



Gender Mainstreaming Perspectives

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

Vol 1. No. 1 – January 2004

CONTENTS

From the desk of
the Special
Adviser

New IANWGE
Task Forces

Women, Peace
and Security

Inter-sessional
Meeting of
IANWGE

Workshop on
Gender and the
MDGs

Regional
Symposium on
gender
mainstreaming

World Summit on
the Information
Society

Forthcoming
Events

Resources

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Editorial
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From the desk of the Special Adviser

It is my pleasure to launch the first issue of Gender Mainstreaming Perspectives, an electronic newsletter of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE). IANWGE is a network of gender focal points in UN entities. It monitors and promotes the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the programmatic, normative and operational work of the UN system. This newsletter aims to provide information on the ongoing activities of the Network and to facilitate exchange of information. It also provides updates on related events, meetings and conferences in the United Nations.

In this first issue, we focus on the celebration of the anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on 31 October 2003, on setting up new Task Forces and preparations for the annual meeting of the IANWGE in February 2004. I hope you find the content informative and we look forward to your contribution and feedback.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and fruitful 2004.

Angela E.V. King

New IANWGE Task Forces

The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) established three new Task Forces in the summer of 2003.

Task Force on Gender and Trade

The Task Force on Gender and Trade was formally set up in July 2003 at a meeting in Geneva

where the Terms of Reference and Programme of Work were agreed. UNCTAD is the Task Manager and membership includes UN agencies, the World Bank, WTO, OECD and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The outputs from the Task Force will contribute to intergovernmental processes. For more information visit their website at www.un-gender-trade.org.

Task Force on the 10-year review of Beijing

The other Geneva-based Task Force was also launched in July to assist in preparations for the 2005 review and appraisal of Beijing. It was decided that ITU would convene the meetings of this Task Force for the remaining part of 2003. ECE and UNRISD would function as Task Managers from January 2004.

Task Force on Gender and Water

The new Task Force on Gender and Water held its first meeting in September 2003. It was created as part of the activities of the International Year of Fresh Water to facilitate gender mainstreaming in water-related policies and planning. The Task Manager is DESA/Division for Sustainable Development. Priorities include, inter alia, integrating a gender perspective in the formulation of strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to water and sanitation; and promoting a gender perspective in the thematic clusters to be considered by the next two sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2004-5), which includes water and sanitation.

Women, Peace and Security

Celebration of Security Council resolution 1325

31 October 2003 marked the third anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. A number of events took place to celebrate the occasion. On 29 October 2003, an open debate in the Security Council provided an opportunity to review the resolution. Thirty-seven Member States participated in the dialogue, including the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno; and Ms. Amy Smythe, Senior Gender Adviser of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Most speakers recognized that some progress had been made in the implementation of the resolution, but there was much more work to be done. Some speakers focused on the integration of gender dimensions in programme activities; increased attention to gender issues in Security Council reports and resolutions; and more involvement of women in post-conflict operations, including at the senior level.

On 30 October 2003, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security organized a meeting with women working on the ground in post-conflict situations. Ms. Amy Smythe – Senior Gender Adviser, MONUC; Mrs. Ruth Sando Perry, former Interim President of Liberia; Ms. Nermin Al-Mufti and Ms. Amal Al-Khedairy from Iraqi Women's Tour made presentations. Speakers focused on the increased mobilization of women in the peace process; the need for basic humanitarian needs after the conflict; increased support by UN agencies, including attention to gender concerns in their programmes; and assistance with election processes to ensure women's involvement.

Inter-sessional meeting of the IANWGE

An inter-sessional meeting of the IANWGE was held on 11 November 2003 to discuss preparations for the February 2004 meeting and other matters. The meeting discussed the workshop on gender mainstreaming in programme monitoring and reporting to be held during the IANWGE meeting. It was noted that the focus of the workshop is especially pertinent at a time when increased attention is being placed on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to UN conferences and summits, including the

Millennium Declaration. New York-based Task Forces provided oral reports on their activities, and a report on the Geneva-based Task Forces was also provided. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), Ms. Carolyn Hannan, provided copies of the questionnaire on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Ms. Hannan stated that the responses from the questionnaire would provide input to the report to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the review and appraisal of Beijing in 2005. At the same meeting participants endorsed the proposed theme of Women and HIV/AIDS for International Women's Day in 2004.

Workshop on Gender and the MDGs

A workshop on Gender and the MDGs was held from 19 to 20 November 2003 in Washington, DC. It was jointly sponsored by the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender and the MDGs, the OECD/DAC Network on Gender Equality and the Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on Gender. A summary of the electronic discussion and the workshop report is available at www.worldbank.org/gender/mdgworkshop/home.htm

Regional symposium on gender mainstreaming

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI) held a regional symposium on gender mainstreaming from 5 to 6 December 2003. The workshop immediately followed the First Session of the Committee on Women (Beirut, 2 to 6 December 2003). The Committee meeting dealt with organizational matters, including setting the Terms of Reference. It also adopted a document on accomplishments, challenges and future recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Arab countries.

The symposium on gender mainstreaming provided a forum to share good practices, identify gaps and barriers to gender mainstreaming and propose solutions. It also emphasized the centrality of gender mainstreaming as the key strategy for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

World Summit on the Information Society

The first phase of The World Summit on the Information Society was held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003. There were some references to gender equality and ICT in the final outcome documents due to the tireless work of members of the Gender Caucus. The final outcome documents can be downloaded at www.itu.int/ws/is/documents/index.asp

Forthcoming Events...

Regional Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI) will organize another symposium on gender mainstreaming from 28 to 30 January 2004 in Geneva. It will focus on mainstreaming a gender perspective into economic policies. Participants will include representatives of the UN system, governments and NGOs.

30th session of CEDAW

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will hold its 30th session from 12 to 30 January 2004. Eight countries are expected to present their reports (Belarus, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Germany, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal and Nigeria).

Expert Group Meeting on "Enhancing the role of women in electoral processes in post-conflict countries"

The Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI) is organizing an Expert Group Meeting on "Enhancing women's participation in electoral processes in post-conflict countries" to be held in Glen Clove, New York from 19 to 22 January 2004. The meeting is jointly sponsored by the Department of Political Affairs, in close collaboration with UNDP, UNIFEM, as well as several intergovernmental organizations supporting electoral processes. Additional information is available at www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi.

IANWGE Annual Meeting

The third session of the IANWGE will take place from 23 to 26 February 2004 in the ECOSOC Chamber at the United Nations Headquarters. The Network will consider items such as the 2005 review and appraisal of Beijing, gender equality and the MDGs and the 2005 review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. A workshop on gender mainstreaming in programme reporting and monitoring will also be held. Representatives of the UN system are expected to attend.

48th session of CSW

The 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will take place at the UN Headquarters from 1 to 12 March 2004. The Commission will focus on two thematic issues as outlined in its multi-year programme of work: "The Role of men and boys in achieving gender equality" and "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building". For more information visit www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/

International Women's Day 2004

International Women's Day will take place on 8 March 2004. The theme for this year is Women and HIV/AIDS.

Resources

Useful websites:

www.womenwarpeace.org (UNIFEM's new portal)

www.genderandtrade.net (International Gender and Trade Network)

www.mdgendernet.org (Gender and the MDGs)

Publications

Brigitte Young/Hella Hoppe. "The Doha Development Round, Gender and Social Reproduction" in Dialogue on Globalization, Occasional Papers, Berlin, No. 7, July 2003.

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Gender Equality and Trade-Related Capacity Building: A resource tool for practitioners.

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 the 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>