

Asia Pacific Caucus Statement

54th CSW Session, 2010

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I am

privileged to make the statement on behalf of Asia Pacific Caucus.

As we Commemorate the 15th Anniversary of WPPA, we are inspired by the energy, excitement, and engagement of women across the world who gathered in Beijing where the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted in 1995 that raised our hopes of a world free of poverty and hunger, free of violence and a world in which women live with dignity and have an equal say in all matters of governance.

We welcome since then, the adoption of the Security Council Resolution 1325, 1888 and 1889 that have paved the way for supporting women's significant role in all aspects of peace-making and conflict resolution, the Secretary General's Campaign on Unite to End Violence Against Women and the September 2009 RESOL 1889 Resolution of the General Assembly that delivered to the world the commitment for UN member states to establish a new and ambitious fully funded per capita income.

Despite

these advances, women and girls, especially in the Asia Pacific region face enormous and complex challenges as the dominant development paradigm continues to be dictated by market ideology impacting on women in terms of climatic changes, insecurity, unemployment and livelihood.

Democracies

are in distress in many countries of the region, especially systematic persecution of legitimate dissenters and human rights defenders and their families exists. Prolonged political crises, religious extremism, fundamentalism and military dictatorships in some countries continue to create critical situations and insecurity for women and girls as large violations of their human rights. Women and girls constitute some 80% of the world's refugees and displaced persons, including internally displaced persons – their needs remain unaddressed.

Violence against women and girls across all geographical demographic areas is a major concern. We acknowledge the campaign launched by the Secretary General on Unite for Violence Against Women, yet the fact is, there are increasing reports of FGM, alleged violent sorcery killings, ritual killings, honor killings and acid throwing cases and rape as an instrument of war or colonization. New and pervasive forms of violence are emerging alongside new media and technology with cyber bullying.

Threats

Women's human rights have been threatened by a tremendous uncertainty and multiple crises in the financial, food, ecological, carbonisation, health, reproductive spheres that have led to widespread economic displacements and migration. Economic and climate crises have increased feminization of poverty, loss of livelihoods, homelessness, social isolation and increased violence against women. Girls and young women have been forced to leave school to enter the labour force, entertainment industry and the sex trade. The root causes of human trafficking in its various forms are not being addressed.

In the midst of these challenges, fifteen years after, we urge the governments to fulfill their commitments under the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, to promote and protect women's human rights, human rights defenders, and to abolish discriminatory laws and customary practices, particularly, patriarchal laws.

We urge governments to bring an end to impunity for the perpetrators of women's human rights violations and punishing those responsible for war crimes and gender based violence. We further urge the UN bodies to fully implement UN Resolutions 1525, 1880, 1888 and 1989.

Military

States that have increased military spending and resources redirected to human needs. WE urge the States to halt arms manufacturing and curb their proliferation.

We urge States, intergovernmental bodies, corporations, UN and development agencies to follow the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the Asia Pacific region and to prevent economic displacement, environmental devastation, loss of indigenous knowledge and dignity, subversion of their rights and violence against women and girls.

We urge governments to pay heed to climate change warnings and put an immediate stop to all ecologically destructive and extractive activities by large foreign corporations; that specific needs of women and girls are integrated into disaster prevention, response and relief operations.

Women's national institutions and mechanisms ensure provision of appropriate resources that are crucial to advance the position of women and girls; promote equal participation of women in leadership and decision making bodies at all levels.

The new gender emergency in the climate crisis must have effective field level presence and credible mechanisms and processes for engagement of women's organizations from the global to the national level.

We urge that in this era of globalization, it is the duty of global economists at the UN level that all peoples, not just global or regional women's concerns should be central and women should have a say in these by their own right.

Last, but not least to realize the intent and spirit of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Outcomes Document, the MDGs, CEDAW and other international instruments, we call upon the governments to move from rhetoric to action for women's progress is progress for everyone.

Last but not least, we urge the Governments and Dr. Rajput to convene the 5th World Conference on Women.

Let me end by saying - we went to Beijing with a song "We shall overcome, We shall overcome ...". We look forward to the time when we can sing with the younger generation "We have overcome. We have overcome...".

Thank You Mr. Carpenter.

Prof. Pam Rajput

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Dr. Pam Rajput

Executive Director, Women's Resource and Advocacy Center

Vice President, National Alliance of Women (NAWO)

Let me not least to realize that the intent and spirit of the Beijing Platform for Action
the Outcome Document of the 4th World Conference on Women is to move forward and
call upon the governments to move forward and progress for everyone.

Let me not least to urge the Government and the UN to move forward and
convene the 5th World Conference on Women.

Let me not least to urge - we want to beijing with a song " We shall overcome, We shall
overcome... We look forward to the time when we can sing with the younger
generation " We have overcome, We have overcome..."

Thank You Mr. Chairperson

For Van Rajan

Dr. Van Rajan

Executive Director, Women's Resource and Advocacy Centre

Vice President, National Alliance of Women (NAWO)