



# 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/>

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## *From the desk of the Special Adviser*

Dear Colleagues,

The year 2005 will be marked by momentous celebrations: the 30th anniversary of the first United Nations World Conference on Women held in Mexico, the 10-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the comprehensive review of the progress made in the fulfillment of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration, including the internationally agreed development goals - all culminating in the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the United Nations.

This is an occasion for reflecting on our actions and our achievements, but more importantly, on what more we can do and how we can do it better.

Your support for gender mainstreaming, through your active participation in the work of the IANWGE, the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, preparations for the substantive session of ECOSOC and the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the sixtieth

session of the General Assembly, will be an important contribution to an effective response by the United Nations system to longstanding concerns and to new challenges.

Achieving the goal of gender equality is the responsibility of all of us. We all need to continue to highlight areas where major disparities continue to exist, such as in peace and post-conflict reconstruction, economy, agriculture, health, environment and education.

As I take on the challenge of advising the Secretary-General on gender issues and the advancement of women, I am sure I can count on you to strengthen efforts to address the disparities that continue to persist between men and women, boys and girls. Both must have access to the same resources and services, as well as the same opportunities in order for them to contribute to the development of the world they live in.

I therefore urge you to be persistent in tackling gender concerns and promoting the equality of women and men in all your programmes and events during this historic year. Most importantly, however, we need to ensure that policy commitments are transformed into real results at the national level. This is the key to achieving all internationally agreed goals.

My best wishes for success in your work.

Rachel Mayanja

## **Updates from IANWGE members and Task Forces**

**OSAGI, UNFPA and UNIFEM** successfully collaborated on the implementation of the Sixth Regional Conference of the Network of African Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NAWMP), which was held in Libreville, Gabon 23-26 November 2004. The theme of the conference was "Combating Gender-Based Violence: Key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals." The three institutions collaborated on the production of two advocacy kits for leaders, one on gender-budgeting and the other on combating gender-based violence. The Network is a unique advocacy forum that brings together the highest level of African women leaders from the legislative and executive branches of their respective governments to discuss issues that are critical for the promotion of gender equality. The Network meets every two years and interacts widely with civil society organizations as well as experts on gender issues.

The International Labour Conference in June 2004 passed a resolution on Gender Equality, Pay Equity and Maternity Protection, which calls upon all governments and employers' and workers' organizations to actively contribute to eliminate all forms of sex discrimination in the labour market, and to promote gender equality between women and men. To read the full text of the resolution, please visit: <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/standards/relm/gb/docs/gb291/pdf/gb-3.pdf>

In connection with the annual International Labour Conference, the **ILO Bureau for Gender Equality** organized a side panel to discuss how to strengthen women's voices at the conference. Men still represent an overwhelming majority of some 3,000 delegates who attend the Conference. "There are cultures, perceptions and practices to be changed if women's views are to be heard", said Mr. Juan Somavía, Director-General of ILO. "Persistence is the only way forward to make gender issues mainstreamed."

ILO has carried out a series of **participatory gender audits**. At headquarters, gender audits were

carried out for the Staff Union and for the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Gender audits for the field offices were held in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Indonesia. During each two-week audit, a team of facilitators conducted interviews and workshops with staff. In the case of audits for field offices, consultations are also held with representatives of government, employers' and workers' organizations, and implementing partners. More information about the ILO gender audits can be found at: <http://www.ilo.org/gender>

UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector is hosting a series of seminars on the gender aspects of social transformations, globalization, poverty, citizenship, social policy, and ICTs between January and June 2005. More information and the programme can be found at: [http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=7053&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/shs/en/ev.php-URL_ID=7053&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

The **Gender and Water Task Force** has prepared a background paper on "A Gender Perspective in Water Resources and Sanitation" for the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, CSD, which will be held from 11-21 April 2005. It plans to organize a number of events for CSD, including a roundtable featuring women, water and environment ministers. The Task Force is also contributing background information on gender and water for a booklet for the "Water for Life" Decade 2005-2015. The booklet will be ready for the World Water Day in March 2005.

**OSAGI** held a workshop (30 November-2 December 2004) on "Case Study Methodology for Gender Mainstreaming." The workshop was hosted by ECA, Africa Centre for Gender and Development in Addis Ababa, and brought together participants from 14 countries to learn how to methodically and systematically document best practices in gender mainstreaming in the water and sanitation sector. Participants will undertake field-based case studies which will be presented to the Commission on Sustainable Development whose April 2005 meeting is on the same theme.

## **Women, peace and security**

The IANWGE Task Force on Women, Peace and Security collaborated on the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 1325 on women, peace and security (S/2004/814). The report was discussed by the Council and other Member States in an open debate on 28 October 2004. Interventions were made by Security Council members, Member States, United Nations entities and a civil society representative. A statement by the President of the Council was issued (S/PRST/2004/40). A variety of events to mark the fourth anniversary of resolution 1325 were held throughout October, including the issuance of a number of new publications/resources which are inventoried in the Task Force publication “United Nations resources on Women, Peace and Security.” The NGO working group also issued an alternative report on the implementation of resolution 1325. The Presidential Statement called for the preparation of a system-wide action plan on implementation to be submitted to the Council in October 2005. Link to the Secretary-General’s report: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/sg2004.htm>

Link to the NGO working group’s report:  
<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/ngo/ngopub/FourYearsOnOct04.pdf>

## **The thirty-second session of CEDAW**

New York, 10-28 January 2005

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concluded the work of its 32nd session on 28 January 2005. It reviewed the reports of eight States parties to the Convention: Algeria, Croatia, Gabon, Italy, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Paraguay, Samoa, and Turkey.

The Committee elected a new Bureau to serve for two years, until the end of 2006, namely: Ms. Rosario Manalo (Philippines) Chairperson; Ms. Meriem Belmihoub-Zerdani, (Algeria), Ms. Silvia Pimentel (Brazil), and Ms. Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling,

(Germany) Vice-Chairpersons; and Ms. Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia), Rapporteur.

The Committee identified a number of common elements which must be tackled to make progress in ensuring women’s enjoyment of their human rights, including persistence of negative stereotypes about women; constraints in women’s access to justice; insufficient progress in women’s participation in political and public life and at decision-making level; insufficient protection against violence against women; and inequality in the area of work and employment. The Committee adopted concluding comments on each of the eight States. These are available on the website of the Division: [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw)

The Committee will consider the reports of the following eight States at its thirty-third session (5–22 July 2005): Benin, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Gambia, Lebanon, Burkina Faso, Guyana, Ireland and Israel.

## **2004 World AIDS Day Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS**

The 2004 World AIDS Campaign, which culminated on World AIDS Day – 1 December, explored how gender inequality fuels the AIDS epidemic, and is conceived to help accelerate the global response to HIV and AIDS by encouraging people to address female vulnerability to HIV. For more information on the campaign, please visit: [http://www.unaids.org/wac2004/index\\_en.htm](http://www.unaids.org/wac2004/index_en.htm)

## **Fifth International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**

*Statement by the UN Secretary-General*

On 25 November 2004, the fifth International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Secretary-General issued a statement noting that “Violence against women is global in reach, and takes place in all societies and cultures, affecting women no matter what their race, ethnicity, social

origin, property, birth or other status may be.” He recollects that ‘Last May, in an important step towards ending the impunity with such crimes are committed, the Trial Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone approved a motion to add a new count of “forced marriage” to indictments against six defendants. Thus, for the first time, forced marriage will be prosecuted as a crime against humanity’. The Secretary-General urged that “On this day, let us be encouraged that there is a growing understanding of the problem. But let us also pledge to do our utmost to protect women, banish such violence, and build a world in which women enjoy their rights and freedoms on an equal basis with men.”

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### ***Annual meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)***

New York, 22–25 February 2005

The fourth annual meeting will bring together gender focal points from most of the United Nations entities to review and follow-up on activities of different parts of the UN system during the previous year and to discuss challenges encountered and issues of common concern for the future. The Network will consider the 10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and ways to move forward; the 5-year review of the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs; developments related to gender statistics and indicators; follow-up to the 2004 ECOSOC coordination segment; human rights issues and human resources and the status of women in the UN system. A workshop on “Ten-year review of gender mainstreaming: the way forward” will also be held. The next issue will provide a full report of the meeting.

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### ***Commission on the Status of Women***

New York, 28 February-11 March 2005

At its forty-ninth session, the Commission on the Status of Women will focus on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000 gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century.” The review and appraisal will focus on implementation at the national level, through the expanded use of interactive dialogue, and with broad-based participation of the high-level governmental delegations, civil society and organizations within the United Nations system. There will be an emphasis on the sharing of experiences and good practices in overcoming remaining challenges to implementation. There will be a number of side events and activities organized in connection with the meeting by Member States, UN entities and NGOs, including high-level panel discussions. For updated information, please visit:  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/>

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### ***International Women’s Day***

**8 March 2005**

Every year, OSAGI, DAW and DPI organize in cooperation with the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality a special event to observe International Women’s Day, which occurs during the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women. This year, a panel discussion entitled “Gender equality beyond 2005: Building a more secure future” will be held on 8 March 2005 at UN Headquarters in New York. The theme has been chosen to highlight the connections between a number of important international events of key importance to women’s rights.

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## **Expert group meeting on achievements, gaps and challenges in linking the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Declaration, and the MDGs**

Baku, Azerbaijan, 7-10 February 2005

The Division for the Advancement of Women is preparing an expert group meeting on “Achievements, gaps and challenges in linking the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs” to be held in February 2005 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The outcome of the meeting will consist of an independent expert report, containing conclusions and action-oriented policy recommendations, which will support the Commission on the Status of Women in the review and appraisal at its forty-ninth session from 28 February-11 March 2005, as well as in preparing its contribution to the high-level event on the review and follow-up to the Millennium Declaration, scheduled to take place later in 2005.

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### **Online**

### **Discussions@WomenWatch**

“Visions of Young Women and Men for Gender Equality”

17 January-6 February 2005

In order to increase the participation and input of young women and men in the Beijing+10 review process, the Division for the Advancement of Women launched a three-week online discussion on “Visions of Young Women and Men for Gender Equality” on 17 January 2005. There is still time to join the discussion and share your thoughts on what actions you think should be taken by governments and civil society, including young women and men, to promote gender equality. The discussions will be summarized in a report and made available to the

forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. To register, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/forums/review/youth>

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## **News and Resources**

### **New website on gender and the MDGs**

The UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality and the Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on Gender have launched a new website; an online resource on gender equality and the Millennium Development Goals. The website provides access to resources to promote a better understanding of and sharing of tools for addressing gender equality in all of the MDGs. To visit the website, click on:

<http://www.mdgender.net>

### **Inventory of United Nations Resources on Women, Peace and Security (IANWGE, October 2004)**

This is an inventory of United Nations resources on various thematic areas related to women, peace and security. It includes guidelines, training materials, manuals and reports developed by entities of the United Nations system. The inventory and the electronic versions of most of the resources are available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/resources/wps/Inventory-11Oct2004.pdf>

### **FACES: Women as Partners in Peace and Security (DPI, October 2004)**

This publication draws attention to the vital role that women play in peace-building and conflict resolution. FACES is a small first step towards raising the profile of the many brave women from all walks of life who are making a contribution, alongside men, to international peace and security – as police officers, HIV/AIDS educators, voter registrants and health workers. The publication is available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/resources/faces/index-en.htm>

**INSTRAW has set up a database of gender mainstreaming and gender training resources.** The database lists resources thematically (e.g. “citizenship and political participation” or “data and indicators”) as well as by type (e.g. “introductions to gender mainstreaming” or “lessons learned and best practices”). The database is continually updated with new resources from partners and will soon include an improved search function to allow users to specify the type of information they are looking for. Check out the Gender Mainstreaming Guide at: <http://www.un-instraw.org> (click on “Mainstreaming”)

INSTRAW has also devoted a section of its website to highlighting the tenth anniversary of the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**, and will prepare twelve progress reports on the critical areas designed to orient and update attendees at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2005. Check out the Beijing Review section of INSTRAW’s website at:

<http://www.un-instraw.org> (click on “Beijing”)

#### ***Handbook on Emergency Telecommunications (ITU, Geneva 2005)***

The recently published handbook by ITU on Emergency Telecommunications contains a chapter arguing for the ***engendering of disaster prevention and response***. The handbook and this article can be accessed on:

[http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/gender/gender\\_mainstreaming\\_activities.html](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/gender/gender_mainstreaming_activities.html)

***Natural Resources Forum*** produced a special issue in August 2004 on “Gender perspectives in natural resources management.” To learn more about the journal, please visit:

[http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/nat\\_res\\_forum.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/publications/nat_res_forum.htm)

***BRIDGE Cutting Edge Packs*** provide accessible overviews of the latest thinking on a gender theme and summaries of the most useful resources. Recent themes covered include Gender and ICTs and Gender and Citizenship. To access the reports, please visit: [http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/reports\\_gend\\_CEP.html](http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/reports_gend_CEP.html)

***Pathway to Gender Equality: CEDAW, Beijing and the MDGs.*** This new UNIFEM publication examines the gender equality dimensions of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through the lens of two important global processes: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Fourth World Conference of Women. The report is available at: [http://www.unifem.org/index.php?f\\_page\\_pid=216](http://www.unifem.org/index.php?f_page_pid=216)

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>