



# 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,

Welcome to another issue of our quarterly newsletter. We decided to change the name of the newsletter but its objective remains the same; to provide information on gender mainstreaming that is of particular interest to our readers.

We have been very busy in the last few months with CEDAW, the IANWGE meeting and CSW. In this issue, we provide you with specific highlights of those meetings as well as information on forthcoming events.

I would like to thank all of you for actively participating in this year's meeting of the IANWGE. Based on the decisions adopted by the Network, there will be a lot of work ahead, especially in light of the discussion in ECOSOC in July 2004 on the implementation of gender mainstreaming and the ten-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing).

My role as Chairperson of the IANWGE has come to an end. I leave the UN after 38 years of service. As Chairperson, I have

seen the Network evolve into a strong catalyst for gender mainstreaming in the UN system. Collectively we have made great strides over the years and I am proud to say that the outputs and achievements are strong indicators of the value of inter-agency collaboration. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with and learning from all of you. I urge you to continue to work diligently for the achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women.

My best wishes to all.

Angela E.V. King

## *2004 IANWGE Meeting – Highlights*

The IANWGE held its annual meeting from 23 to 26 February 2004 at the United Nations Headquarters. The Network discussed a number of issues including preparations for the review of ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 during its coordination segment in July 2004; plans for the publication of the World's Women: Trends and Statistics 2005; Integrated and coordinated follow-up to UN conferences and summits; and the 2005 ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action. The task force managers reported on their inter-sessional activities and outlined plans for 2004. This year's Workshop focused on integrating a gender perspective in evaluation, monitoring and programme reporting. The presentations were very useful and generated much discussion. The Network provided a number of recommendations aimed at making evaluation, monitoring and reporting processes more gender-sensitive.

## **NEW IANWGE TASK FORCES**

### *Task Force on Indigenous Women*

At this year's meeting, Network members agreed to set up a new task force on indigenous women especially since the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues would consider the theme of indigenous women in May 2004. The task manager is the DESA/Division for Social Policy and Development.

### *Task force on gender mainstreaming in evaluation, monitoring and programme reporting*

Discussion emanating from this year's IANWGE workshop on evaluation, monitoring and programme reporting led to the Network's decision to set up a task force on evaluation, monitoring and reporting. The task managers are OIOS and ILO.

## **30<sup>th</sup> session of CEDAW**

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concluded the work of its 30<sup>th</sup> session on 30 January 2004. Belarus, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Germany, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Nigeria presented their reports to the Committee. During the session, the Committee adopted General Recommendation Number 25 on Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, on temporary special measures, which is aimed towards accelerating de facto equality between women and men. The Committee also adopted a statement expressing its concern about women's human rights in Iraq. The Committee welcomed the resolve of the international community to assist Iraq in the reconstruction process and called on all responsible authorities in Iraq to ensure the full compliance with and implementation of all the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

## **48<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

The Commission on the Status of Women successfully concluded its forty-eighth session on 12 March 2004 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Commission adopted a number of resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions. With the adoption of the agreed conclusion on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality, the Commission recognized the importance of men working together with women to achieve gender equality. On HIV/AIDS, the Commission recognized the vulnerability of women and girls to the pandemic and called on Governments to strengthen initiatives that would increase the capacities of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection. As regards its working methods, the Commission decided inter alia to enhance the use of interactive events at its annual sessions that would increase the emphasis of the Commission on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the sharing of experiences and good practices.

## **2004 International Women's Day Celebrations**

This year's International Women's Day focused on Women and HIV/AIDS. The occasion was marked by a number of events including a panel discussion. The first segment of the panel included distinguished speakers such as the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, Dr. Lee Jong-wook, Director-General of WHO, Her Majesty Queen Noor, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and Ms. Angela E.V. King, Special Adviser on Gender Issues. Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for the Communications and Public Information, Department of Public Information, moderated the panel. For the second segment, speakers included: Sir George Alleyne, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean region, Ms. Noerine Kaleeba of EngenderHealth in South Africa, Mr. Dean

Peacock, UNAIDS and Dr. Linda M. Distlerath, Vice-President, Global Health Policy, Merck & Co. Inc. All of the panelists recognized the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on women and girls, both as victims and as caregivers. The role of men in combating the disease was also recognized. The Secretary-General lauded the work of women in the fight against the deadly disease.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### *ECOSOC Substantive session 2004*

The 2004 substantive session of ECOSOC will be held from 28 to 30 June 2004 at the UN Headquarters in New York. This year's coordination segment will take place from 1 to 7 July 2004 and focuses on the review of the implementation of ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system. The Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) will prepare a Secretary-General's report on gender mainstreaming in the UN system along with a number of Conference Room Papers (CRPs). The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues will also submit two CRPs (1) "Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality: Enhancing capacities for promoting coherence in support of the agreed conclusions 1997/2 on gender mainstreaming" and (2) "Women, peace and security". Apart from the general discussion on the topic, there will also be a panel on gender mainstreaming in the inter-governmental process organized by the OSAGI/DAW and the ECOSOC Division and a hearing on gender mainstreaming in the UN entities organized by DAW.

### **UNCTAD XI**

UNCTAD XI will be held from 13 to 18 June 2004 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The three areas of focus will be trade and poverty, trade and creative industries and trade and gender. The task force on gender and trade expects to launch its publication on gender and trade at UNCTAD XI. It will also jointly sponsor an interactive roundtable on trade and gender, scheduled for Sao Paulo in June 2004.

### *31<sup>st</sup> session of CEDAW*

The 31<sup>st</sup> session of CEDAW will take place from 6 to 23 July 2004. The list of countries whose reports will be discussed include: Angola, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Latvia, Malta and Spain. At this session, the Committee will begin elaboration of General Recommendation No. 26 on article 2 of the Convention related to discrimination against women in all its forms. This forthcoming session will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

## **Resources**

BRIDGE Cutting Edge Packs contains a number of interesting reports including, Gender and Citizenship, 2004 and Gender and Armed Conflict, 2003 (see <http://www.ids.ac.uk/bridge/reports> Commonwealth Secretariat. Gender Management Systems Kit (<http://www.publications.thecommonwealth.org>)

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>