The Honorable Jane Dee Hull 2518 East Vogel Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85028

Dear Conference Participants:

I send you greetings and best wishes as you convene this important conference. Addressing women's and children's issues in developing mountain nations is important to the well being of our global society. Sustainable economic, social and cultural development in these regions can be no more successful than the attention we pay to their most vulnerable members.

We who live in the Intermountain West of the United States are aware of the challenges women face under harsh conditions: those who settled this region left us a great legacy of sacrifice and hope. We have great empathy for women around the world who face similar conditions.

It is very encouraging to have such a conference for the first time in the Rocky Mountain States. We hope to be an inspiration to women world-wide who seek a better life in our global community.

Again, I wish you all success in your activities at this conference.

With warmest regards,

Jane Dee Hull (1997-2003)

State of Arizona