

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

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

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

IAW NEWSLETTER June 2010, no. 5



Equal Rights

Dear members,

The outcry against maternal mortality when prevention is so near at hand, is getting stronger and stronger worldwide. It certainly will be an important topic during the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals – 20 -22 September 2010. Preparation of the Summit by IAW is in full swing. Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica has been appointed to combat climate change, as the new Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. We wish her a lot of strength in handling this important job!

IAW is preparing for Congress in South Africa, with Violence against Women and female participation in Peace Building as central items. Please check if you have received all Congress papers. Several IAW members mailed us news of their activities, like Joanna Manganara (EU): Irini Sarlis (New York), Soon-Young Yoon (writing us from Tokyo); Helene Sackstein (HRC), and as always: Anjana Basu from India. Thank you all!

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Editor's note

Maybe you missed the IAW May Newsletter? Well, it was not sent, due to a visit to the hospital, which ended in an unexpected removal of my appendix. There was a lot of May news though. We thank all of you most kindly who have been sending news in the meantime. Heartfelt thanks also to Priscilla Todd and Pat Richardson, who jumped in from 'Down Under' in Australia to help. In this June newsletter we will try to catch up with actuality.

Invitation to all IAW Members to attend the 35th IAW Congress in Johannesburg South Africa 23-37 November

Congress papers have been mailed inviting all IAW members to Congress. Are you an IAW member and did you receive the papers? We were notified by some of you that something may have gone wrong electronically.

Please be so kind to check if you have received all papers. They have been mailed in several batches, in English and French. If you missed some papers and would like to have them, please mail IAW Secretary Lene Pind at <iawsec@womenalliance.org>.

1. The President's invitation
2. The preliminary programme
3. Registration form
4. Info on accommodation and how to book your room
5. Delegates form
6. Nomination form
7. Info of eligibility of present board members
8. IAW reports cover letter
9. Reports format
10. Deadlines - when to do what

Inviting host Mmabatho Ramagoshi writes: 'We have been getting requests from different people who would like to go on a safari near Sun City and surrounding areas. We have send a request to different Tour Operators to give us quotations for tours in Gauteng and North West and as soon as we get that we will send the prices to you all'.

From the IAW New York Team, the Rio+20 PrepCom

Irini Sarlis writes from another statement of the NGO CSW sub-committee: 'The Women's Major Group closing statement has had several comments, by NGOs staying on for the Rio+20 PrepCom.' *More on:* <http://wecf.eu/english/articles/2010/06/rio-womensstatement.php>

Irini wrote also: 'The Secretary General has appointed a Costa Rican woman to head the UNFCCC. Let's hope that she adds a strong voice for the other half's perspective on the issue'.

See also in this newsletter the chapter: United Nations.

Human Rights Council

May 14th – Statement of the IAW at the Human Rights Council on: "Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development". Achieving MDG 5 is both feasible and cost-effective with a human rights approach ... More on the IAW website on: <http://www.womenalliance.org/issues.html>

IAW representative at the HRC: Hélène Sackstein

WHO Report on Gender, Women and Tobacco

IAW's Soon-Young Yoon says: "Greetings from Tokyo where we will launch the WHO report on Gender, Women, and Tobacco. With a peaceful March on May the 31st against Tobacco. You may have seen something on PBS on Sunday or Monday about World No Tobacco Day. CNN is also airing something internationally.

Attached is an amusing poster the young Japanese doctors have created. Our banner looks great and the National Cancer Institute has requested to hang it during the Symposium on Monday."

Download a copy of the poster on: <http://www.womenalliance.org/pdf/smokefree.pdf>

European Women's Lobby

by IAW regional co-ordinator for Europe, Joanna Manganara

EWL Contributions on Violence Against Women in Europe

A document for an EU strategy on the eradication of all forms of male violence against women in Europe has been delivered to EU Commissioner Reding and to the Cabinet of Ms. Milquet (Belgium minister for equality, in light of the Belgium Presidency of the EU), as well as disseminated to key MEPs (Members of the European Parliament).

Please feel free to use it for your national advocacy work.

This document comprises both our contribution and a briefing on the European Protection Order (EPO). If you would like to use it, don't hesitate to use only the first two pages (which is the EWL contribution). The EPO is currently being discussed in the EP by the FEMM and LIBE committees.

More on: <http://www.epacvaw.org/spip.php?article548>

EU GEAR Campaign website at www.un-gear.eu/news_events

Joanna Manganara writes: 'For all the latest news about the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations concerning the creation of the new United Nations agency for women's rights.

You can also subscribe to a new email list that the GEAR Campaign is creating in order to keep you better informed about the process of creating the new UN women's agency, as well as activities of the Campaign. Confirm by visiting the link below:

<http://www.aweber.com/z/c/?jycxsy03b2hn2hn2hnbmhnao5ralj0xva23clr8927>

A date to be remembered for migrant women's rights in Europe!

18th June – Three and a half years after the EWL seminar 'Equal Rights. Equal Voices. Migrant women in the European Union', migrant women's organisations are meeting again in Brussels on 18 June 2010 to officially launch the European Network of Migrant women.

UNITED NATIONS

UN names Costa Rican as new climate change chief

17 May 2010 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today [appointed](#) Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica to lead United Nations efforts to combat climate change.

She will take the reins of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from Yvo de Boer, who announced that he was stepping down to pursue new opportunities to advance progress on the issue in the private sector and academia.

“Ms. Figueres is an international leader on strategies to address global climate change and brings to this position a passion for the issue, deep knowledge of the stakeholders and valuable hands-on experience with the public sector, non-profit sector and private sector,” Mr. Ban’s spokesperson, Martin Nesirky, said in announcing the decision. She has been involved in climate change negotiations since 1995, serving as a negotiator for both the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

Protecting the climate of our planet for our children and grandchildren

“There is no task that is more urgent, more compelling or more sacred than that of protecting the climate of our planet for our children and grandchildren,” she said, upon hearing that she was appointed as the new Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC.

The news comes five months after the Copenhagen Accord was reached at last December’s UN conference in the Danish capital.

Copenhagen

That non-binding pact aims to jump-start immediate action on climate change and guide negotiations on long-term action, pledging to raise \$100 billion annually by 2020. It also includes an agreement to working towards curbing global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius and efforts to reduce or limit emissions. The next round of high-level global talks on climate change will be held later this year in Cancun, Mexico.

With 194 Parties, UNFCCC has near universal membership and is the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which has been ratified by 190 of the UNFCCC parties. Under the Protocol, 37 States, consisting of highly industrialized countries and countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, have legally binding emission limitation and reduction commitments.

More on: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sga1240.doc.htm>

United Nations Population Award Ceremony Honours

Bill and Melinda Gates

Bill and Melinda Gates were chosen for their contributions to the education and health of people in need around the world. They have had a spectacular impact on child survival and health, and in creating opportunities for millions. They have stirred the minds and hearts of others in positions of power to invest and support new ways to help the poor and vulnerable.

And they have demonstrated an exemplary humility about their life-changing contributions.

The tens of billions of dollars in endowments, grants and commitments grab the headlines. But the reach of the Gates Foundation is even more remarkable. It supports grantees in every American state and the District of Columbia, and finances activities in more than 100 countries.

It is the largest privately-operated foundation in the world.

Remarkable is the Gates' leadership on reproductive health, family planning and maternal and newborn health. It is simply shameful that hundreds of thousands of women die in childbirth every year, from causes that are entirely preventable.

Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development.

This year's second laureate, The Asian Forum on Population and Development, is globally recognized as a pioneer in the field of parliamentary action on population matters. It launched the concept of National Parliamentary Committees on Population and Development, which have become the worldwide model.

It was instrumental in the creation of the Regional Parliamentarians Forum in Africa and Europe.

It has successfully pushed for the introduction of legislation on the elimination of violence against women and on the full spectrum of population issues, including AIDS, reproductive health, family planning, ageing, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The Forum has also promoted dialogue between young people and parliamentarians.

See also: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34029&Cr=population&Cr1>

Summit on the Millennium Development Goals – 20-22 September 2010

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 in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to accelerate progress towards the MDGs.

Visit the Summit website at <http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/>

Ban urges end to "scandal" of pregnancy-related deaths

A three-day conference (7-9 June 2010) in the United States capital of Washington is the largest-ever gathering on maternal health, drawing 3,500 participants from 140 countries, according to organizers.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for concerted efforts to end what he described as the "scandal" of women dying in childbirth. "Some simple blood tests, consultation with a doctor and qualified help at the birth itself can make a huge difference," Mr. Ban [said](#) in an address to an international conference in Washington aimed at finding solutions to problems affecting women and girls worldwide. Learn more about the Secretary-General's Forum on Women and Children's Health [here](#).
[on: http://www.un.org/sg/healthforum.shtml](http://www.un.org/sg/healthforum.shtml).

The Secretary-General also [addressed](#) the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, a group of more than 220 members dedicated to maintaining the fight against the diseases a global priority.

Women and Power

The Secretary-General's trip to Washington coincides with a related visit by Helen Clark, the Administrator of the UN Development Programme ([UNDP](#)).

She took part in a live webcast today in Washington on "Women and Power," along with actress and humanitarian Ashley Judd, former Chilean president Michelle Bachelet, and US President Barack Obama's Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett.

Ms Clark spoke about how highly successful women change makers have dealt with their power – getting it, keeping it and using it wisely.

More on: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=34938&Cr=maternal&Cr1=>

India lags in mom, child mortality fight

At the beginning of this millennium in year 2000, 189 countries and 23 international health agencies had pledged to reduce child under-5 mortality by two-thirds and maternal mortality by three-fourths by 2015. These were called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) number 4 and 5. With only five years left for the target year, a clutch of international health agencies and NGOs have come out with "Countdown to 2015 — Decade Report (2000-2010)".

The report, which tracks progress made on these fronts, says that out of 68 priority (countdown) countries accounting for more than 90% of maternal and child deaths worldwide, only 19 countries were on track to meet MDG 4; 17 countries had reduced child mortality by half, while 47 countries had accelerated their progress on child mortality since 2000.

Brazil, China, Mexico, Peru, Nepal, Egypt, Malawi, and Turkmenistan on track

At the same time, 49 countries are not on track to achieve MDG 4, while 12 countries (including some currently on track) have seen their progress slow since 2000. But reduction of maternal mortality (MDG 5) is showing fewer signs of progress, according to the report.

Brazil and China are among the 19 countries that have averaged a rate of 4.4% reduction in under-5 child mortality since 1990, needed to meet the target in 2015. Brazil has made progress through reducing socioeconomic inequities and improving primary coverage to almost universal levels.

China's successful reduction of newborn and child mortality during the past two decades is a result of steady investments in reproductive health, primary care, and economic development. Other countries on track include Mexico, Peru, Nepal, Egypt, Malawi, and Turkmenistan.

India insufficient, like Pakistan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Iraq, Ghana

India's rate of under-5 mortality fell from 169 in 1990 to 69 in 2008, averaging an annual rate of decline of just 2.9%. This puts India firmly in the insufficient progress category. During the first decade of 1990 to 2000, infant mortality declined by just 2.1% annually in India, but it increased to 3.9% annual decrease between 2000 and 2008. Other countries in this category include Pakistan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Iraq, Ghana and several other African countries.

A handful of countries have shown an increase in infant mortality rates over the period. These include Chad, Congo, Kenya, Zimbabwe and surprisingly, South Africa.

The report is pessimistic about reduction in maternal mortality saying that although coverage of skilled-delivery care increased in 12 countries, others had little or no improvement.

According to lead authors — Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta of Aga Khan University in Pakistan and Dr Mickey Chopra, UNICEF, New York, USA — coverage of interventions delivered directly in the community on scheduled occasions was higher than for interventions relying on functional health systems. Examples of such community interventions include vitamin A supplementation; vaccination against tetanus, whooping cough and diphtheria, and complementary feeding.

Services continue to be the major obstacles

Services such as skilled attendant at birth, postnatal visits, antibiotic treatment continue to be the major

obstacles to progress. Latest estimates from 2008 show that only 22% of the 68 countries met the WHO standard of 23 physicians, nurses, and midwives per 10,000 people needed to deliver essential health services.

More on: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-lags-in-mom-child-mortality-fight/articleshow/6018256.cms>

Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

Former Swiss leader elected as next President of General Assembly

11 June 2010 - A former leader of Switzerland who was instrumental in his country joining the United Nations eight years ago was today chosen by the world body's 192 Member States to serve as the next President of the General Assembly.

Joseph Deiss, 64, who was elected this morning by acclamation, will succeed Ali Treki when he takes over the presidency in mid-September as the General Assembly's 65th session begins.

ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Whaling, endangered species

The 88 members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) will gather in Agadir, Morocco, to vote on a new proposal put forward by the IWC Chair that would allow commercial whaling in the Southern Ocean for the first time in almost 25 years.

At the summit, which takes place on June 21-25, the IWC Chair has proposed commercial whaling quotas for whale species listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as endangered. The proposal is an attempt to make a deal that will break the deadlock between pro-whaling and pro-conservation nations and reduce the number of whales killed each year.

More on: <http://iwcoffice.org/meetings/meeting2010.htm>

Small Arms – a systematic gender-inclusive approach

The IANSA Women's Network attending the Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms (BMS) issued a statement urging States to take a systematic gender-inclusive approach in the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons In All Its Aspects (PoA).

Please circulate this statement to your contacts including national government officials who are likely to be responding to their National Delegation to the UN on the Outcome Document of the conference (which will be finalized on Friday 17 June 2010).

The statement is online at: IANSA Women's Network Statement to the 4th BMS

http://www.iansa-women.org/sites/default/files/WN_BMS_2010_statement_final.pdf

Sent to us by IAW President Rosy Weiss

Women hold UN events to chart progress on female participation in peacebuilding

11 June 2010 – Women in countries affected by past or ongoing conflict concluded a week of events organized by the United Nations to explore ways of strengthening women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The "Global Open Days for Women and Peace," organized by several UN agencies and departments, were intended to raise awareness and take stock of progress made since the Security Council passed a landmark resolution 10 years ago that put women's experiences of conflict on the international peace and security agenda.

Recommendations made during the Open Days will be forwarded to the Security Council ahead of its October meeting, which will review implementation of the resolution.

Countries where open Open Day events have been held include Liberia, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Nepal, Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In the coming weeks Open Days will be held in Afghanistan, Haiti, Pakistan, Iraq, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Burundi, among others. UNIFEM cited studies that indicated that in 24 peace processes over the past two decades, women formed less than 8 percent of negotiating teams. There is also a lack of funding for women's needs in post-conflict recovery plans, according to UNIFEM, as well as high levels of sexual violence in conflicts.

See also: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35004&Cr=unifem&Cr1=>

EVENTS – CONFERENCES – LINKS

UN Television Debates – Face to Face

The [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (DESA) is launching the first of a series of television debates, “Face to Face”. On 30 June 2010, DESA, the [United Nations Population Fund](#) (UNFPA) and the [United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO) will gather experts at United Nations Headquarters in New York to discuss the theme, “Women’s empowerment, development cooperation and culture”. Please [participate](#) and [ask your questions](#).

Economic Crisis – the Turning Point for Women

The aim of this conference is to produce information and recommendations on actions which will enhance Gender Equity as the turning point for Economic Development in the world.

Venue: Industrieële Groote Club, Damsquare 27, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 8th - 9th of July 2010
Information about the conference is available at itw@euronet.nl or elsjedijkgraaff_itw@yahoo.es."

Conference "Gender, Peace and Security", 9 - 10 July 2010

International Conference in Munich on the UN Res 1325 (2000).

There will be another from 28.-30 of October in Berlin from the German Alliance for the 1325! Please, save the date already!

Mailed to us by IAW member Marion Boeker.

63rd Annual UN DPI/NGI Conference – Melbourne, Australia, 30 August-1 September 2010 **“Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs”- www.undpingoconference.org**

ECOSOC – Substantive Session 2010

The 54 members of ECOSOC will gather in New York for the Substantive Session from June 28 till July 13. See <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/substantivesession/> for the segments and documentation.

UN Refugee Agency - World Refugee Day June 20

Annual figures released by the UN Refugee Agency show that some 43.3 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide at the end of 2009. On: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4bf4f2616.html>

Pakistan – Women Refugees

More than 2 million people, according to local authorities, have been forced from their homes following Pakistani efforts to drive militants out of the region around Pakistan's Swat Valley.

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.

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