



Gender Mainstreaming Highlights

An E-Newsletter of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)
Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (DESA/OSAGI)
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/>

Vol 2. No. 2 – August 2005

CONTENTS

From the desk of
the Special
Adviser

IANWGE
Meetings

Updates from
IANWGE
members

49th session of
CSW

33rd session of
CEDAW

ECOSOC 2005
High-Level
Segment

Groundbreaking
resolution in SC

Sexual
Exploitation and
Abuse

Regional events

Forthcoming
Events

News and
Resources

Editor: Wariara
Mbugua

Assistant Editor:
Katarina Salmela

Editorial
Assistant:
Juan Castro

From the desk of the Special Adviser

The global process to assess progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action culminated in the holding of the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) early this year in March. In the deliberations it was evident that indeed efforts to build nations that offer both men and women equal opportunities are bearing fruit. In this regard the 49th CSW reaffirmed the continuing need for and the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming as a strategy to promote equality between men and women.

However it is also evident from reports from different regions that progress has been uneven. We therefore need to make greater efforts to bridge the gaps that exist, especially between policy and practice. Our technical work needs to be stronger to help ensure clarity about the objectives, goals, and targets for gender equality initiatives. Indicators that help in monitoring and evaluation of interventions in order to adequately capture the results of our work are essential. This requires ensuring that the capacities for undertaking gender analysis are developed among a

broad range of people including through exchange of experiences, documenting good practices and lessons learned. In addition we need to ensure that systematic attention to gender perspectives in critical areas such as macroeconomics, international trade and investment, transport, taxation and finance is also made.

Our network, the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality is therefore in a unique position to support the outcome of the 49th session of CSW. Our work in policy development, capacity-building, the development of methodologies and tools, the exchange of good practices, the development of effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks and the provision of practical support to member countries in gender mainstreaming is an important contribution to this global agenda.

This agenda becomes all the more important on the eve of the World Summit that will take place in New York in September 2005. The Summit will galvanize the world again to re-focus its attention to eradicating poverty and illiteracy, and addressing the HIV/AIDS global pandemic among others. Each one of us has an important role to play in contributing our ideas and expertise to ensure that gender equality remains firmly embedded as a key element of the success of all development efforts including the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

I therefore urge all of you to persist in your efforts to ensure that both men and women, boys and girls, benefit equally from development efforts so that their quality of life can be transformed for the better.

My best wishes for success in your work.

Rachel Mayanja

IANWGE Meetings

The final report, statements and presentations from the 2005 annual meeting of the IANWGE network are now available through the IANWGE website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/annualmeetings/2005.htm>

To follow-up on discussions from the annual meeting in February and to review proposals for an upcoming joint workshop with the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality, IANWGE held an inter-sessional video conference on 15 July 2005. UNECA has confirmed that they will host the joint workshop in early December 2005, which will focus on practical modalities of international development cooperation. Representatives from the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) had been invited to participate in the video conference to discuss how to strengthen the linkages between the work of the CEB machinery and the IANWGE. It was agreed that the Chair of the IANWGE would brief the CEB's High Level Committee on Programmes on the work of the IANWGE. More information about the CEB machinery can be found at: <http://ceb.unsystem.org/>

More information about the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality can be found at: (www.oecd.org/dac/gender)

Updates from IANWGE members

New UNDG Task Force

At the 59th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Member States, in adopting the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations system (TCPR, 59/250) on 16 December 2004 called on organizations of the UN system to "mainstream gender and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with the national development strategies." As a result the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) created a

Task Force on Gender Equality as a sub-group of the UNDG Programme Group. The Task Force is chaired by UNIFEM and aims to support more consistent and coherent action amongst UNDG member agencies to mainstream gender and promote women's empowerment at the country level as well as to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are mainstreamed into the wide range of tools and processes that emerge from UNDG for use by UN Country Teams (UNCTs). The Task Force will liaise with the IANWGE on its work. For more information please visit: www.undg.org

DPA workshops for staff members

Since January 2005, the Department of Political Affairs has held three sessions of its department-wide workshop on integrating Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security into its conflict prevention, peacemaking and peace-building work. A fourth session is scheduled for 7-9 November 2005. Participation in the workshop is mandatory, including for senior level managers. Staff from field offices are also participating in the sessions. As a follow-up to the workshops, DPA is planning to develop a departmental gender action plan. For more information please visit:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpa/>

DPKO policy statement on gender

The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno released a policy statement on gender mainstreaming earlier this year, which forms a first step towards the elaboration of a comprehensive policy and action plan for the Department. A series of training sessions on integrating resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security into the Department's work are also planned. A pilot session was organized earlier this month. To read the DPKO policy statement, please visit:

<http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbpu/library/USG%20policy%20statement%20Gender.pdf>

For more information about the gender advisory capacity in DPKO, visit:

<http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbpu/genderadv.aspx>

OCHA gender policy

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has revised and re-launched its gender policy. In a message to all staff, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland stressed the importance of the promotion of gender equality and expressed his personal commitment to this issue. For more information, please visit: <http://ochaonline.un.org/webpage.asp?MenuID=9474&Page=1952>

UNDP Gender Retreat

Forty-one women and men from within UNDP gathered outside New York from 11 to 13 July for a Strategic Gender Retreat. The meeting's central aims were to establish common goals, strengthen capacities, evolve strategies, share resources and build networks to effectively implement and monitor gender mainstreaming in UNDP. Over the three days, participants raised the issues of policy support, available resources, committed leadership and real accountability as required elements for successful gender mainstreaming in UNDP. The Dutch Government has contributed \$5 million to the Gender Thematic Trust Fund for projects to enhance UNDP's gender mainstreaming capacity at the country level. At the retreat, participants shared tools and guidelines for gender mainstreaming. Many of these tools are available on the following websites: www.undp.org/gender
<http://intra.undp.org/bdp/workspaces/poverty/sl-gender.htm>

Gender and remittances

The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) organized a panel discussion on "Gender and Remittances" within the framework of the International Forum on Remittances 2005 (Washington, DC, 28-30 June 2005). The discussion, brought together experts from academia, UN agencies and civil society to discuss the gender dimensions of remittances and their potential as tools for development and women's empowerment.

At the event, INSTRAW presented its recently-developed research framework for a gender analysis of the sending and receipt of remittances, as well as their impact on household and gender relations. To find out more about the panel and INSTRAW's work in this area, please visit: <http://www.un-instraw.org/en/index.html>

The 93rd session of the International Labour Conference

Geneva, 31 May -16 June 2005

The 93rd session of the International Labour Conference brought more than 3,000 participants to Geneva for the three week deliberations. Among the officially registered Conference delegates were 569 women, 22.4 percent of the delegates. Although there was a small increase in the number of women Conference delegates with voting rights, it was noted that there were more than 3 times as many men as women in the official delegations. Despite the fact that gender equality as such was not on the agenda of this year's Conference, gender issues cut across the discussion in the various committees. More information about the conference can be found at:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/ilc/ilc93/index.htm>

To learn more about ILO's work to promote gender equality, please visit:

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/gender.htm>

49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York, 28 February – 11 March 2005 at the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Member States undertook a review and appraisal of progress made in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA). A declaration was adopted that reaffirmed the BPfA and underlined its importance to the achievement of other agreements such as the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs. The fact that it took lengthy deliberations to reach consensus on the reaffirmation of the Platform is a reminder that we cannot take progress made in this area for granted and highlights the importance of networks such as the IANWGE in monitoring and

advocating for gender equality. The Commission also adopted ten resolutions, which can be found in the final report on the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The report is available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/english/news.htm>

Participation of indigenous women at CSW

During the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues facilitated the participation of some sixty indigenous women who took part in a number of official and side events, held two press conferences, and attended a one-week training seminar. The CSW adopted resolution E/CN.6/2005/L.10, "Indigenous women beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", which is the first resolution ever to focus specifically on indigenous women. The resolution reaffirmed the recommendations on indigenous women and girls adopted at the third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2004, which recognized the value of the diversity of cultural identities and forms of social organization of indigenous women. The resolution also recommended that Governments, intergovernmental agencies, the private sector and civil society adopt measures that ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous women in the implementation, follow-up and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. *For more information go to:* www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii

Thirty-third session of CEDAW *New York, 5-22 July 2005*

During the session, the CEDAW committee considered the reports from a diverse group of eight States parties, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gambia, Guyana, Ireland, Israel and Lebanon. While conditions in those States differ greatly, there were

a number of cross-cutting concerns that the Committee identified. For example, the prevalence of violence against women, sexual exploitation, prostitution, trafficking in women and girls, low levels of women's participation in public life, limited resources for national machineries, lack of disaggregated data and with regard to stereotypical attitudes and behaviour and disadvantage in the labour market. The committee noted however that each State has its own obstacles and concerns, which require serious measures to eliminate these obstacles.

For more information please see:
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/33sess.htm

ECOSOC 2005 High-level Segment: Highlights *New York, 29 June- 1 July 2005*

The Economic and Social Council High Level Segment "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: Progress made, challenges and opportunities" took place in New York from 29 June – 1 July 2005. During the deliberations, ECOSOC President Munir Akram (Pakistan) noted that the main challenge we face now is not one of conception but ensuring implementation of this development agenda. Ms. Carmen María Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador), Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women, said gender equality should be a truly cross-cutting issue at the September Summit. DAW and UNIFEM organized a roundtable dialogue on gender equality and the empowerment of women in connection to the High-level Segment. *For more information:*

<http://www.un.org/docs/ecosoc/meetings/2005/hl2005>

Groundbreaking new resolution to enhance protection of war-affected children

In a ground-breaking development, the UN Security Council voted unanimously on 26 July 2005 for a series of measures, including the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring and reporting mechanism, to strengthen the protection of children exposed to armed conflict. Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) endorsed the creation of a mechanism to monitor grave violations by all parties, both governments and insurgents, focusing particularly on six practices that are considered specially egregious abuses against children, including rape and sexual violence. The Security Council also decided to establish its own special Working Group to oversee implementation of these measures and to monitor progress in ending ongoing violations against children. *For more information go to:*

www.un.org/special-rep/children-armed-conflict/

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Peacekeeping

On 31 May 2005, the Security Council held its first-ever public meeting devoted exclusively to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). In a Presidential Statement, the Council condemned all acts of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by peacekeepers. The Council welcomed the report on sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel (A/59/710), prepared by the Secretary-General's Adviser on this issue, H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein and the report of the resumed session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (A/59/19/Add.1). The Council urged the Secretary-General and Troop Contributing Countries to implement the recommendations of the Special Committee and called upon the Secretary-General to include, in his regular reporting of peacekeeping missions, a summary of the preventative measures taken to implement a zero-tolerance policy and of the outcome of actions taken against personnel found

culpable of sexual exploitation and abuse. In June 2005, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/59/300) on "Comprehensive review on a strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in UN peacekeeping operations," which also stressed the need to fully implement the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping.

For more information please go to:

www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ctte/SEA.htm

The GA resolution can be found at:

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N04/49/5/13/PDF/N0449513.pdf?OpenElement>

Regional events

ESCWA Gender Mainstreaming Workshop (2005)

In June/July 2005, the ESCWA Center for Women (ECW) organized a Gender Mainstreaming Training Workshop in Beirut, Lebanon. The aim of this workshop was to enable ESCAW staff to integrate a gender perspective in the Regional Commission's work and to put together the elements for an ESCWA gender mainstreaming action plan, based on contributions from the participants. The main objectives of this workshop were to build capacity, develop basic gender mainstreaming awareness of the staff.

More information on the work of the ECW can be found at: <http://www.escwa.org.lb/ecw/index.asp>

ECA Plan for an All-Out Gender Mainstreaming

The ECA Senior Management Team has decided to mainstream gender in all conferences and meetings. A framework that will help the Commission and its Sub-regional Offices mainstream gender issues in all their mandatory meetings, conferences, special events, training workshop and seminars has been developed by the ECA African Center for Gender and Development (ACGD). The ACGD will organize a series of trainings and provide technical backstopping to assist all ECA Divisions and SROs to improve their skills in gender mainstreaming. ACGD will also develop monitoring mechanisms to keep track of the extent to which gender is

mainstreamed in ECA's outputs and activities. For more information about the work of ACGD, please visit:

http://www.uneca.org/eca_programmes/acgd/default.htm

Self-evaluation of IFAD Gender Support Programmes and Activities

IFAD has launched a process of self-evaluation to assess the effectiveness of its Regional Gender Mainstreaming Programmes in addressing gender dimensions and empowering women. In parallel, the Fund is undertaking a Mid-term Review of its Gender Plan of Action 2003-2006 to monitor progress in organizational procedures and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming, both at headquarters and in the field.

Rural poverty reduction - lesson learned from South Asia,

IFAD, UNIFEM and IDRC organized a conference in New Delhi between 10-12 May 2005 to assess progress towards gender equality and rural poverty reduction, based on the analysis of experiences of rural women and men in projects and programmes. The meeting elaborated policy options for mainstreaming gender in development programmes for the achievement of the MDGs. More information about the event can be found at: <http://www.gendermainstreamingasia.org/newlink.htm>

Rural women as agents of change, Damascus (Syria), 28-30 May 2005

IFAD's Near East and North Africa division and FIRDOS, a Syria-based NGO, organized a workshop to focus on gender mainstreaming efforts in the region. The workshop provided a forum for policy dialogue and strategic planning on gender equality in rural development.

WSIS Regional-Thematic Meeting on Gender and ICTs, Seoul (Korea), 24-25 June 2005

A WSIS Regional-Thematic Meeting on Gender and ICTs for WSIS 2005 took place on 24-25 June 2005 in Seoul, Korea. The meeting adopted the

“Seoul-Gyeonggi Declaration on the Equal Participation of Women in the Information Society”. The declaration underscored that financing ICTs for development projects should account specifically for women's development priorities and their information and communication rights. The declaration also called for taking into account the particular needs of indigenous, elderly, rural and marginalized women everywhere, including those in developing countries and the least developed countries. Participants also stated that a fair percentage of the Digital Solidarity Fund should be earmarked for projects aimed at bridging the gender digital divide. The meeting was organized by the Asian Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC)/Korea Agency for Digital Opportunity and Promotion (KADO)/ITU For more information go to: www.itu.int/wsis/documents

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

World Summit 2005

New York, 14-16 September 2005

The 2005 World Summit will bring together over 170 Heads of State and of Government to consider proposals based on the Secretary-General's report *In Larger Freedom* www.un.org/largerfreedom. The report emphasized the three broad areas of development, security and human rights for all under the rubrics of freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live in dignity. Freedom from want addresses debt relief, trade liberalization, improving infrastructure and strengthening health and educational services, and increasing ODA to 0.7 percent in order to reach the Millennium Development Goals; freedom from fear focuses on enhancing security at all levels; and freedom to live in dignity refers to the respect for human rights including the rule of law and strengthening of democratic institutions and practices. While addressing some gender issues, in particular the importance of gender equality for the achievement of MDGs and addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the report does not adequately address the gender dimension of security issues. It is critical that

gender issues are fully integrated into all areas to be discussed at the Summit, including UN reform. *For more information and to access the draft outcome document prepared by the President of the GA go to: www.un.org/ga/59/hl60_plenarymeeting.html*

Women, peace and security

October 2005 marks the five-year anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. While important achievements have been made, serious gaps and challenges in implementation remain, for example, in the area of protection and women's participation in decision-making related to peace and security. To promote the full implementation of the resolution and allow for improved accountability and monitoring, the Security Council, in its Presidential Statement of 28 October 2004 (S/PRST/2004/40) requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council in October 2005 an action plan for implementing resolution 1325 (2000) across the United Nations system. The action plan is being prepared in collaboration with the IANWGE and its Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. The Security Council encouraged Member States to develop similar action plans. A variety of side-events and activities will be arranged by UN entities, Member States and NGOs as a lead up to the open debate in October, highlighting different areas of the resolution. The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security is preparing an alternative 'Five Years On' report on the implementation of resolution 1325. A calendar of events will be posted on www.un.org/womenwatch.

News and Resources

Secretary-General's in-depth study on violence against women

The Division for the Advancement of Women, DESA, is preparing this study, mandated by General Assembly resolution 58/185, and scheduled for submission to the sixty-first session of the Assembly (2006). Member States and non-governmental organizations are providing information, and heads of United Nations entities

have been invited to contribute to the preparation of the study. The Division is preparing an inventory of activities of UN entities on the basis of a questionnaire on mandates, programmes and activities related to violence against women. A workshop for UN entities will take place in late November 2005 to identify strategies for ensuring a more consistent, comprehensive and well coordinated system-wide response by the United Nations system to violence against women at the national level, and gaps to be addressed at international level; and to address the question of resources currently available for activities to combat such violence. All UN entities are encouraged to actively contribute to the study and to participate in the workshop. For more information please visit: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/index.htm

A **Handbook on Women and Elections** has been prepared by the Department of Political Affairs Electoral Assistance Division and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women in consultation with a network of experts from within and outside the UN system. It is intended to be a quick reference guide to assist actors from the United Nations, Governments and civil society, who are working to promote greater participation of women in electoral processes in post-conflict countries. The handbook can be downloaded at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/index.html#pub>

FAO publications and events

Recent publications include papers on the MDGs, the Beijing +10 review and a guide on how to develop gender sensitive indicators. FAO's flagship publication *Breaking Ground, Present and Future Perspectives on Rural Women in Agriculture* will be published in September 2005. An Expert Meeting on Gender and Sustainable Rural Tourism is being organized in Krakow, Poland 5 – 9 September 2005. Information about FAO publications and events can be found at: www.fao.org/sd/

SEAGA

The Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis Programme (SEAGA) has carried out several activities during the past months and the **Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis for Emergency and Rehabilitation Programmes** manual is now available online. For more information, please visit: www.fao.org/sd/seaga

New Website: SRH-MDGs

A new website on sexual reproductive health and the Millennium Development Goals has been launched. The website provides information on various United Nations meetings, events, documents and other related information on the Millennium Development Goals and on sexual and reproductive health. For more information go to: www.srh-mdgs.org

In memoriam

The IANWGE is deeply saddened by the death of Ms. Sissel Ekaas. Before her untimely death on 23 June 2005, Ms. Ekaas was the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative in Eritrea (UNMEE). Prior to that appointment, Ms. Ekaas headed the Gender and Population Division of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization where she presided over the development of a strong gender mainstreaming policy. Ms. Ekaas also served her country, Norway, in various capacities,

including as country representative in Madagascar. Throughout her career, Ms. Ekaas was a strong, vigorous and effective advocate and champion for gender equality and the advancement of women, particularly through her work of fighting food insecurity and rural poverty and her contributions will continue to impact women everywhere. The high quality of her work and her contributions to inter-agency mechanisms such as the IANWGE and her commitment will continue to inspire many others who have dedicated themselves to the promotion of gender equality and the advancement of women. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality [Source: ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2]

UN Homepage: <http://www.un.org>; DESA Homepage: <http://intranet/esa>