



## 2010 UNDP/UNDESA E-discussion on Women and Poverty

### Launch Message

*[Facilitator's note: Please find below the launching message for the first phase of the E-discussion on Women and Poverty for the 15-Year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and ECOSOC 2010 Annual Ministerial Review on Gender Equality and Advancement of Women. This E-discussion is cross posted on gender-net, mdg-net and pr-net. The discussion will be held from January 11 –February 12, 2010.]*

On behalf of Winnie Byanyima, Director of the UNDP Gender Team, and Nikhil Seth, Director of the UNDESA Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, I welcome you to the 2010 e-discussion on Women and Poverty. 2010 will be a watershed year for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment with a number of high level global events taking place (see below). Rarely has so much international attention been concentrated on gender equality and women's empowerment. The objective of this e-discussion is to enable you to have your voices heard in these fora. We will share the conclusions and recommendations of this e-discussion with the organizers of these events. Finally, we will compile and analyze the experiences and resources shared and send them back to you for your reference.

I hope we can seize the moment to come up with new ideas, critical policy messages, and an action agenda for the 2010 global events that will carry us to 2015. To achieve this objective, the e-discussion focuses on three particular topics: **Women and Poverty: Trends and New Insights; Institutional Leverage: Sustaining Progress;** and **Action Agenda: Policies for 2015.** We're also open to any additional ideas that can help make the e-discussion more interactive and valuable to you.

To kick off the discussion I am inviting you to reflect on the following set of questions:

- **How has poverty and vulnerability of women changed in your country or region since 1995, when the Beijing Platform for Action was adopted? What key programmes and policies have been implemented to reduce poverty and vulnerability of women? Are there any other factors that make women more vulnerable, for example to the recent economic crisis?**
- **In your country or region, is poverty, hunger and employment data (MDG 1 targets) disaggregated by sex? Is it widely available and analyzed (e.g. from**

**household surveys, administrative data, censuses and other sources)? What needs to be done to improve the availability of this data and gender analysis of poverty?**

- **Is this data and analysis used to inform public policies? Does the civil society use it to advocate for or to monitor these policies? Please give concrete examples. What needs to be done to improve the use of this data and analysis in policy-making?**

Please help us bring new thinking and new ideas to the policy debate about poverty reduction, gender equality and women's empowerment, drawing on experience with implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. Share your innovative ideas, research and good practice examples with policy-makers, researchers, and practitioners around the world, and help make a difference in the fight for gender equality and eradication of poverty.

I am delighted to introduce Mr. Mark Blackden who will act as our guest moderator for the e-discussion. Mark is an independent consultant, with years of experience working on gender and poverty at the World Bank and more recently on various publications and discussions with UNDP.

**Upcoming High Level Fora in 2010:**

- In March, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will conduct a 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA).
- In June, Economic and Social Council will review the status of implementation of the internationally agreed development goals on gender equality and women's empowerment.
- In September, the General Assembly will complete a 10-year review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and propose policy measures to accelerate implementation over the period to 2015.

I'm greatly looking forward to your active participation.

Warm Regards,

Anna Falth  
Gender and Economy Advisor,  
UNDP Gender Team

Beijing at 15 *online discussions*  
GENDER EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE