

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES**

**IAW website: <http://www.womenalliance.org>**

**Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales**

**IAW NEWSLETTER February 2010, no. 2**



**Equal Rights**

*Dear members,*

*IAW prepared for CSW 2010 very well with two side events (see the body of the e-mail), as sponsor of other events, two oral statements on 'Decision-making by Women in Conflict' and 'Of Hunger, Climate Change and the Empowerment of Women', and with a shadow report on Beijing+15.*

*Several IAW members will be speakers on panels. We wish our delegations and members all the best! It will be a busy CSW, with 188 side events. The year 2010 will also be a busy year for the UN and for IAW. After CSW we will have to focus on the implementation during the first 10 years of resolution 1325 of the Security Council. In September there is the Summit of the Millennium Development Goals, which have still 5 years to go until 2015. And will there be a new U.N. agency for women installed during the UN General Assembly?*

*Also in this newsletter: ratification of the convention on cluster munitions, banning semi-automatic weapons in Finland, the good work of Women Self Help Groups in India, a UN environmental prize for friendly stoves and rechargeable lighting and what happened in Norway after a law requiring that 40 percent of all company board members should be women?*

*Events, reports and useful links are, as usual, at the end of the newsletter.*

**INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

**New on the IAW website – the IAW Shadow Report Beijing+15**

Look for 'Recent updates'. The IAW Shadow Report will also be published in IWNNews.

Strongly recommended!

**Documentation CSW**

Useful documentation, background information and NGO statements including two oral statements are to be found on: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/documentation.html>

To obtain a grounds pass (badge with photo), enter at the visitor's entrance at **1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and 46<sup>th</sup> Street**. Go to the **DAW NGO registration desk** located in the lobby of the General Assembly Building.

[Present to staff: the official CSW confirmation letter that you obtained through the online pre-registration system and an official ID with photo \(passport\)](#)

*Mailed to us by IAW secretary Lene Pind*

**Commission on the Status of Women – opening days – 27 and 28 February 2010**

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women/New York is excited to announce that select events from the Global Forum for Women--Beijing Plus 15 will be webcast live on February 27 and 28 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time-US).

The program features a keynote address by Dr. Sima Samar from Afghanistan as well as panelists Patricia Licuanan, Charlotte Bunch, Nyaradzai Gombubsvana, and Cai Yi Ping.

The cultural events include Kinding Sindaw, a colourful dance troupe celebrating the Filipino oral history of women and a reading by Pulitzer Prize winning writer, Lynn Nottage.

For complete program and webcast links see the NGO Committee on the Status of Women website: .

<http://www.ngocsw.org>

Webcast links will also be found on February 27 and 28 at The Salvation Army of Greater New York website: <http://www.salvationarmy-newyork.org>.

*Sent to us by IAW member Soon-Young Yoon*

## **IAW schedule, 54th Commission on the Status of Women**

*Saturday, February 27:* NGO Beijing+15 Forum

Evening: **first get-together of IAW delegation**. We meet at 5:30 pm at the front door of the Salvation Army building, venue of the Forum to go to the Atrium at Citicorp Center on 53rd Street. People not attending the Forum but wishing to join in our deliberations are requested to call Rosy at her mobile.

*Sunday, February 28:* NGO Beijing+15 Forum

Evening: **IAW friendship dinner**, 7 pm at the “Top of the Tower”, Beekman Tower Hotel, First Avenue at 49<sup>th</sup> Street (with invitation).

*Tuesday, March 2:* 11.30-1:00, IAW-UN side event

“**Gender equality and climate change – opportunities and challenges for the MDGs**”,  
UN conference room C  
Moderated by Soon-Young Yoon, International Alliance of Women

*Wednesday, March 3:* 10-12 am:

Morning: Commission on the Status of Women, Commemorative event marking International Women’s Day  
Evening: 7 pm **invitation from Alicia Kershaw, Fund for Women in Asia**

*Thursday, March 4:* 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

“**Gender and Climate Change – the Untold Story of Copenhagen**”,  
NGO Side event at the 54th session of the UN CSW  
(Salvation Army auditorium at 221 52nd Street, NY, NY 10022)  
Moderated by Soon-Young Yoon, International Alliance of Women

*Church Centre, afternoon, Craft Fair*

*Friday, March 5:*

CSW, panel III: Commemorating **30 years CEDAW**  
Evening: **IAW get-together** (time and venue to be announced)

*Thursday, 11 March: Church Centre, 2-3:30*

NGO Committee on Mental Health  
**Keys to Women's Empowerment Mental Health Human Rights.**  
IAW co-sponsor, Judy Gordon as discussant.

*Church Centre, 6 pm*

**History and Hope; Reflections on CEDAW.**  
In honour of Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling.

*Mailed to us by IAW President Rosy Weiss*

## **PEACE, VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT**

### **10 years UN Security Council Resolution 1325: History & Analysis**

On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Resolution 1325 marks the first time the Security Council addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women, recognized the under-valued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building, and stressed the importance of their equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.

More on: <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/1325index.html>:

### **Margot Wallström of Sweden special representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

Ban announced the intended appointment of the 55-year-old outgoing vice-president of the European Commission during a speech at the opening of the African Union's 14th summit in Addis Ababa. Ms. Wallström has been a long-time advocate of the rights and needs of women throughout her political career -- first as Swedish Minister and later as Environment Commissioner and Vice-President of the European Commission.

#### **A long career in politics**

Since her appointment to the European Commission in 1999, she has been actively engaged in promoting the participation of women in peace- and security-related issues, most notably the injustice and violence faced by women during armed conflict.

Since 2007, she has served as Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders Ministerial Initiative, where she actively promoted the appointment of women to positions of responsibility

Ms. Wallström also played a leadership role in raising awareness about the urgency to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008).

#### **A more gender-balanced European Union**

She has received several honorary doctorates and awards for her work on sustainable development and climate change, and has also done extensive work to endorse a European Union-Africa partnership on renewable energy, and to champion equal opportunities.

She was also co-founder of the European Union inter-institutional group of women and a key supporter of the 50-50 Campaign for Democracy by the European Women's Lobby, where she worked to promote a more gender-balanced European Union.

#### **Ban and Wallström on rape as a weapon of war**

"We will continue efforts to end the conflicts in the east (of the Democratic Republic of Congo), restore state authority, facilitate the return of refugees, and protect civilians against all forms of violence including sexual violence," Ban said. "I'm horrified and outraged by the use of rape as a weapon of war," he said.

*Wallström said she would lobby for sexual violence in war to be recognised as a war crime, attacking what she said was a tendency to explain the abuse of women as "cultural."*

*"I say this is not cultural, it is criminal. It is a crime under international law and it is also a war crime,"*

More on: <http://www.gnwp.org/sg-appoints-margot-wahlstrom-as-srsg-on-sexual-violence>

### **16 February 2010 – Ratification of the convention on cluster munitions**

The United Nations-backed convention banning the use of cluster munitions will enter into force on 1 August after the 30th country ratified the pact today, a move that was immediately welcomed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as "a major advance on the global disarmament agenda".

#### **30 Ratifications - 104 Signatures**

Burkina Faso and Moldova both submitted their instruments of ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at UN Headquarters in New York, ensuring that the pact prohibiting explosive remnants of war known as either cluster munitions or unexploded ordnance (UXO) becomes part of international law.

In a [statement](#) issued by his spokesperson, Mr. Ban said the fact that the Convention was coming into force just two years after countries adopted the treaty "demonstrates the world's collective revulsion at the impact of these terrible weapons".

First used in the Second World War, cluster munitions contain dozens of smaller explosives designed to disperse over an area the size of several football fields, but often fail to detonate upon impact, creating large de facto minefields. They are also notoriously inaccurate.

#### **Maimed or killed for years after conflicts end**

The failure rate makes these weapons particularly dangerous for civilians, who continue to be maimed or killed for years after conflicts end. Some 98 per cent of victims are civilians and cluster bombs have claimed over 10,000 civilian lives, 40 per cent of whom are children.

Recovery from conflict is also hampered because the munitions place roads and lands off-limits to farmers and aid workers.

More on: <http://www.clusterconvention.org/>

### **Finns propose ban on handguns after shootings**

A Finnish government commission on Wednesday proposed a ban on semi-automatic handguns after two school shootings in recent years left 20 people dead. The ban, which still needs parliamentary approval, seeks to reduce the number of legal weapons in civilian hands. Gun permits would also be made temporary and require at least two year's proof of shooting practice. There are 650,000 licensed gun owners in Finland, a country with a population of 5 million. More on:

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2011101294\\_apeufinlandschoolshootings.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2011101294_apeufinlandschoolshootings.html)

## **AROUND THE WORLD**

### **Proposed new U.N. agency for women – speed-up called for**

The European Union (EU) has urged Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to “urgently” speed up the creation of the proposed new U.N. agency for women.

“If this decision is further delayed, the current gender agencies will be kept in limbo and unable to deliver for women around the world,” warned Ambassador Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo of Spain, current chair of the 27-member EU. The new U.N. official, he said, should be in “a position to lead the organisation through the changes required to have a strong U.N. entity focused on advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

#### **The proposal**

The proposal calls for the consolidation of four existing U.N. “gender agencies” – the U.N. Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues (OSAGI), the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) – under a single new U.N. body to be headed by an under-secretary-general.

The secretary-general has proposed that UNIFEM and INSTRAW be “abolished” and their existing mandates and assets be transferred, along with that of OSAGI and DAW, into the new “composite entity”.

More on: <http://www.gnwp.org/rights-eu-faults-u-n-for-slowdown-in-gender-empowerment>

### **Women Self Help Groups - SHGs - are campaigning for a clean state**

India - Bhubaneswar - The state government is planning to engage women self help groups (SHGs) in total sanitation programmes. Women SHGs would help in implementation of the programme and will also expedite it, said chief minister Naveen Patnaik, after reviewing the progress of Mission Shakti programme. There are as many as 3.87 lakh women SHGs under Mission Shakti comprising over 46 lakh women (one lakh = 100,000).

"Proper coordination is required for training, production, sale and market linkage for members of SHG groups," Patnaik said.

#### **SHGs successfully involved**

The SHGs have been successfully involved in implementation of different government programmes, including running of a mid-day meal scheme, supplementary nutrition programme and so on. They had also contributed in reducing the number of malnourished children by 10 per cent in the state while nationally it was reduced by only 0.5 per cent between National Family Health Surveys II and III. This year about 959 SHGs were engaged in procurement of paddy and successfully procured 50,000 MT paddy from farmers in the last Kharif season. Of the total 60,000 schools, SHGs are running a mid-day meal scheme in 41,000 schools in the state. More on:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Women-SHGs-to-campaign-for-clean-state/articleshow/5581330.cms>

*Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu*

### **Rechargeable light, clean stove schemes win UN environmental prize**

23 February 2010 – A pair of grassroots initiatives bringing environmentally friendly stoves and rechargeable lighting to remote communities in several countries are the recipients of this year's prestigious Sasakawa Prize, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced today. The annual prize, worth \$200,000 between the two projects, is awarded to sustainable schemes that can be replicated at the local level across the world.

This year's winners are Nuru Design, a company providing rechargeable lights to villages in Rwanda, Kenya and India; and Trees, Water and People (TWP), an organization distributing fuel-efficient stoves to people in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Haiti.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33862&Cr=unep&Cr1=>

### **The Female Factor - a seat at the table**

OSLO — Arni Hole remembers the shock wave that went through [Norway](#)'s business community in 2002 when the country's trade and industry minister, Ansgar Gabrielsen, proposed a law requiring that 40 percent of all company board members be women. There were, literally, screams," said Ms. Hole, director general of the Equality Ministry. "It was a real shock treatment."

Even in this staunchly egalitarian society — 80 percent of Norwegian women work outside the home, and half the current government's ministers are female — the idea seemed radical, if not for its goal, then for the sheer magnitude of change.

Back then, Norwegian women held less than 7 percent of private-sector board seats; just under 5 percent of chief executives were women. After months of heated debate, the measure was approved by a significant majority in Parliament, giving state-owned companies until 2006 to comply and publicly listed companies until 2008.

#### **A political stunt?**

Many prominent business leaders dismissed the 2003 law as a political stunt and argued that Norway, with just 4.8 million people, did not have enough experienced women to meet the quota. One chief executive of a software company told the business newspaper Dagens Naeringsliv that companies would have to recruit "escort girls" to meet the target.

Nearly eight years on, the share of female directors at the roughly 400 companies affected is above 40 percent, while women fill more than a quarter of the board seats at the 65 largest privately held companies. To many feminists, this is the boldest move anywhere to breach one of the most durable barriers to gender equality.

#### **Spain and The Netherlands in 2015**

Indeed, the world has noticed: Spain and the Netherlands have passed similar laws, with a 2015 deadline for compliance. The French Senate will soon debate a bill phasing in a female quota by 2016, after the National Assembly approved the measure last week. Belgium, Britain, Germany and Sweden are considering legislation.

#### **Frustrating facts**

But as the dust has settled, researchers are grappling with some frustrating facts: Bringing large numbers of women into Norway's boardrooms has done little — yet — to improve either the professional calibre of the boards or to enhance corporate performance. In the past 50 years, women have gained ever more prominence in politics and society. A decade into the 21st century, however, their corporate power remains slight — although women represent half or more of the work force in many countries.

In the [European Union](#), 9.7 percent of the board members at the top 300 companies were women in 2008, versus 8 percent in 2004, according to the European Professional Women's Network. In the United States, roughly 15 percent of the board members of the Fortune 500 companies are women, while at the top of Asian companies, women remain scarce: In China and India, they hold roughly 5 percent of board seats, in Japan, just 1.4 percent.

More on: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/world/europe/28iht-quota.html?ref=europe>

### **Development: Africa Centre Dismissals Challenged**

A European Union (EU) aid programme tasked with nurturing the private sector in Africa has become the focus of high-level diplomatic discussions after almost half of its staff were abruptly dismissed. Seventeen of the 42 people working at the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) in Brussels were removed from their posts in December and told to leave its headquarters without delay. The dismissals, unreported until now, are being challenged by lawyers representing some of the staff concerned, who insist that they have not received an explanation for why they were let go.

#### **Necessary to reform the centre**

However, the CDE's director Maboussou Thiam has stated that the dismissals were necessary to reform the centre, which distributes EU aid to small and medium-sized firms in the 78-country African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) bloc.

#### **An overhead of 65% ?**

Before the reforms were introduced, he said, the salaries and other payments to the CDE staff gobbled up 65 percent of its 18 million euros (24.5 million dollars) annual budget.

Thiam stated that he was under instructions from the CDE board to carry out the restructuring before



the end of 2009. "This was not an easy task but since they asked for it, I had to do it," he said. He also said that all of the staff dismissed had been given severance payments ranging from 150,000 euros to 250,000 euros.

More on: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50318>

### **Millennium Development Goals summit next September**

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit next September to boost progress towards the MDGs.

"The MDGs are too big to fail!" More on: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

### **Human Rights Council**

Sixteen States had their human rights records examined during the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in Geneva from 8 to 19 February.

These countries are Qatar, Nicaragua, Italy, El Salvador, Gambia, Bolivia, Fiji, San Marino, Kazakhstan, Angola, Iran, Madagascar, Iraq, Slovenia, Egypt and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By the end of this two-week session, 112 States (out of 192 Member States of the United Nations) will have had their human rights records examined by the UPR Working Group.

In December 2011, when this first four years cycle will reach its end, all United Nations' Member States will have been reviewed under this mechanism.

The three documents on which State reviews are based are:

- \* information prepared by the State concerned;
- \* information contained in UN reports;
- \* and information provided by other relevant stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, human rights defenders, academic institutions and research institutes, civil society representatives, etc.).

The final outcome of the session, including recommendations made by other States, will be adopted by the plenary of the Council at its fourteenth regular session, in June 2010.

Additional information on: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

## **REPORTS - CONFERENCES - LINKS**

### **Who answers to women?**

Women's movements have played a critical role in creating political space for female participation in politics around the world.

In fact, there are more women in government today than ever before.

Women and accountability, a report of the progress of the world's women 2008-2009

According to UNIFEM's Progress of the World's Women 2008/2009 report "Who Answers to Women? Gender & Accountability", women now hold an average of 18.4 percent of seats in national assemblies, though the rate of increase is still very slow.

More on: [http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/media/POWW08\\_Report\\_Full\\_Text.pdf](http://www.unifem.org/progress/2008/media/POWW08_Report_Full_Text.pdf)

From 15 February to 12 March 2010 the Committee on Elimination of **Racial Discrimination** will hold its seventy-sixth session in Geneva.

### **UNIFEM: Fund for Gender Equality**

In January 2010, the [UNIFEM](#)-managed Fund for Gender Equality announced its initial allocation of more than US\$9 million to 27 initiatives in 26 countries.

The grants fall into the Fund's Catalytic Grant category — one of two types of grants aimed to accelerate the efforts of initiatives on the ground.

On: <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article1790>

### **General Assembly of the United Nations 2010**

General website with information, September/October on: <http://www.un.org/ga/>

Resolutions on: <http://www.un.org/ga/64/resolutions.shtml>

**WEL Informed** (February 2010) has a long tribute to former IAW President Pat Giles on her winning the Order of Australia Medal on Australia Day. With a speech given by one of the young women now representing Western Australia in the Federal Senate as a Senator. A position Pat held for 12 years.  
*Sent to us by IAW member Pat Richardson*

**Note**

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in Word 97. Please be so kind to advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address, so we can mail them this Newsletter too.

IAW Newsletter / News Flash :	Joke Sebus	<iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>
International Women's News :	Priscilla Todd (English)	<iaw.iwnews@womenallince.org>
	: Mathilde Duval (French)	<mathilde.duval@yahoo.fr>
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