

## Report of the Expert Group Meeting

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*\*The views expressed in this document are those of the experts and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations*

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## **Introduction**

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work (ECOSOC resolution 2009/15), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), at its fifty-fourth session from 1-12 March 2010, will review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the Gene

This report and all documentation relating to the meeting (see Annex II) are available online at the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women:

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/impact\\_bdpfa/index.html](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/impact_bdpfa/index.html)

### **C. Programme of work**

At its opening session on 11 November 2009, the meeting adopted the following programme of work (see Annex III):

- Opening of the meeting;
- Election of officers and adoption of the programme of work;
- Presentation and discussion of the background paper prepared by a consultant, commissioned by the Division for the Advancement of Women;
- Presentation and discussion of papers prepared by experts;
- Working groups on issues and recommendations;
- Introduction of the draft report;
- Adoption of the draft final report; and
- Closing session.

### **D. Election of officers**

The experts elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Eva Rathgeber
Vice-Chairperson:	Piroska Östlin
Rapporteur:	Elaine Unterhalter

### **E. Opening statements**

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission of Europe, Mr. Ján Kubiš, Ms. Malinka Koparanova, Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, welcomed all participants to Geneva and to the Expert Group Meeting. Ms. Koparanova noted the timeliness of the meeting and highlighted recent regional meetings, including on strengthening national mechanisms for gender equality and the “Beijing+15” regional review meeting which had taken place earlier in November. Ms. Koparanova emphasized the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women in poverty reduction. She noted that recent evidence demonstrated that implementation of global commitments on gender equality had been weak in many areas, and the global crises illustrated the fragility of progress achieved. In addition, limitations in data collection, analysis and reporting continued to impede effective policy-making, planning and monitoring of results. Ms. Koparanova underlined the importance of the meeting in focusing attention on gender equality and empower

Conference on Women with a comprehensive assessment of progress made and remaining gaps and challenges to be undertaken by the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010; the United Nations Economic and Social Council would focus on “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women” at its Annual ministerial Review in July; and a high-level plenary event on the Millennium Development Goals would be held by the United Nations General Assembly in September.

Ms. Hannan pointed out that while the MDGs had been instrumental in rallying a broad range of stakeholders to the urgent task of development, the Beijing Platform for Action was critical as it offered a comprehensive framework for the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this regard, the Beijing Platform for Action constituted an essential means towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Ms. Hannan emphasized the tremendous urgency to meet the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and the MDGs. Reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in 2000 and 2005 had indicated some progress in eliminating gender inequalities across the 12 critical areas of concern but also highlighted the many remaining gaps and challenges. A preliminary review of responses from Member States for the 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action showed that progress remained uneven and inadequate in all critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action. Evidence likewise indicated that progress towards the MDGs had been slow and many of the targets were far from being achieved. Recently, concerns about the impact of the global crises on achievements made were being raised. Ms. Hannan emphasized the importance of identifying good practice examples of initiatives taken to integrate gender equality perspectives in efforts to achieve the MDGs and ways to overcome existing gaps and challenges.

## **Background**

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted by 189 Member States of the United Nations in 1995. The Platform for Action is a global agenda for women’s human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, developed through a process of dialogue and exchange within and among Governments, international organizations, including the United Nations, and civil society. The Platform for Action covers 12 critical areas of concern: poverty; education and training; health; violence; armed conflict; economy; power and decision-making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; media; environment; and the girl child. For each critical area of concern, strategic objectives are identified, as well as a detailed catalogue of related actions to be taken by Governments and other stakeholders, at national, regional and international level. At the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in June 2000, to review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Governments agreed on further actions to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and to ensure that commitments for gender equality, development and peace are fully realized.

The United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted at the Millennium Summit on 8 September 2000 (A/RES/55/2), built upon the outcomes of the major summits and world conferences of the 1990s, including the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo and the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. In the Millennium Declaration, Member States confirmed their resolve to promote gender equality and

the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to

# **The impact of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on the full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals**

## **Report of the Expert Group Meeting**

### **I. Introduction**

1. We are at a critical juncture in the world today, with the simultaneous eruption of crises at several different levels. For much of the world's population, there is a crisis of survival, with old and new problems of ensuring livelihood and access to food, water and energy and adequate health care and education services. Associated with this is a crisis generated by growing inequality, at global, regional and national levels. Each of these overlapping crises exacerbates older underlying gender inequalities, and makes ge





discussed, along with a consideration of major reasons why implementation of the various measures proposed has also been uneven and relatively disappointing. This analysis paves the way for a set of policy recommendations that are elaborated in the fifth and final section. We highlight the ten interventions that we believe to be the most important, both from the point of view of meeting the MDGs and accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, and then provide additional policies and interventions in specific areas.

## **II. Meeting the MDGs**

8. Globally, progress on the MDGs is currently below expectation. While the ongoing global financial and economic crisis has meant a significant setback for several targets, including those relating to poverty, hunger, health and employment, even before the crisis, most of the MDGs were not on track in the world as a whole and in certain developing re



Although there have been campaigns to improve land titling and formalize land ownership, women have not always benefited from these efforts, and sometimes have come to lose usufruct and other benefits associated with communal land holding.

13. One of the two indicators for monitoring progress towards target 3 tracks prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age. Table 3 shows that in some developing regions, the proportion of underweight children under 5 years has remained relatively high and shown very little decline over nearly two decades. Girl children are typically worse affected by this, especially in those countries and societies where patriarchal patterns lead to reduced food consumption by females relative to males within the household (Sen and Kynch, 1988).

**Table 3: Per cent of children under 5 years who are underweight**

	1990	2007
Developing countries	31	26
Sub-Saharan Africa	31	28
North Africa	11	7
South Asia	54	48
Southeast Asia	37	25
East Asia	17	7
West Asia	14	14



because women tend to be disproportionately denied food within the household especially when it is scarce, resulting in a negative cascading effects across generations, as pregnant women's poor nutritional status leads to low birth-weight babies with adverse consequences for their future health and growth potential (both physical and cognitive).

19. Since both poverty and hunger are critically affected by employment conditions, the target of providing decent work for all is so important. It is measured by the indicator: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for a

**Table 5: Female unemployment rates**

	1998	2007	2008	2009 (moderate projection)	2009 (severe projection)
World	6.6	6.0	6.2	7.1	7.7
Developed economies	7.8	6.0	6.1	7.8	9.0
CIS and non-EU Europe	12.5	8.2	8.8	10.3	11.9
East Asia	3.9	3.2	3.6	3.9	5.1
Southeast Asia & Pacific	5.2	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.7
South Asia	4.5	5.8	5.8	6.2	6.4
Latin America & Caribbean	10.9	9.2	9.4	11.4	10.6
Middle East	15.4	12.2	12.3	13.1	13.3
North Africa	18.0	15.8	15.0	15.9	17.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	7.7	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.8

Source: ILO Global Employment Trends May 2009 Update

20. The absolute level of unemployment and the high and rising rates of unemployment are causes for concern in regard to the target set in MDG 1, as is the quality of work, since the aim is to provide full and productive employment and decent work for all. Own-account workers and contributing family workers have been seen as more vulnerable because they tend to be

concentrated in informal activities without any formal or lega

**Table 6: Vulnerable employment among women workers**  
(per cent of all women workers engaged in own-account or family activities)

	1998	2007	2008	2009 (moderate projection)	2009 (severe projection)
World	55.9	52.5	51.3	50.9	53.2
Developed economies	10.5	8.7	8.6	9.4	9.9
CIS and non-EU Europe	20.3	20.1	18.7	19.7	24.1
East Asia	67.7	61.1	58.0	58.1	60.2
Southeast Asia & Pacific	68.8	66.7	65.5	66.7	68.8
South Asia	89.5	85.6	84.7	85.3	86.4
Latin America & Caribbean	33.9	30.3	30.6	31.5	33.9
Middle East	57.3	46.3	45.8	46.7	52.3
North Africa	55.8	52.1	51.1	55.0	56.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	85.7	81.0	80.4	82.0	85.3

Source: ILO Global Employment Trends May 2009 Update



account; in the fields, factories and offices; in their home or in the community. While important protections have been put in place through ILO frameworks on decent work, and been incorporated into the legislative frameworks of many countries, the practical application of the objectives to all workers has yet to be achieved in many countries, including increasingly in much of the developed world.

*MDG 2: Universal primary education*

25. MDG 2 aims to achieve universal primary education, with the target to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

26. This target seems closer to fulfilment than the targets under MDG 1, as the past decade has seen a significant expansion of school infrastructure and facilities in many countries of the developing world.

**Table 7: Gender parity index in primary, youth and adult literacy by region, 1991-2006**

	Arab states	Central & Eastern Europe	East Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Caribbean	North America & Western Europe	South & West Asia	Sub Saharan Africa
Net Enrolment Rate 1991	0.81	0.98	0.97	0.99	1.0	0.67	0.86
Net Enrolment Rate 2006	0.93	0.98	1.0	1.0	1.01	0.95	0.92
Youth literacy 1990*	0.80	0.98	0.96	1.01	1.0	0.69	0.83
Youth literacy 2005*	0.89	0.99	1.0	1.01	1.0	0.88	0.87
Adult literacy 1995#	0.66	0.96	0.84	0.98	0.99	0.57	0.71
Adult literacy 2005#	0.75	0.97	0.94	0.98	1.0	0.71	0.75

Source: UNESCO, 2008, 378-9

\*Youth 15-24; data from most recent year in period (1985-1994 & 2000-2006).

# Adults 15-14; data from most recent year in period 1985-1994 & 2000-2006

27. Despite some recent progress, several major concerns remain. The first relates to the gender gap. As is evident from Table 7 which shows the gender parity index, in both enrolment and attendance, rates for females are significantly below rates for males in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, although the gap is closing in other developing regions. Second, enrolment is not the same as attendance: in these same regions, actual attendance appears to lag behind enrolment, especially for girls. In Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, actual attendance is only 61 per cent for girls, meaning that four out of every ten girls do not attend school despite having their names on the school roll. A third and often overlooked issue regards those who have been excluded by the current policy emphasis on primary education, i.e., the illiterate youth who are no longer eligible to attend primary school. This group will be an important part of the citizenry and the labour force in many countries for the next several

decades. Illiteracy is a source of deprivation and exclusion, and calls for specific interventions to ensure universal functional literacy. In South Asia, for example, a quarter of female youth falls in this category. Therefore, the existing target of MDG 2, which places all the attention on primary schooling, is inadequate to deal with the social needs of some regions where there is a large pool of illiterate young people who are too old to attend primary school. The focus on universal primary education furthermore limits aspiration on expanding access to secondary education, technical training, and opportunities for lifelong learning.

### **Education in (post)conflict situations**

Over half of the 75 million children who are estimated to be out of school worldwide live in conflict-affected zones (40 million), a large proportion of which

31. A major concern in the area of education is



### **Bangladesh: Female Secondary School Assistance Programme**

This programme began in 1994 with the aim of increasing the secondary school enrolment and retention rates of rural girls. It is a government programme which has built on the lessons learned from NGO



the world. The development of such instruments provides clear indicators against which progress can be measured.  
([http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/itgirls/doc/code.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/itgirls/doc/code.pdf))

### ***Women's employment***

42. Women's empowerment has many manifestations, and one important aspect is access to employment, which is the second indicator for monitoring progress on MDG 3. As noted in the discussion on MDG 1, women are disproportionately employed in more vulnerable forms of employment and in lower value-added activities. Work participation rates vary significantly across regions, but in general, female work participation rates are lower than those for men, reflecting not only the demands of child bearing and unpaid involvement in the tasks of social reproduction, but also social and other constraints upon the employment of women outside the household. Female work participation rates (defined as the proportion of women of working age who are gainfully employed) tend to be especially low in North Africa (22 per cent), West Asia (25 per cent), and South Asia (34 per cent). They are highest in East Asia (65 per cent), but even there, are significantly lower than male rates. Furthermore, women in developing countries tend to be disproportionately employed in agriculture and low-paid services, and constitute a small minority of workers in manufacturing employment, in particular in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa (see Figure 3). Even in regions where export-oriented employment has relied on young female workers, they tend to be concentrated in the relatively low-paid and less skilled parts of the production process. At the same time, it appears that the phase of marginal increase in female involvement in export-oriented activity has pa

43. The continued prevalence of a large burden of unpaid work, and its lack of recognition by society, links to lack of empowerment for women. The current global crisis and related reductions of public services and greater costs associated with them is likely to put further pressure on households to increase the time allocated to such work. As a result, the burden on women and girl children within the household is likely to increase.

#### **Work-life balance**

##### *Philippines*

The Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) has developed a gender equality-oriented response to, and position on work and family issues.

“ECOP recognizes that employees cannot entirely relegate family issues to the background while at work. If work-family issues are not taken seriously, they may therefore cause problems in the workplace that could affect work performance. When an employee is worried about a child or parent, or preoccupied by family matters, the likelihood of committing mistakes due to poor concentration is greater. This in turn affects the ability of the company to meet its objectives.

In a highly competitive world, such problems can affect the ability of companies to remain competitive. These realities can no longer be ignored. ECOP therefore encourages its members to develop work and family programmes/ initiatives that take into account the varying needs of different workers in balancing work and family responsibilities. These efforts may be costly, of course, but the long-term effects if not addressed properly may be more costly for companies. Action in this field therefore makes good business sense. ECOP recognizes that workers will now and then take some time out from work to focus on the care of children and elders. ECOP recognizes diversity in the world of work and the fact that family needs vary by age, gender, civil status, region, economic status and position. It further recognizes that all employees will be affected by obligations related to work-family obligations in one way or another at one time or another, if not managed well. Employers are therefore urged to assist in their workers' struggle to balance work and family responsibilities by providing support services (such as child and parent care centres, medical care, supplemental livelihood activities) and by adopting other measures (such as flexible work arrangements).”

(ILO, 2005)

44. A range of processes associated with globalization may accelerate gender inequalities as gaps widen between richer and poorer countries. The growth of free trade regimes, high levels of labour mobility for some groups, changes in relations of production associated with commercial agriculture and rural-urban migration have significant gender perspectives and their effects and impacts women must be examined. Lack of investment in adult literacy, increase in trafficking women, out-migration of highly qualified teachers and nurses, and the relocation of many poor women to urban neighbourhoods with inadequate schooling, physical infrastructure including access to housing, water and sanitation, are some of the effects associated with these developments. Efforts to narrow inequalities between countries, as advocated in the Beijing Platform of Action, and tackling challenges encountered in this process can have significant results in creating a stronger context for realization of the MDGs.



### *Equal participation in decision-making*

45. The third indicator for monitoring progress towards MDG 3 addresses the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament. Women's adequate representation at the highest levels where national and international policies are formulated is indispensable for overcoming sex discrimination and securing gender equality in a wide range of areas, including macro-economic policy and foreign affairs. However achievements in this area have been very slow.

46. There is clear evidence of a gender gap in high-level positions around the world. Explanations vary as to why there are small numbers of women at the top in the public and private sectors, and focus on men's and women's different approaches to leadership through socialization processes, structural and institutional impediments to women's participation and promotion (the so-called 'glass ceiling'), and stereotypes and attitudes about men's and women's roles and responsibilities. While gender equality legislation is in place in many countries, gaps in implementation also contribute to slow progress in women's participation in decision-making.

47. Globally, women held 18.7 per cent of seats in single/lower chambers of parliament as of November 2009. This suggests a steady but modest progress compared to 11.3 percent in 1995, but remains well below the 30 percent target set in the 1990s. Rwanda became the first country in the world to elect a majority of women to its lower house of parliament (56.3 per cent) in September 2008. In 24 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, women have reached or surpassed 30 per cent representation of women in single/lower chambers compared to only six in 1998, all of which had been European, but one quarter of all parliamentary chambers have less than 10 percent women members and nine chambers have no women members at all (mainly in the Pacific Islands and Arab Gulf States). For the first time, in 2006, both women and men stood for election and voted in the United Arab Emirates; a woman was elected to Bahrain's Lower House of parliament in 2006 and four women were elected to Kuwait's parliament in 2009. In terms of senior leadership within parliaments, currently 35 women preside over one of the houses of the 187 existing parliaments. While overall trends point to an increase in women's parliamentary representation, the gains are not spread evenly across regions and regional aggregates obscure the large number of countries where women have little presence in national decision-making (IPU, 2009).

48.

<b>WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT - REGIONAL AVERAGES (per cent)</b>			
	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
Nordic countries	43.2	---	---
Americas	22.4	19.9	22.0
Europe – OSCE member countries including Nordic countries	21.0	19.4	20.7
Europe – OSCE member countries excluding Nordic countries	19.2	19.4	19.3
Asia	18.5	16.7	18.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	18.3	21.0	18.6
Pacific	13.0	32.6	15.2
Arab States	9.7	7.0	9.1

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union, [www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm](http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm). (accessed 17 November 2009)

### **The role of women's organizations**

The Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) is a non-governmental organization that advocates for social transformation to generate equal

**Promotion of women's rights through the law and judicial action**

*Morocco's family code reform*

The groundbreaking introduction of Morocco's new Family Code in 2004 gave

Constitution, and those of CEDAW and the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights. The opinion quoted Article 7 of CEDAW as well as relevant articles from the Law for the Social Promotion of Women and the Electoral Code. It condemned the President's failure to name women and men in proportionality, or to provide sufficient evidence that he had deliberately and adequately considered or paid attention to the demands for women's participation legally required by the governing legal norms.

**Table 9: Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)**  
**Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Decrease	Average annual rate of reduction	Reason
<b>AFRICA</b>	160	161	153	140	128	120	24	1.5	Improved health
East Africa	175	165	152	148	140	138	24	1.4	Improved health
Eastern and Southern Africa	162	156	149	139	129	120	25	1.5	Improved health
West and Central Africa	155	158	156	142	128	120	10	0.8	Improved health

Source: [http://www.childinfo.org/files/Progress\\_for\\_Children-No.8\\_EN.pdf](http://www.childinfo.org/files/Progress_for_Children-No.8_EN.pdf)



54. In regions where child mortality rates are high, around one-third of such deaths are accounted for by neonatal mortality. Each year, four million newborn babies die – equal to the number of AIDS and malaria deaths combined. The time of birth and the first days of life are the riskiest period in the human life span. Each year, three million babies die in the first week of life and two-thirds of these (2 million) die in the first 24 hours of life. More rapid progress in reducing newborn deaths is therefore essential for advancing progress towards MDG 4.

55. Low birth weight (LBW) is defined by WHO as weight of less than 2,500 grams, and infants weighing less than 2,500 grams are 20 times more like to die than heavier babies. More common in developing than developed countries, a birth weight below 2,500 grams contributes to a range of poor health outcomes. Efforts to reduce LBW by at least one-third between 2000 and 2010 contribute towards achieving MDG 4 (WHO and UNICEF, 2004).

56. Birth weight is affected to a great extent by the mother's own foetal growth and her diet from birth to pregnancy, and thus, her body composition at conception. Mothers in deprived socio-economic conditions frequently have low birth weight infants. In those settings, the infant's low birth weight stems primarily from the mother's poor nutrition and health over a long period of time, including during pregnancy, the high prevalence of specific and non-specific infections, or from pregnancy complications, underpinned by poverty. Physically demanding work during pregnancy also contributes to poor foetal growth (WHO and UNICEF, 2004).

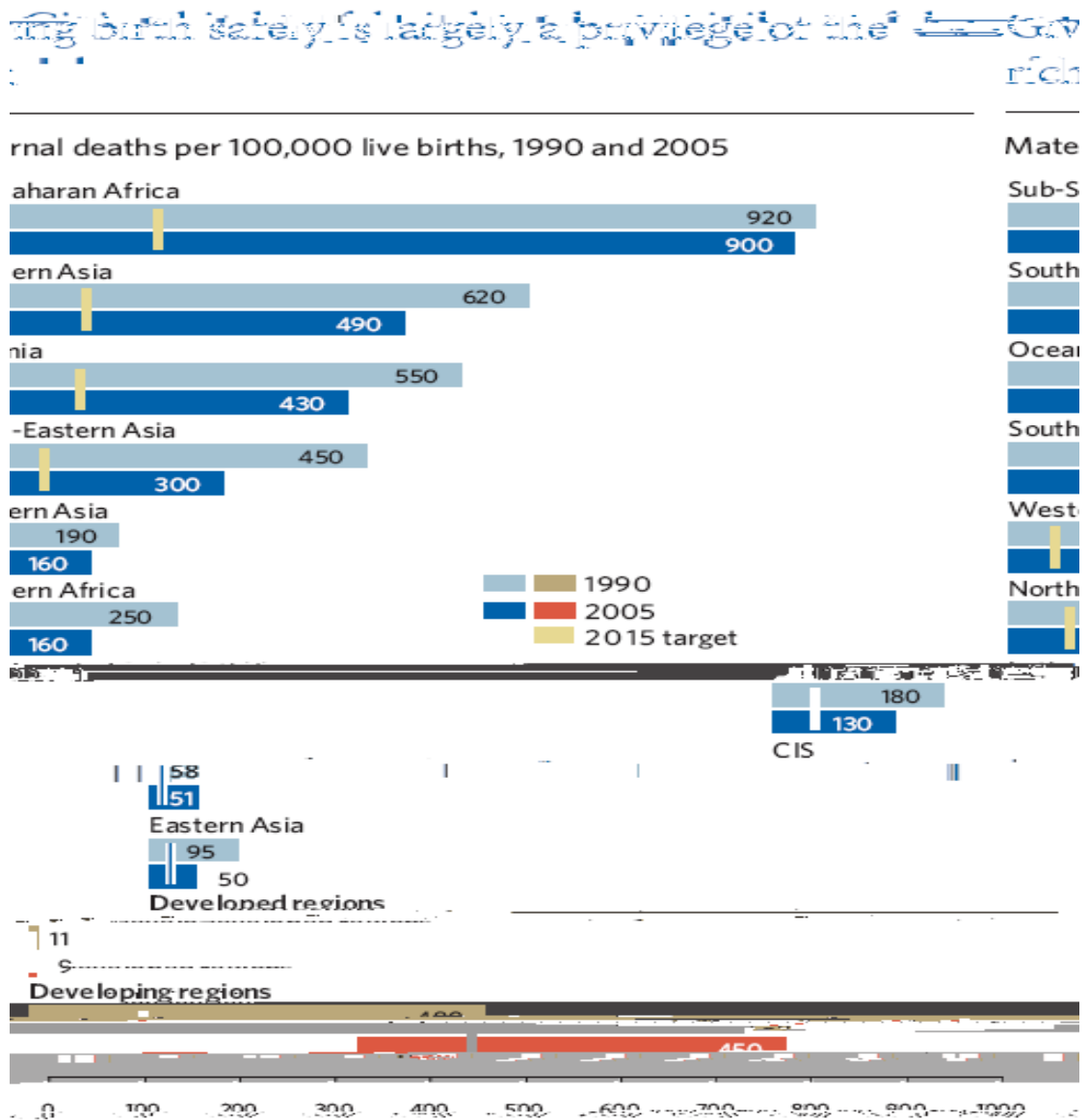
57. More than 20 million infants worldwide, representing 15.5 per cent of all births, are born with low birth weight, 95.6 per cent of them in developing countries. The level of low birth weight in developing countries (16.5 per cent) is more than double the level in developed regions (7 per cent) (WHO and UNICEF, 2004).

58. Half of all low birth weight babies are born in South-Central Asia, where more than a quarter (27 per cent) of all infants weighs less than 2,500 grams at birth. Low birth weight levels in sub-Saharan Africa are around 15 per cent. Central and South America have, on average, much lower rates (10 per cent), while in the Caribbean the level (14 per cent) is almost as high as in Sub-Saharan Africa. About 10 per cent of births in Oceania are low birth weight. Globally, the LBW indicator is a good summary measure of a





**Table 11**



Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009

64. Every year, an estimated 210 million women have life-threatening complications of pregnancy, often leading to serious disability, and a further half a million women die in pregnancy, child birth, and the puerperium, nearly all of them in developing countries. More than 120 million couples have an unmet need for contraception and 80 million women each year have unwanted or unintended pregnancies, 45 million of which are terminated. Of these 45 million abortions, 19 million are unsafe, 40 per cent of them are done on women under 25 years, and about 68,000 women die every year from complications of unsafe abortion. Every day, 1,500 women continue to die from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. Since 1990, almost 10 million maternal deaths took place (UNFPA: No Woman Should Die Giving Life, <http://www.unfpa.org/safemotherhood>).

65. The reduction in maternal mortality rates has been slow and almost negligible for the developing world as a whole, falling from 480 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 450 in 2005. This progress is due primarily to trends in certain regions, particularly East and South-East Asia and North Africa, which have shown declines of more than 30 per cent over this period. In South Asia, the maternal mortality rate declined by 20 per cent, which is still too slow to meet the target without substantial acceleration in the next few years.

68. However, maternal mortality is also a concern in rich countries, where differences in maternal mortality rates can be seen predominantly in regard income and other factors. In the United States of America, for example, maternal mortality amongst black women is three to four times higher than among white and Hispanic women (CDC/NCHS, 2006). In Australia, aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have maternal mortality rates more than five times higher than the general population (Australia's Health, 2008). In the United Kingdom, there is a five-fold difference in maternal mortality between the most deprived and least deprived women (WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA/World Bank, 2005).

69. In addition to the direct causes of maternal mortality and morbidity where attention and investment is currently directed, a number of factors at the household, community and district levels need to be addressed as they are a prerequisite for the health and survival of mothers and newborns. These include: lack of education and knowledge of girls and young women about health and reproduction, insufficient access to food and micronutrients, poor health facilities, and inadequate and limited access to basic health-care services. There are also basic factors, such as poverty, social exclusion, discrimination against women and political insecurity that serve to entrench the underlying causes of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity.

70. Therefore, in order to reduce maternal mortality rates, adequate health and nutrition before pregnancy as well as sufficient antenatal care are very important, as is the nature of the delivery to ensure the survival and health of mother and newborn. Less than half of all pregnant women in the developing world have access to minimally adequate antenatal care.

**Reduction in maternal mortality in Bangladesh,  
Malaysia, Sri Lanka and China**

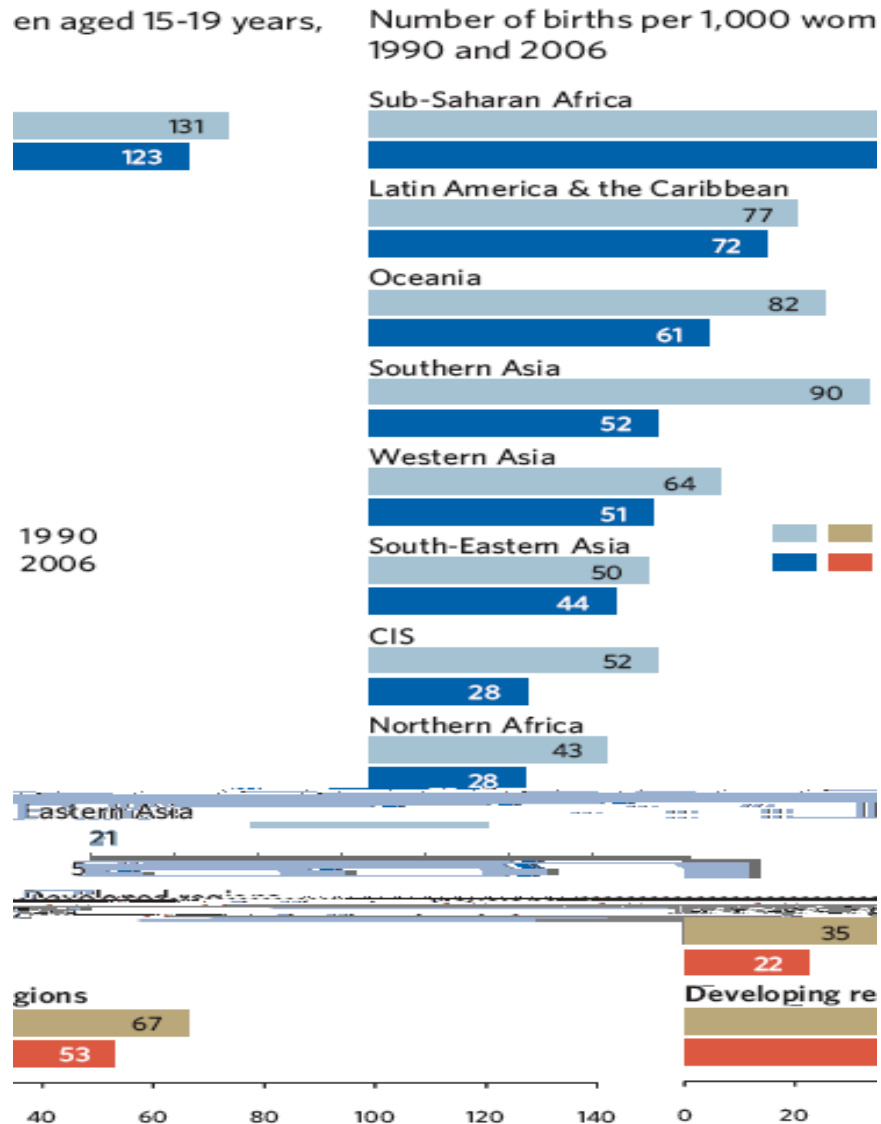
In 1996-98, with sustained pressure and input from civil society, as well as

71. The regions with the highest rates of maternal mortality – Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia – also show the slowest rates of reduction, suggesting that they will find it more difficult to meet the target. In South Asia, a major cause of maternal mortality is poor nutrition among mothers, which is linked to the failure in meeting MDG 1, while in Africa, poor information and empowerment of women, inadequate medical infrastructure and lack of access to timely and adequate professional care, as well as very low contraceptive prevalence, probably play the most important role.

72. One very important reason for high maternal risk is early pregnancy and motherhood. Pregnancy early in life contributes to the estimated 70,000 maternal deaths every year among girls aged 15 to 19 years. An infant's risk of dying in his or her first year of life is 60 per cent higher when the mother is below 18 years of age than when the mother is older. From Table 11 it is evident that early marriage is still widely prevalent among the same regions that exhibit high rates of maternal mortality, with half of the young women in least developed countries as a group, being married before the age of 18 years. This corresponds to early pregnancy: the adolescent birth rate is highest in Sub-Saharan Africa and has declined only marginally in the period since 1990. The same is true for South Asia, where the continued prevalence of early marriage probably contributes a great deal to the inability to reduce maternal mortality rates more rapidly. While legislation on age of marriage in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is in place in many countries, enormous challenges remain to strengthen implementation, enhance compliance and eliminate exemptions.

**Table 13**

## The risks are high for both mother and child when pregnancy occurs at



Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2009

73. Women living in countries in conflict or with weak institutions which cannot deliver basic social services have high maternal mortality ratios. Peace and security are prerequisite in these countries for accelerating progress on improving maternal and newborn health.

74. The international community currently spends around 12 billion a year on family planning and maternal health programmes in developing nations. Doubling the current spending to \$24.6 billion would prevent the early deaths of almost 400,000 women and 1.6 billion babies, cut

unintended pregnancies by more than two-thirds and reduce by 75 percent the number of unsafe abortions and resulting complications (UNFPA, 2009).

### **Transforming Health Systems**

*The Health Workers for Change (HWFC) project*

Quality of health care is linked with the context - social, economic, cultural and structural - in which the health services and those seeking care are located. These

| district) level and their ability to make demands on Upazilla health committees. |  
| They also seek to enhance gender sensitivity of the Upazilla health committees |

women received HIV testing and counselling, and only one third of those identified as HIV-positive during antenatal care were subsequently assessed for their eligibility to receive antiretroviral therapy for their own health (WHO, 2009).

79. Malaria remains an important killer disease, with mortality heavily concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa, which accounted for 95 per cent of the deaths from malaria in 2006. A major international intervention has been the provision of insecticide-treated bed-nets; the use of these has spread from 2 per cent of Sub-Saharan African children in 2000 to 20 per cent in 2006. While this is a positive sign, it is still insufficient in terms of coverage, or in terms of effective control of the disease.

80. Tuberculosis incidence (among the non-HIV positive population) has levelled off in recent years in all major developing regions except Sub-Saharan Africa – mortality from this disease is associated with poor levels of sanitation and nutrition among affected persons. However, the target of halving the cases of TB globally is unlikely to be met.

#### *MDG 7: Environmental sustainability*

81. MDG 7 aims to ensure environmental sustainability, and has four targets, namely: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources; Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss; Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation; and By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Progress towards the goal is monitored through a total of ten indicators.

82. Environmental sustainability encompasses energy use, management of natural resources, and climate change, and is linked in a cross-cutting way to many of the other MDGs. While climate change has become an overarching concern, other environmental issues such as air, water and noise pollution, soil degradation, destruction of water resources and congestion also require attention in pursuit of MDG 7. Climate change is an additional environmental concern that will have profound impact on natural resources, agriculture, water, coastal zones and in many other ways – and these impacts can add new hardship for women.

83. Women are affected differently, and often more severely, by climate change and natural disasters such as floods, droughts, cyclones and storms. Because men and women continue to have different roles and responsibilities at the household, communal and societal level, and women continue to experience gender-based discrimination and inequality, they have different vulnerabilities, as well as capabilities and opportunities for adjustment to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, often to the disadvantage of women. Unequal assets and power relations expose women to the worst effects of these phenomena and make recovery more difficult for women.

84. Climate change will pose a challenge to women and hence, gender perspectives are critical when considering vulnerability, adaptation and mitigation. Issues such as land degradation, drought, and loss of biodiversity, loss of property, livelihood or lives, changes in water availability, displacements, are some of the phenomena where differential impact on



women needs to be assessed. For example, women are largely responsible for water collection in their communities, are often more sensitive to the changes in seasons and climatic conditions that affect water quantity and accessibility, which make its collection even more time-consuming. Vulnerability to climate change can accentuate non-climatic stresses such as migration, urbanization, lack of food and energy security, poor management of natural resources and the loss of traditional coping skills. Risks and vulnerability for health need to be addressed.

85. Women can serve as agents for mitigation for climate change and adaptation. Women's role in contributing to energy generation and use, water and waste management within the household provides a variety of opportunities for them to be important agents in resource conservation. For example, rag-picking women serve a useful purpose and may reduce a municipal budget for garbage collection. Some successful experiences are observed in Mexico, where poor women set up a profitable recycling company from municipal solid waste management. Women in rural areas have identified new energy sources, such as biogas from waste. Women from urban areas often contribute by recycling waste at home, as they are generally in charge of home cooking, housekeeping and many aspects of livelihood generation. However, women should not merely be participating in these activities, they need to be involved in processes of planning and decision-making.

86. Efforts are needed to integrate gender perspectives in policy negotiations on climate change. International treaties and mechanisms and their implementation, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol as well as the Conference of Parties (COP) all have an impact on women, but these rarely are given adequate attention. It is therefore critical that gender perspectives are addressed in climate negotiations and in scientific work on climate change, and take into account scientific, technical and socio-economic literature produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of the risk of human-induced climate change and its observed and projected impacts on women and options to respond. Women need to participate in these efforts in decision-making positions.

**Table 14 Impacts of climate change on gender equality, poverty, wellbeing and achievement of the MDGs**

<b>Climate Change – issues</b>	<b>Impacts</b>
<u>Forests</u>	
Degradation of forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More time spent on fuel collection</li> <li>• Less time for income generating activities</li> <li>• Less time for children to study</li> <li>• Loss of eco-tourism opportunities</li> </ul>
<u>Food and Agriculture</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decreased yield from crops</li> <li>• Increase in food prices</li> <li>• Change in food patterns</li> <li>• Depletion of livestock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced calorie intake</li> <li>• Higher food insecurity</li> <li>• Less milk/nutrition for children</li> </ul>
<u>Water</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in water availability</li> <li>• More dependence on unsafe water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger distances for fetching water</li> <li>• Increased need to buy/pay for water</li> <li>• Impacts on mother and child nutrition</li> </ul>
<u>Biodiversity</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of species (flora and fauna)</li> <li>• Loss of medicinal plants/herbs</li> <li>• Loss of mangroves and corals</li> <li>• Loss of gene pool</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of indigenous practices</li> <li>• Loss of livelihood</li> <li>• Reduced income</li> <li>• Increased vulnerability</li> </ul>
<u>Health</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in water-borne diseases</li> <li>• Increase of diseases like dengue, malaria, etc.</li> <li>• Increase in respiratory diseases due to indoor air pollution and other emissions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased vulnerability</li> <li>• Increase in infant mortality</li> <li>• Disease sensitivity</li> </ul>

### **Climate change and gender equality**

#### *Opportunities for women’s participation in disaster preparedness and response*

In Bangladesh, women’s involvement in activities outside of the home, such as participation in meetings, standing for election and leading of community mobilization, is widely accepted. Community and religious leaders generally acknowledge that women’s awareness and participation must be increased for disaster reduction.

Compared to the 1980s, barriers to women’s involvement in decision-making have been largely removed, although women still face challenges in influencing processes that matter most to them. Since the 1991 cyclone, many women in Bangladesh are now involved in various disaster committees at the local level, initiated by the Government, the Red Cross and NGOs.

The opportunity for participation in, and access to, local political power spheres are critical to women, but most women report that during or after a disaster, they are not consulted in any community-level decision-making. They said that their participation in the community's decision-making processes could help highlight women-specific problems, as well as potential solutions.

*Women's leadership*

Numerous case studies suggest that women play a lead role in the recovery of their households after a cyclone. Evidence also suggests that many communities are now ready to see women leading their cyclonic risk reduction. However, the unaddressed specific vulnerabilities of women mentioned above are the barriers to women playing meaningful leadership roles at community level. Some initiatives have already been taken by Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) members; for example, the vice chairperson of CDPC of Char Kukrimukri has formed a small women's group.

Source: Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO, 2008), Gender, climate change and human security.

*MDG 8: Global partnership for development*

87. MDG 8 aims to develop a global partnership for development. This goal has six targets, namely: develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system; address the special needs of the least developed countries; address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme470.8(e)-1(470.8(e)-0 0 1 9.345 - -1.15 Td[(ProgramE0.62 512.94 0.48 13.8 ironm)8(ent and De34 0

89. When assessing progress towards making trade processes more gender-sensitive and equitable, it is useful to distinguish between research, activism and policy-making. As far as research is concerned, the gender-specific effects of trade policies are now better understood and documented than fifteen years ago, although important gaps in our knowle







significant resource in present conditions of crisis and opportunity, and a renewed focus on its full implementation can give added impetus to these opportunities.

### *Fiscal policies*

97. With respect to macroeconomic policies, the Beijing Platform for Action was especially concerned to ensure the inclusion of women in economic policy-making that was to become more participatory in nature, and to prevent structural adjustment and stabilization measures from generating processes that would operate against the material interests of the majority of women. Therefore it enjoined on governments to do the following:

- “Review and modify, with the full and equal participation of women, macroeconomic and social policies with a view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action;
- Analyze, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes – including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy – with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; assess their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;
- Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women, encourage broad-based sustained economic growth, address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality within the overall framework of achieving people-centred sustainable development;
- Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures to promote women’s economic opportunities and equal access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those living in poverty.” (BPfA, paragraph 58 (a) to (d).)

98. As a result of the Beijing Platform for Action, many governments have instituted mechanisms to ensure greater levels of participation in policy dialogues as well as recognizing responses from civil society. However, these efforts have not always translated into greater inclusion of gender perspectives in the actual formulation and implementation of policies. In terms of macroeconomic policy, the focus has typically been more on stability than on growth, and even in terms of growth, the focus has been on expansion of GDP rather than broad-based and sustained growth. Thus, critical issues remain to be taken up with national governments.

99. The very important demand of targeting public expenditures to promote women’s economic opportunities appears to have been at least partially fulfilled in the increase in policies of gender-sensitive budgeting in many countries, whereby public expenditures are subjected to a gender audit to assess the extent to which they support the achievement of gender equality. These efforts are an important improvement and mark some progress towards greater recognition of the gender-specific implications of fiscal policies. However, the way in which gender-sensitive budgeting is being applied in some instances limits it to a token or symbolic mechanical exercise, where an attempt is made to classify certain types of expenditure as directed towards women. A more creative and flexible approach to assessing the implications of particular forms of spending is required. Similarly, gender-sensitive budgeting has tended to ignore taxation policies, which



also have gender implications. Successful implementation of gender-sensitive budgeting requires considerable investment of time, expertise, skill, as well as political engagement. It also requires attention to funding streams and to outcomes, for example in terms of quality health, housing or education provision. It is therefore important that gender-sensitive budgeting initiatives are not limited to formalistic procedures.

#### **Mainstreaming gender perspectives: What governments can do**

Mauritius was one of the first countries to set up an institutional mechanism for the advancement of the rights of women - the Ministry for Women's Affairs in 1976 - in the wake of the international women's year. Since then, Mauritius has made significant progress in the field of gender equality and women's empowerment. While some indicators (such as the gender wage gap and low political representation of women) continue to be poor, the National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF), formulated with the active involvement of the public and private sectors, civil society and the media, and adopted in 2007, seeks to mainstream gender perspectives in a coordinated way across Ministries. The NGPF is an overarching document stipulating that each sector is responsible for formulating its own specific gender equality policy. It calls for a strategic partnership amongst different stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Empowerment, the media, civil society and public and private institutions. Technical assistance is provided to pilot Ministries (Ministries of Education, Culture and Human Resources; Youth and Sports; Labour, Industrial Relations and Employment) to formulate their respective gender equality policies and sector strategies, in line with the NGPF. This is a long process, and the continued commitment of high-level officials will be key to its eventual success.

Source: EGM GP paper 1, M Verdickt

#### *Monetary and banking policies*

100. The Beijing Platform for Action recognized the importance of finance for the empowerment of women and therefore made detailed recommendations in this regard. These included that governments should undertake the following specific measures:

- “Enhance the access of disadvantaged women, including women entrepreneurs, in rural, remote and urban areas to financial services through strengthening links between the formal banks and intermediary lending organizations, including legislative support, training for women and institutional strengthening for intermediary institutions with a view to mobilizing capital for those institutions and increasing the availability of credit;
- Encourage links between financial institutions and non-governmental organizations and support innovative lending practices, including those that integrate credit with women's services and training and provide credit facilities to rural women.” (BPfA paragraph 62 (a) and (b).)

101. In addition, the Platform for Action also specified that commercial banks, specialized financial institutions and the private sector, in examining their policies, should take the following actions:

- “Use credit and savings methodologies that are effective in reaching women in poverty and innovative in reducing transaction costs and redefining risk;
- Open special windows for lending to women, including young women, who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;
- Simplify banking practices, for example by reducing the minimum deposit and other requirements for opening bank accounts;
-

- Develop and implement anti-poverty programmes, including employment schemes, that improve access to food for women living in poverty, including through the use of appropriate pricing and distribution mechanisms.” (BPfA paragraph 58 (e) to (g) and (j).)

105. The discussion in the earlier part of this report demonstrates that, in most parts of the developing world (except East and Southeast Asia), these crucial strategies have been insufficiently implemented, and food insecurity has increased. Therefore it is imperative that this element of the Beijing Platform for Action, with

- “Ensure opportunities for women, including indigenous women, to participate in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and

women, in the identification and planning of health-care priorities and programmes; remove all barriers to women's health services and provide a broad range of health-care services;

- Allow women access to social security systems in equality with men throughout the whole life cycle;
- Provide more accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, which includes family planning information and services, and giving particular attention to maternal and emergency obstetric care [...];
- Take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful, medically unnecessary or coercive medical interventions, as well as inappropriate medication and over-medication of women, and ensure that all women are fully informed of their options, including likely benefits and potential side-effects, by properly trained personnel;
- Strengthen and reorient health services, particularly primary health care, in order to ensure universal access to quality health services for women and girls; reduce ill health and maternal morbidity [...]; ensure that the necessary services are available at each level of the health system and make reproductive health care accessible, through the primary health-care system, to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015;
- Give particular attention to the needs of girls, especially the promotion of healthy behaviour, including physical activities; [...]
- Ensure the availability of and universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation and put in place effective public distribution systems as soon as possible;
- Ensure the involvement of women, especially those infected with HIV/AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases or affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, in all decision-making relating to the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.” (BPfA paragraphs 106 (b) to (e), (h), (i), (l), (x), and 108 (a).)

112. These recommendations provide a programme for basic services that support the delivery of good health care and ensure particular attention to key health needs of women identified in the three health-related MDGs.

### *Education and training of women*

113. There has been substantial progress in elementary education enrolment rates, although there is still differential performance across regions. However, access and retention rates for girls and young women in secondary and higher education remain below expectation even in regions and countries where the gender gap in primary education has been reduced or eliminated. Retention of girls in education depends upon a number of social, economic and cultural factors, but cost and quality are typically important determinants, including the lack of focus on gender equality issues in educational content, teaching methods and management.

114. Therefore many of the actions called for in the Beijing Platform for Action remain extremely important:

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- “Provide the required budgetary resources to the educational sector, with reallocation within the educational sector to ensure increased funds for levels 0.00

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forceful, purpose-driven and consistent implementation of the blueprint for gender equality provided by the Platform for Action is a prerequisite for achieving the MDGs.

118. As all governments have adopted the Beijing Platform for Action, and committed to taking steps in conformity with it, why has progress been so halting, slow, and reversible by factors such as economic crisis, war or violence?

119. The Expert Group has noted several reasons for this disappointing outcome, including the following:

(a) The most important reason, as noted at the start, is that the Beijing Platform for Action both implicitly and explicitly was based on a different model of growth and development than that which has dominated national and international policy-making in recent decades. The Platform for Action called for, and relied upon, a model of economic growth that is egalitarian, inclusive, participatory, people-centred, sustainable in terms of the environment and accountable, and based on a rights-based approach to much public service delivery. This context is very different from realities that have underpinned recent economic growth, which was based on short-term profit maximization as the primary motivation, leading to biases in consumption, production and distribution, and to aspirations that were not sustainable. Specific policy proposals and quantitative targets become difficult to achieve if wider economic and political processes are steering the economy and society in a different direction. Achieving better conditions of employment and remuneration for women's work is more difficult when overall employment is on the decline, or when employment expansion does not include better wages. Improving the situation of women cultivators is more di

(e) Limited financial, technical or social resources at national level, and insufficient international aid also contributed to lack of progress in implementation of many of the proposed measures of the Platform for Action.

(f) Many of the levers of change identified in the Platform for Action – gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive budgeting, systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex – have not received the necessary investments to make them effective, including capacity-building, training and monitoring and accountability for real results.

(g) The use of indicators requires attention. In cases where indicators are relatively poor proxies for what they measure, a sole focus on the indicator to drive the policy has led to severely attenuated results. Since indicators are commonly national aggregates, they inevitably mask inequities, and those in the lowest quintiles often fall below an established target. Furthermore, a very aggregative approach tends to reduce the broader social consensus that is required for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

(h) A lack of forums for critical dialogue locally, nationally and globally on the complexities of implementation have meant that a number of emerging tensions have not been considered in policy development and practice. Some of those mentioned during the discussion relate to: understanding the dynamics of cultural affiliations; pressures to emphasize either prevention or cure in the area of health; prioritization of enrolment rather than learning and teaching in the area of education; a tendency to overlook issues of the care economy. It is possible that even advocates of gender equality have missed some opportunities for building broader coalitions in support of their demands because of their neglect of the cross-cutting issues of class, race, ethnicity, age and regional diversity, and thus of the inter-sectionality of disadvantage women encounter.

## **V. A renewed call to action**

120. The recent global economic and financial crisis



countries. Preventing women's unintended pregnancies, deaths in childbirth and saving the lives of newborns would cost \$23 billion per year, equivalent to less than 10 days of global military spending.

*What is to be done? Ten critical areas of intervention*

122. The interventions suggested here are not intended to replace the guidelines in the Beijing Platform for Action, but rather to supplement them and emphasize particular aspects that require special attention. To start with, there are some overarching recommendations that we believe must be met as the basis for specific policies, and which cut across different areas of intervention. Thus,

- It is necessary to develop systems of economic and political governance that are participatory and accountable and give effective voice to those who are being governed.
- It is important for governments in all countries to comply fully and effectively with the human rights obligations for women that are defined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the ILO Conventions Nos. 100 and 111.
- It is important to develop and encourage public awareness and advocacy campaigns, and to build and mobilize support for women's issues across women's movements, NGOs, trade unions and other civil society movements, and build alliances with other groups working for progressive change, with some attention to engaging men and boys as advocates for gender equality Networks that share information and collaborate on strategies are particularly powerful.

123. Given these overarching recommendations, we have identified the following as the ten most important public strategies emerging from the Beijing Platform for Action that are required in the current context to enhance efforts to realize the MDGs:

- 1. Make full employment and the generation of decent work the primary goal of macroeconomic policies.**
- 2. Ensure full and equal participation of women in political decision-making at all levels.**
- 3. Develop gender-responsive budgeting and gender auditing of all economic policies, linked to outcomes.**
- 4. Guarantee fundamental rights at work, including for informal sector workers.**
- 5. Ensure universal access to affordable food.**
- 6. Provide universal access to education and to quality health systems, with special attention to gender equality.**
- 7. Provide universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health services.**
- 8. Invest in infrastructure for water and energy resources, with special attention to the specific needs of women.**
- 9. Ensure participatory and democratic systems of protection of natural resources and adaptation to climate change for the benefit of women.**

124. Many of these strategies have been selected because they are seen as ‘keys’, rather than ‘locks’, for unfolding further social policy to support the achievement of the MDGs. For example, policies on decent work require provision of quality education, and concern with poverty, hunger and environmental sustainability. Similarly, gender-responsive budgeting and disaggregating data on the basis of sex ensures that MDG indicators are attuned to the complexity of the needs of diverse populations and do not lose traction on problems because of apparent achievements at the aggregate level.

*Other necessary interventions*

125. In addition to the ten key interventions, other steps are critical at this point in time to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Overall:

1. Break down current indicators by sex, and include a gender-specific indicator for each MDG target, e.g. for hunger, the extent of school feeding schemes in place at primary and secondary school and their beneficiaries, by sex; for education, the number and sex of children from the lowest quintile performing successfully in school examinations
2. Set up a ‘gender observatory’ that regularly examines both implementation and outcomes, to facilitate monitoring of progress towards the MDGs
3. Create inter-ministerial committees on gender equality that include ministries of finance, trade, labour, health, planning and edu87 Tw -22.19s7esreevand sex TT2krs6(d)]scg

3. Avoid strategies of educational universalization based on low per-capita public spending that rely on underpaid and under-trained teachers, and ensure quality education through greater spending and more accountability for outcomes
4. Pay special attention to the education of girls who are the victims of multiple forms of deprivation and discrimination, whether because of income, residence, social category, ethnic origin, religion, disability or any other factor
5. Invest in adult literacy, with special attention to women

Relevant for MDG 3

1. Review, revise, amend and abolish all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women
2. Ensure that the necessary regulatory, policy and programme frameworks are in place to support the effective implementation and enforcement of laws (e.g., on violence against women)
3. Ensure legal systems are in place that provide equal inheritance rights for girls and women, and marital property rights for women
4. Develop specific programmes for encouraging more technical, scientific and professional development of women, such as science camps and similar activities and mentoring for youth, and professional associations, networking and special awards and other incentives for adult women
5. Develop codes of best gender equality practice for employers, and provide gender equality training for senior staff in the public and private sectors
6. Promote institutional mechanisms that foster women's participation at all levels of government, especially in decision-making structures
7. Support greater participation of women in economic and cultural groups, focusing on small producers, traders and cultural workers
8. Develop policies that respond effectively to the challenges faced by women who are subject to multiple forms of discrimination

Relevant for MDGs 4, 5 and 6

1. Increase state accountability for better results in maternal health, and create social demand

5. Strengthen the accountability of health policy-makers and of health care providers in private and public clinics for gender equality in health. Incorporate gender perspectives into clinical audits and other efforts to monitor quality of care
6. Develop skills, capacities and capabilities among health professionals at all levels of the health system to understand and apply gender perspectives in their work
7. Develop a national strategy to improve vital registration
8. Invest, in and improve delivery of integrated sexual and reproductive health, maternal, newborn and child health services
9. Support provision of food to pregnant women and lactating mothers
10. Provide education in nutrition to families and promote and support breast feeding during the first six months of a child's life
11. Invest in school feeding programmes and link these with employment opportunities for women
12. Provide adequate and universal access to sanitation
13. Ensure that disability programmes are gender-sensitive, and that women's health services recognize and cater to the separate and specific challenges of women with disabilities

#### Relevant for MDG 7

1. Strengthen national capacities for undertaking crisis-related gender analysis, including the incorporation of data and statistics disaggregated by sex, into assessments of disaster risks, impacts and needs
2. Develop capacity-building for women for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change
3. Educate women to become active agents of resource conservation by building on their roles in recycling and waste management within households
4. Ensure that women participate in all dialogue and policy-making forums on the generation of solutions for natural resource management, disaster risk management and conflict prevention
5. Undertake measures to improve women's access to water and sanitation, in particular in urban slums

#### Relevant for MDG 8

1. Move towards earmarking ten 10 per cent for gender equality-related work at the national level of ODA allocated for MDG work
2. Ensure that sound and detailed gender analysis is integrated in diagnostic trade integration studies or any other trade impact assessment. Support the efforts of partner governments and statistical offices to promote the systematic collection of detailed sex-disaggregated data. Provide funding for quantitative and qualitative research to gain a better understanding of trade impacts on specific groups of women and men.
3. Analyze, and improve the effectiveness aid-for-trade from a gender perspective
4. Support gender-responsive budgeting initiatives to ensure that decisions on public expenditure and taxes in response to tariff revenue loss are informed by a sound understanding of the gender implications of fiscal policies
5. Finance road and other physical infrastructural projects that reduce women's time and energy burdens
6. Promote gender audits of trade-related administrative procedures
7. Enhance the capacity of civil society organizations to monitor the implementation of trade agreements and to hold their governments and the international community accountable



## ANNEX I

### List of Participants

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## ANNEX II

### List of Documents

#### A. PAPERS BY EXPERTS

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.1 | Women’s role in agriculture and in rural welfare:<br>access to land and resources<br>Susana Lastarria-Cornhiel, Peru  |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.2 | Equal access to full employment and decent work as<br>a poverty reduction strategy<br>Verena Schmidt, Germany   |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.3 | Access and participation of women and girls to<br>education and training<br>Elaine Unterhalter, South Africa  |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.4 | Women and girls in science and technology:<br>increasing opportunities in education, research and<br>employment<br>Eva Rathgeber, Canada                                |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.5 | Transforming health systems and services for<br>women and girls<br>Piroska Östlin, Sweden   |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.6 | Achieving maternal and sexual reproductive health<br>Tomris Türmen, Turkey  |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.7 | Status of women and girls in the face of climate<br>change<br>Rachel Nampinga, Uganda   |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.8 | Urbanization and gender: attention to gender<br>equality in efforts to improve the lives of slum<br>dwellers<br>Agnes Kabajuni, Uganda<br>(NB: expert unable to attend) |
| EGM/BPFA–MDG/2009/EP.9 | Implications of current trade policies for gender<br>equality<br>Marzia Fontana, Italy  |

EGM/BPFA-MDG/2009/EP.10

Towards a gender-sensitive agenda for energy,  
environment and climate change  
Jyoti Parikh, India

## **B. CASE STUDY**

EGM/BPFA-MDG/2009/CS.1

Gender Responsive Budgeting in Mauritius  
Magda Verdickt  
United Nations Development Programme

## **C. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

EGM/BPFA-MDG/2009/BP.1

The impact of the implementation of the Beijing  
Declaration and Platform for Action on the  
achievement of the Millennium Development Goals  
Jayati Ghosh, India

EGM/BPFA-MDG/2009/BP.2

Official list of MDG indicators

## **D. INFORMATION PAPERS**

EGM/BPFA-MDG/2009/INF.1

Aide Mémoire

EGM/BPFA-MDG/2009/INF.2

Programme of Work

## **ANNEX III**



**3:45/4:00 p.m. –  
4:15 p.m.**

**Break**

**4:15 p.m. –  
5:15 p.m.**

**Panel 4:  
ENVIRONMENT - MDG7**

**11:30 a.m. –  
12:00 p.m.**

**Panel 4 (continuation)  
ENVIRONMENT - MDG7  
Beijing Platform for Action: K. Women and the environment**

Presentation by expert and discussion

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