

**United Nations  
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)  
Expert Consultation on Regional Perspectives in the  
Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the  
Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the  
General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: Gender Equality,  
Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century”  
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New York**

**Beijing PFA: Looking Back, Looking Forward:  
A Perspective from Asia**

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*\* The views expressed in this paper, which has been reproduced as received, are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.*

## **ACHIEVEMENTS**

One major feature of the last decade has been the enormous expansion of space for women and for women's issues – one sees it in the visible presence of women in every sphere and in the formal recognition of the legitimacy of women's claim to equality.

In the years since Beijing, women's organisations in Asia have created, expanded and protected this space – they have come together in larger and more inclusive formations to claim their rights and raise difficult and controversial issues that go beyond purely national perspectives. For instance, if India and Pakistan are sitting down to talk to each other today, a part of the credit should certainly go to the women's peace movement in South Asia which has been working towards this for twenty years.

## **GAPS**

But despite these gains, there are some serious gaps. I would like to highlight four gaps which in my opinion demand urgent and decisive action.

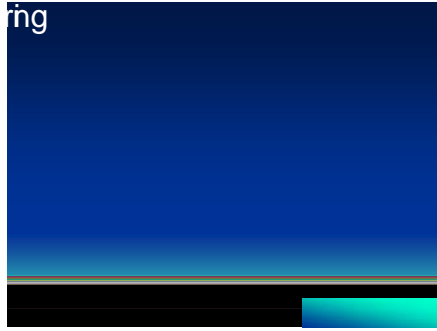
First is the resource gap. In all our countries, the share of resources flowing to women is far

## **STRATEGIES**

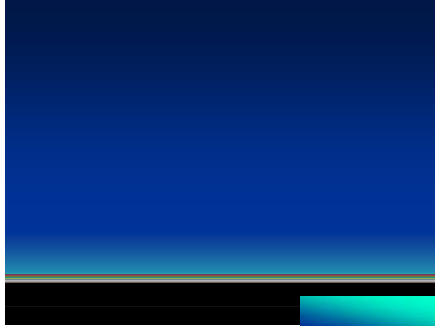
Essentially, strategies to address all the above gaps must focus on bringing gender issues into debates and decision-making in 'hard' sectors. It is a process of asking some hard questions – “Where is the money? Where is the justice? Where are the women?” - in the context of national budgets, national economic policies, negotiations with multilateral financial institutions, trade



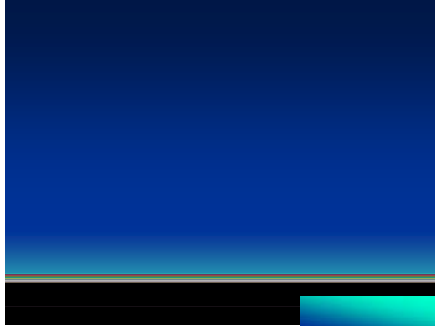
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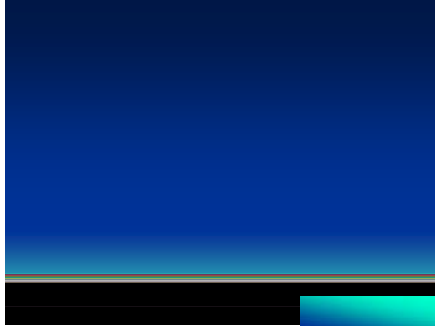
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