future gender-based violence.

Students, in role as one of the stakeholders, are expected to represent their party's interests and concerns, collaborate to find common ground and propose joint solutions, negotiate a shared peace framework grounded in WPS principles. At the end of the negotiations, the parties are expected to prepare a peace agreement.

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the EU's approach to WPS in external action
- Examining challenges in multi-party negotiations under a gender-sensitive lens
- Practicing diplomatic negotiation, role-playing, and consensus-building
- Reflecting on barriers to women's participation in peace processes

Roles: Each student will be assigned a specific role. Roles are grouped into four categories:

EU Delegation (4 students): EU Chief Negotiator, EU WPS Advisor, EU CSDP Mission Planner, EU Humanitarian Aid Officer

Naburi National Actors (6 students): Naburi Government Representative, Opposition Armed Group Leader, Women's Peace Initiative Leader, Youth Representative, Minority Rights Activist (Ethnic community), Naburi Ministry of Justice Official

International Organizations (5 students): UN Women Representative, ICRC Representative, World Bank Official, UN Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence in Conflict, NATO Liaison Officer (security coordination)

Civil Society & Media (5 students): Local Journalist, Diaspora Community Representative, Religious Leader (Peace mediation and reconciliation), Human Rights Watch (Observer), Local Business Leader (Private sector recovery focus)