



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 1. No. 3 – September 2004

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From the desk of the Special Adviser

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the third issue of the IANWGE newsletter, which aims to provide updated information on gender mainstreaming events, activities and resources. Since the last issue in April, the Network has undertaken a number of activities to promote and support the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the work of the United Nations system and I wish to draw your attention to a few achievements and outputs in this issue.

I am very pleased to inform you that the Secretary-General has appointed Ms. Rachel N. Mayanja as his new Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. Ms. Mayanja is currently serving as the Director of the Human Resources Management Division in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She is expected to take up her new position, which is at the Assistant Secretary-General level, this fall.

The Coordination Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 1 to 7 July 2004, focused on the review and

appraisal of agreed conclusions 1997/2 on “mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system.” The outcome was a resolution that promises to inject new vigour into gender mainstreaming efforts.

This fall presents a number of important opportunities to move the agenda forward in the area of gender mainstreaming, including the 59th session of the General Assembly starting in September and the fourth Anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security in October. I urge you to take full advantage of these opportunities. The preparations for the 10-year review and appraisal process of the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in the context of the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York from 28 February – 11 March are well underway and I encourage you to follow the updates and information posted on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women.

My best wishes to all.

Carolyn Hannan, Officer-in-Charge

Update on IANWGE activities

The task force on gender and water participated in the plenary sessions, learning centre and side events at the 12th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was held in New York 14 – 30 April 2004. The task force also contributed to the inclusion of a gender perspective in the Interim Report on Water and Sanitation of the Millennium Project Task Force, which was released in February 2004. The task force on indigenous

women held its first meeting on 11 June 2004 to develop its terms of reference. It also adopted a plan of work for the rest of the year. The task force on gender and trade published a volume on **Trade and Gender - Opportunities and Challenges for Developing Countries**, which was launched at the 11th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) held in São Paulo 13 – 18 June 2004. The publication is a useful reference document to support the design of gender-sensitive strategies and policies in an open multilateral trading system. The task force also sponsored a round table discussion on trade and gender where several important measures to promote gender equality in international trade were identified.

ECOSOC 2004 Coordination Segment

At the Coordination Segment of ECOSOC, which took place from 1 – 7 July 2004, Member States recognized that the United Nations had made considerable progress since 1997 on the integration of gender issues in its work. It was noted, however, that additional steps are needed by the subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC and the UN system as a whole to fully integrate gender perspectives into their work. The importance of gender mainstreaming as a strategy for achieving equality between women and men was reaffirmed. ECOSOC adopted resolution E/2004/L.14, which requests all United Nations entities to strengthen their efforts in gender mainstreaming and to develop action plans with specific timelines for implementing the gender mainstreaming strategy. The resolution also calls for measures to strengthen commitment and accountability at the highest levels within the United Nations and underscores the importance of monitoring effective reporting. United Nations entities are also asked to provide effective support to gender specialists, gender focal points and gender theme groups. A number of challenges and recommendations were also identified by the panels and round table discussions on gender mainstreaming organized in connection with the event by the Division for the Advancement of

Women and the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination. These include: the importance of establishing accountability, reporting and monitoring mechanisms; the need to systematically use gender analysis as a basis for policy and programme development; the need to incorporate a gender perspective in the Millennium Development Goals, and the need for data and indicators disaggregated by sex. The importance of systematic incorporation of gender perspectives into all Main Committees of the General Assembly as well as the functional commissions of ECOSOC, was also underlined by the panelists.

More information and background documents related to the coordination segment can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/background.htm>

The 31st session of CEDAW and election of new committee members

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concluded the work of its 31st session on 23 July 2004. At this session the initial reports of Angola, Latvia and Malta, and the periodic reports of Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Spain were considered, as well as a follow-up report requested from Argentina. The Committee commenced work on a new general recommendation, on article 2 of the Convention, by holding a half-day general discussion on the scope, content and approach of this recommendation. A statement on the situation of women in Iraq, addressed to the Iraqi Interim Government, was also adopted. The Committee, upon recommendation of its Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol, took action on its first communication, declaring this communication inadmissible. Furthermore, the Committee completed its first inquiry under article 8 of the Optional Protocol. The Committee made significant progress in enhancing its working methods, by adopting decisions on matters that relate to the constructive dialogue with State parties, the work of the pre-session working group, the country rapporteur, and the consideration of the

implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report by a State party. The results of the Committee's 30th and 31st session will be issued as document A/59/38. The report will also include an overview of the Committee's current working methods. The Committee is submitting a request to the General Assembly to authorize additional meeting time for the Committee so as to enable it to implement all its responsibilities in an effective and timely manner. Specifically, the Committee is requesting an additional week for the July session of 2005, and for the two sessions of 2006. As of 2007, the Committee is requesting the Assembly to authorize three annual sessions. At a meeting of States parties to the CEDAW Convention held in New York on 5 August, 11 new members were elected to the Committee.

Further information is available on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women, at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

59th Session of the General Assembly

Several items on the agenda of the 59th session of the General Assembly are of special interest to the Network. These include: Agenda item 100: Advancement of Women and Agenda item 101: Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century."

The 2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, prepared by the Division for the Advancement of Women in response to General Assembly resolution 54/210 of 22 December 1999, will be presented to the General Assembly at its 59th session. The theme selected for the 2004 World Survey is international migration and women.

There will also be a commemorative event during the 59th session to celebrate the 25th anniversary of

the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

For more information, please contact:
Roselyn Odera, DESA/DAW, Room DC2-1244
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The Fourth Anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security

The Secretary-General has been requested to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of resolution 1325. The report will highlight progress made by Member States, UN agencies and NGOs. Challenges, gaps and recommendations for future actions will be presented to the Security Council for their consideration. Many activities will be held in October to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the groundbreaking resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The activities, which include round table discussions, exhibitions, and launches of resource materials, will lead up to an open debate in the Security Council on 28 October 2004.

For more information please contact:
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10-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

At its 49th session in March 2005, the Commission on the Status of Women will consider the two interrelated themes: "Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"; and "Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls." The review and appraisal by the Commission will focus on implementation at the national level and identify achievements, gaps and challenges and provide an indication of areas where actions and initiatives, within the framework of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session

of the General Assembly, are most urgent to further implementation. The Division for the Advancement of Women has set up a **webpage** which provides information on both the global and regional ongoing review processes, including links to reports from Member States on national level implementation. Upcoming events, meetings and information about forthcoming on-line discussions will be posted on the website. For news and updates, please visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/Review/index.htm>

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution designating 25 November as the annual International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women. A number of activities will be held globally on 25 November 2004 to observe this day and reaffirm commitments to end violence against women world-wide. Information on United Nations activities will be posted on www.un.org/womenwatch

News and Resources

- The International Training Centre of the ILO launched its new edition of the **Gender, Poverty and Employment on-line course on 6 September 2004.**

For more information on this and other courses, please contact:

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<http://learning.itcilo.org/gender/gpe/> (click on **Welcome on Board**).

- The **Global Coalition on Women and Aids** is a new initiative, a movement of people, networks and organizations supported by activists, leaders, government representatives, community workers and celebrities, to raise the visibility of issues related to women, girls and AIDS and promote concrete, measurable improvements in the lives of women and girls. The initiative was launched in February 2004.

For more information, please visit:

<http://womenandaids.unaids.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>