

12 February 2008

Draft presented by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-second session, 25 February – 7 March 2008**

Agreed Conclusions

Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which emphasized the need for political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women and that funding had to be identified and mobilized from all sources and across all sectors to achieve the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women, **(Based on Platform for Action, para. 345)** and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which called upon Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption, and execution of all budgetary processes, as appropriate, in order to promote equitable and effective resource allocation and establish adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment. **(Resolution S-23/3, annex, para 73 (b))**
2. The Commission acknowledges that national machineries are necessary for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action; and that for national machineries to be effective, clear mandates, location at the highest possible level, accountability mechanisms, partnership with civil society, a transparent political process, adequate financial and human resources and continued strong political commitment are crucial. **(CSW Agreed conclusions 1999/II, para. 4)**
3. The Commission recalls that the Platform for Action recognized the roles of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the promotion of the empowerment of women, and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action within their respective mandates, and noted that the resources provided by the international community needed to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level. **(Based on Platform for Action, para. 360)**
4. The Commission recognizes the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. **(Based on ECOSOC 2006/9)**
5. The Commission recalls the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol and draws attention to the work of the Committee towards the practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men. **(Based on CEDAW article 2 (a))**
6. The Commission recalls the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002, which emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development –sustainable, gender-sensitive, people-centred development. **(Based on A/CONF.198/11, chapter 1, resolution 1, annex, paragraph 8)**

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7. The Commission also recalls the 2005 World Summit, which reaffirmed that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. **(A/RES/60/1, para. 58)**

8. The Commission reaffirms the declaration adopted on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which stressed that challenges and obstacles remained in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and pledged to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation. **(Based on para. 2 of the CSW Declaration, see ECOSOC decision 2005/232 contained in document E/2005/99)**

9. The Commission is concerned that, despite a growing body of evidence demonstrating that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, and despite the calls for gender mainstreaming in economic and public finance processes, adequate resources have not been systematically allocated, and that monitoring and reporting on resource allocations remain insufficient in all areas. **(Based on E/CN.6/2008/2, paras. 14, 83 and 87)**

10. The Commission is also concerned that insufficient budgetary resources continue to undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of both national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's organizations in advocating for, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 86)**

11. The Commission urges Governments, the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, including the private sector, as appropriate, to take the following actions:

a. Strengthen the mandates of national machineries for the advancement of women, and ensure that they are adequately resourced to carry out their critical mandates in advocating for, supporting and monitoring the incorporation of gender perspectives in all policy areas and the implementation of gender equality plans and programmes; **(E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (f))**

b. Strengthen the dialogue between ministries of finance and planning and national mechanisms for the advancement of women, gender focal points in line ministries and women's organizations to ensure the incorporation of gender perspectives into all economic policies, plans and budgets; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(f))**

c. Ensure that gender equality is prioritized as a central goal in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all national economic policies, strategies and plans, across all policy areas, including in national development strategies and poverty reduction strategies, and encourage the active participation of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's organizations in the design and development of such policies, strategies and plans; **(E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (c))**

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- d. Cost and fully resource national gender equality policies, strategies and plans and ensure that they are incorporated into overall national development strategies and reflected in relevant sector plans and budgets; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (e))**
- e. Improve sex-disaggregated data collection and develop performance indicators to measure progress in financing gender equality and empowerment of women at national level; **(E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (h))**
- f. Allocate resources for capacity-building in gender mainstreaming within finance and relevant line ministries, to ensure that domestic resource mobilization and allocation is carried out in a gender-sensitive manner; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(g))**
- g. Undertake and disseminate gender analysis of macroeconomic policies, including taxation, public expenditure, investment and finances; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(b))**
- h. Develop methodologies and tools to systematically incorporate a gender perspective into results-based public finance management, including through analysis of both revenues and expenditures, as well as into tools developed to monitor and evaluate public financial management systems; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(c))**
- i. Assess the gender impacts of revenue raising measures, including user fees as well as the taxation structure and composition, and develop mechanisms to ensure gender-sensitive revenue raising; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(d))**
- j. Initiate transparent expenditure reviews, with the participation of civil society, which link the allocation of resources to overall development goals, including gender equality, and evaluate impacts on the poor, in particular women; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(e))**
- k. Incorporate gender perspectives in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of trade policies, and facilitate the active participation of women decision-makers and women's organizations in national, regional and international trade decision-making structures and processes; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(i))**
- l. Carry out gender-sensitive assessments of labour laws and standards, with particular attention to export processing zones, and establish policies and guidelines for the employment practices of foreign investors, including global corporations, building on existing agreed multilateral instruments, including the International Labour Organization conventions; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(j))**
- m. Take measures to develop and implement gender-sensitive programmes aimed at stimulating women's entrepreneurship and private initiative and assist women-owned business in participating in and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and investment; **(CSW Agreed Conclusions 2002/5/A, para. 5(w))**
- n. Increase the share of development assistance specifically targeting gender equality and women's empowerment, through both gender mainstreaming and targeted activities, and strengthen mechanisms to effectively measure resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(l))**

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- o. Eliminate conditionalities in debt relief initiatives and debt financing measures that lead to the perpetuation or exacerbation of gender inequalities, and earmark resources released by debt relief to address specific targets and benchmarks agreed upon in the Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(k))**
 - p. Ensure that international financial institutions take gender perspectives into account in loan approvals, debt servicing and debt relief, in compliance with commitments to gender equality; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(n))**
 - q. Take measures to incorporate gender perspectives in new aid modalities and efforts to enhance delivery mechanisms, including through the Development Cooperation Forum; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(m))**
 - r. Increase resources for gender equality work throughout the United Nations system, including for gender mainstreaming (**E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(q)**) and for the interagency work on gender equality to enhance coherence and coordination; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(r))**
 - s. Develop a more coherent and transparent system for tracking financial resources across the United Nations system, including on gender mainstreaming, and institute systematic reporting on resources invested; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(p))**
 - t. Ensure that resource allocation is incorporated in all evaluations and audits of United Nations entities' implementation of gender equality policies and programmes; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(o))**
 - u. Ensure that direct funding goes to women's organizations to advance their autonomy and sustainability, and increase support for women's funds which provide small grants to women's initiatives. **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(s))**
12. The Commission encourages the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to:
- a. Include in its lists of issues and questions prepared as part of the consideration of States parties' reports explicit requests for information on resources allocated for gender equality; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 91 (b))**
 - b. Invite States parties to include information on resources allocated to the practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men. **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 91 (a) and CEDAW article 2(a))**
13. The Commission requests Member States, with a view to strengthening financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, to fully incorporate gender perspectives in the preparations for and outcome of the "Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus", and to fully reflect these Agreed Conclusions therein. **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(a))**

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