

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

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

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

IAW NEWSLETTER January/February 2010, no. 1



Equal Rights

Dear members,

IAW is preparing for CSW. We wish our members and delegations to CSW all the strength needed in the sometimes chaotic situation of taking political decisions on an international level. The Copenhagen summit is still fresh in our minds.

In this newsletter Chad, with its 450,000 refugees and internally displaced persons, is facing a severe situation. Please have a look at the Human Rights Council (HRC) with Chad on its February agenda. Also, have a look at the unique instrument of the HRC, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Disaster reduction, women in politics in the EU and India, the female factor in banking, the financial crisis and UNESCO, with at the end several events and a very useful UN link, are all to be found in this first newsletter of 2010.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Preparing for the Commission on the Status of Women - CSW

Below is a list of the IAW members who have registered for CSW 2010.

I think it might be useful for all of us to know exactly when everybody is going to be in New York, where everybody is staying and what cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses we all have.

If you agree please send me your own information as soon as possible, and no later than February 22. Then I'll send you a list with all the information by February 25.

Looking forward to seeing you all, Lene Pind, IAW secretary

Austria:	Rosy Weiss; Daniella Reiter
Denmark:	Lene Pind
France:	Hélène Sackstein; Renée Gerard, Monique Bouaziz, Danielle Levy, Danielle Safarti
Greece:	Joanna Manganara
India:	Manorama Bawa
Netherlands:	Lyda Verstegen, Anje Wiersinga
Norway:	Torild Skard
South Africa:	Mmabatho Ramagoshi, Rita Marque Mbatho, Tebogo Ramagoshi; Ibiduni Jones; Matlakala Makhubela
Sweden:	Birgitta Wistrand
USA:	Susanne Riveles, Judith Gordon, Kay Fraleigh, Irene Sarlis, Alicia Kershaw.

Congratulations to Pat Giles!

Former IAW President Pat Giles (1997-2002) has been given the Australia Medal "for services to the community through organisations and advisory bodies that promote the interests of women, and to the Parliament of Australia". *This is wonderful news, proficiat!*

New on the IAW website

Unfortunately the IAW website was attacked by hackers on January 18th and it has taken until January 26th to get everything, including the blog, up and running.

[1. EVAW \(end violence against women\) on-line trainings](#)

Rita Marque Mbatha from the provisional IAW associate, Women's Comfort Corner, Zimbabwe, sent a story about [EVAW](#) (end violence against women, an American NGO). It is available on the IAW website and here: http://www.evawintl.org/evaw_courseware/

[2. EU - Violence against Women, Children and Youth: Good Practices and Recommendations](#)

Ways of Implementing the EU Directives on Violence against Women, Children and Youth.

HAITI – IAW supports this plea from UNIFEM

Dear Friends,

Imagine you're a victim of domestic violence in Haiti... Before the earthquake on 12 January, you and your children were safe in one of Haiti's women's shelters. You were working to rebuild your life. And now, the shelter and so much else has been ripped away.

UNIFEM is working to raise 2 million dollars to rebuild women's shelters and expand emergency services for women and their families. [Won't you help?](#)

Your contribution will fund emergency community-based violence prevention programmes, counselling services, provide emergency supplies and rebuild women's centres.

[Let us count you in.](#)

Help us *Say NO* to violence against women and girls in Haiti. Every dollar you give counts as an action. Let us count you in. Donate here. United Nations Foundation Inc (US) on:

https://secure.globalproblems-globalsolutions.org/site/Donation2?df_id=1960&1960.donation=form1

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

The final edition for 2009 is in the post and your editor, Priscilla Todd, apologises for this being late. When you receive it please read the page headed **IAW IS MOVING FORWARD IN THE 21st CENTURY!**

This is the start of a series of steps devised by your Taskforce (set up at the 2009 International Meeting in Switzerland). It calls for **ACTION BY YOU NOW** that will start the process of making the Alliance a stronger, more cohesive body with a wider communications network. These steps are leading to a Workshop at Congress 2010 in Johannesburg which will plan regional action and provide opportunities for many more of our members around the world to be directly involved in action to help and improve the status of women in their regions.

DISASTERS - DISASTERS - DISASTERS

*"We can expect more extreme weather events,
more water and more drought situations"*

Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction

has to step up action and global cooperation on disaster risk reduction, as climate change steadily increases the number and intensity of natural disasters worldwide.

She leads the Geneva-based Secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) which promotes greater awareness of the importance of disaster reduction in order to build more resilient communities and reduce the human, social, economic and environmental losses due to disasters. Margareta Wahlström said: "There have been two major paradigm shifts.

1. Tsunami

The first one resulted from the 2004 tsunami. The tsunami brought home to people around the world that even though they were geographically distant, they could be touched. Even in some European countries, the tsunami had a significant impact on Governments' efforts to build much better crisis management systems.

The tsunami was also something that happened in the media, in people's face. The enormous tragedy that happened there brought home that there are many things that can, and must, be done.

And immediately after that, the Kobe conference happened, which generated the Hyogo Framework for Action.

It wasn't planned, obviously, but it became the impetus for a much stronger strategic framework than probably otherwise would have emerged.

2. Climate change and its risks

The second big shift is the very strong focus on climate change and the climate risks, since 80 to 90 per cent of all disasters are related to weather, water – too much water, too little water.

And when you begin to look at how to adapt and adjust to the changing climate, risk reduction is the tried and tested methodology which is already well known."

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/newsmakers.asp?NewsID=17>

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

The UPR (Universal Periodic Review) is the most interesting mechanism of the new Human Rights Council

* In no way does it detract from CEDAW which focuses only on women's rights.

* It's a much simpler complementary process *targeting even states which haven't ratified CEDAW*.

* It covers ALL aspects of human rights and this is actually an advantage giving NGOs an opportunity to insert a gender perspective on all issues and focus on areas not traditionally considered 'women's' issues, such as trade, economics, etc. where women's associations are frequently and notoriously absent.

* It can also simply focus on the removal of all reservations to CEDAW for the states examined.

Finally, the examination – including the state's responses - is webcast and available for all to see, including the press.

For questions and answers on the UPR see the following link:

<http://unmis.unmissions.org/Portals/UNMIS/Documents/General/UPR%20-%20Questions%20and%20Answers%20-%20ENGLISH.pdf>

Mailed to us by IAW representative at the HRC, Hélène Sackstein

Seventh Universal Periodic Review - Geneva, 8 - 19 February 2010

Monday, 8 February 2010, Review of Qatar and Review of Nicaragua.

For February 2010, in which France holds the Security Council Presidency, the MAP (Monthly Action Plans) provides recommendations on country situations, such as: - reporting on Central African Republic/Chad, Darfur, Iraq, and Liberia; - the mandate renewal and reporting on Timor-Leste; - the ongoing situation in Guinea.

It also recommends ongoing Security Council and Member State support for the recommendations in SCRs 1888 and 1889, particularly:

- the forthcoming appointment of an SRSG;
- development of the Team of Experts;
- and the proposals to strengthen the UN response to sexual violence in conflict.

CHAD - Aid Agencies anxious over Peacekeepers' possible exit

Dakar — Aid workers in volatile eastern Chad are anxiously watching discussions over the possible exit of UN peacekeepers, after the government has said it wants the mission out when its mandate ends on 15 March.

"The principal worry for aid agencies is what would be the impact on the security situation," said an aid worker in eastern Chad who requested anonymity.

"If the Chadian government can create the conditions in which aid operations can go forward in a secure environment, good. But if not, continuing humanitarian work here will be very difficult."

450,000 refugees and internally displaced persons

The UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) is charged in part with protecting civilians, including the some 450,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in eastern Chad.

Even with the presence of military and police, aid workers and other civilians in eastern Chad are regularly subject to carjackings, kidnappings and robberies by armed groups.

In recent bulletins on Chad operations the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said insecurity is "a major worry" with "grave crimes" affecting aid agencies and civilians in the east.

There have also been armed attacks on a UN-trained Chadian police force also tasked with protecting refugees and IDPs.

No to renewing the mandate?

The Chadian government has asked the UN not to renew MINURCAT's mandate, said Gen Oki Mahamat Yaya Dagache, President Idriss Deby's representative working with the UN mission. "At the end of the mandate we will not extend," he said. He would not comment on why.

A presenter on state radio said on 19 January MINURCAT - with some 3,000 of the planned 5,200 troops in place to date - "has not shown its effectiveness".

More on: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201001210567.html>

Peacebuilding Commission must create more structured ties with Security Council

The Peacebuilding Commission must create closer ties with the Bretton Woods institutions in 2010 said Peter Wittig (Germany), the newly elected Chairperson of the Commission's Organizational Committee.

In 2010, the Commission would follow up on the Secretary-General's report, *Peacebuilding in the Immediate Aftermath of Conflict*, and Security Council resolution 1889 (2009) on women in peacebuilding, while collaborating with the African Union and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding. More on: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2010/pbc62.doc.htm>

AROUND THE WORLD

European Union

A quorum of 30% women means nine women commissioners in the European Union

1. Catherine Ashton, United Kingdom
2. Viviane Reding, Luxembourg
3. Neelie Kroes, Netherlands
4. Connie Hedegaard, Denmark
5. Cecilia Malmström, Sweden
6. Maria Damanaki, Greece
7. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, Ireland
8. Androulla Vassiliou, Cyprus
9. The woman commissioner of Bulgaria will be announced later.

Hey there! Europarl_NL is using Twitter

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with people through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What's happening? Join today to start receiving Europarl_NL's tweets.

On: http://twitter.com/Europarl_NL

Indian Prime Minister for greater role for women in politics

NEW DELHI: India's journey to a multi-party democracy has been marked with "stresses and strains" but it has worked, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Tuesday while making a strong case for a meaningful voice for women in political and developmental processes.

"India's own tryst with democracy drew its inspiration from our freedom struggle. And so, at a time when most developing countries opted for authoritarian models of government, India chose to be a multi-party democracy," the Prime Minister said in his address at the Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth Countries.

"This journey has not always been smooth. There have been stresses and strains. This is inevitable in a diverse and plural society that India is. Despite these often noisy political contestations, India has remained as a functioning multi-party democracy. Democracy has strengthened our polity and our institutions."

The PM also pointed out that it was imperative that women be given a more significant voice in political processes. "The representative bodies (in India) should think of ways to marshal the energy and the impatience of the young and the vast latent capabilities of our women," he said.

Hailing Meira Kumar for her "iron fist beneath a velvet voice", the PM said the task of running parliament smoothly and giving due voice to all sections had become complex and challenging.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-for-greater-role-for-women-in-politics/articleshow/5414820.cms>

Sent to us by IAW-member Anjana Basu

The Female Factor - in banking

MUMBAI — In New York and London, women remain scarce among top bankers despite decades of struggle to climb the corporate ladder. But in India's relatively young financial industry, women not only are some of the top deal makers, they are often running the show.

HSBC, JPMorgan Chase, Royal Bank of Scotland, UBS and Fidelity International in India are run by women. So is the country's second-biggest bank, Icici Bank, and its third-largest, Axis Bank.

Women head investment banking operations at Kotak Mahindra and JPMorgan Chase and the equities division of Icici.

Half of the deputy governors at the Reserve Bank of India are women.

Women in the industry, many of whom have also worked in London and New York, say India provided the right combination of supportive, mostly male, managers and a diverse work environment that did not require them to be “one of the boys” to succeed.

Almost all of them are in their 40s and 50s, are from wealthy backgrounds, went to excellent schools in India and abroad, and graduated at the top of their classes before excelling at the bank they joined. So they often enjoy the same status as the men who were their competition and their banking clients.

More on: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/28/world/asia/28iht-windia.html>

Financial crisis threatens to set back education worldwide

19 January – The global financial crisis threatens to deprive millions of children in the world’s poorest countries of an education, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, with a knock-on effect on future economic growth, poverty reduction and progress in health and other areas, according to a United Nations report.

“While rich countries nurture their economic recovery, many poor countries face the imminent prospect of education reversals,” UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ([UNESCO](#)) Director-General Irina Bokova said, noting the failure of donors to deliver on pledges. “We cannot afford to create a lost generation of children who have been deprived of their chance for an education that might lift them out of poverty.”

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33518&Cr=unesco&Cr1=>

IAW representatives at the UNESCO: Monique Bouaziz, Danielle Levy

Curbing human trafficking - South-East Asia

20 January 2010 – Officials from the six countries of South-East Asia’s Mekong region and observers from the United Nations and other stakeholders opened a two-day meeting in Myanmar to step up the war on human trafficking, including sexual slavery and labour exploitation.

“It is only through this kind of coordinated approach and solidarity of the counter-trafficking community that we can make a real difference in the lives of people who are suffering the cruel consequences of human trafficking and exploitation,” UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) regional manager Matthew Friedman told the 7th Senior Officials Meeting of the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT) in Bagan.

Seven countries

The meeting brings together ministers from China, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, along with observers from the UN, including the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking of Persons Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donors.

According to UN International Labour Organization ([ILO](#)) estimates, 9.49 million people were in forced labour in the Asia-Pacific region as of 2005, with a significant number believed to be in the Mekong region.

What has been done during 6 years

Since the signing of a memorandum of understanding six years ago, the six countries have put in place legal and cooperative frameworks to prevent human trafficking taking place, prosecute traffickers and exploitative employers and protect victims, helping them return home safely and with dignity.

The Bagan meeting will take a fresh look at regional approaches to counter trafficking, review plans and priorities, and discuss future joint actions, focusing in particular on law enforcement and the recovery and reintegration of victims.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33533&Cr=trafficking&Cr1=>

EVENTS – CONFERENCES – USEFUL LINKS - PUBLICATIONS

Commission for Social Development , 48th Session, 3 to 12 February 2010, New York
Priority Theme: "Social Integration" With a few interesting side events on aging and on disabled persons, on: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010/documents/sideevents.pdf>

A useful UN link that all IAW members should visit! On: <http://www.un.org/en/events/index.shtml>

Commission on the Status of Women

In the lead up to the 15-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by the Commission on the Status of Women, which will take place on 1-12 March 2010 at UN Headquarters in New York, NGLS (UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service) will conduct a series of interviews with policy experts, such as Norah Matovu-Winyi, Executive Director, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET).

The interview is available [online](#).

Women's Participation Publication Outline

Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG) are partnering to produce a publication assessing women's participation in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and early post conflict peace-building through the eyes of women participants themselves.

This publication seeks to provide a case study based analysis in the lead up to the 10th anniversary of 1325 in October 2010. *More in the next IAW newsletter.*

CEDAW reports of Botswana, Egypt, Malawi, Netherlands, Panama, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan are to be found on <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws45.htm>

CEDAW: designed to be used

The [Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women](#) (CEDAW) has just turned 30. After a CEDAW conference in the UK, organised by Womankind Worldwide and One World Action, a report will be published with full recommendations. Like CEDAW linked with the [Millennium Development Goals](#), the [Beijing Platform for Action](#), and other human rights instruments. The report will be available in February 2010. *More in the next IAW newsletter.*

IGO/NGO publisher workshops, Geneva, May 2010

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) is the international trade association for not-for-profit publishers and those who work with them. A course will be tailored specifically to an IGO/NGO audience. On: http://www.alpsp.org/ngen_public/default.asp
Sent to us by IAW-member Jessica Kehl.

High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development

16-17 March 2010, UN Headquarters, New York. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 64/194, the fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development will take place on 16 and 17 March 2010 at United Nations Headquarters (re-scheduled from original dates of 23-24 November 2009).

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>
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