



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS

## NOUVELLES FEMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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## Commission on the Status of Women 59

### 9 - 20 March 2015

#### IAW Delegation

IAW President Joanna Manganara will lead a full delegation to CSW comprising Margunn Bjørnholt, Monique Bouaziz, Renée Gérard, Judy Gordon, Nathalia Kostus, Lene Pind, Danielle Levy, Ursula Nakamura, Mapule Ncanywa, Mmabatho Ramagoshi, Susanne Riveles, Danielle Safarti, Jocelynne Scutt, Torild Skard, Esther Suter, Zainab Syed, Signe Vahlun, Rosy Weiss, Soon-Young Yoon.

Other members and friends attending include: Anje Wiersinga, Irini Sarlis, Lyna Castillo-Javier, Johanna Sterbin, Olufunmi Oluyede, Norma J Lozano, Veena Kohli.

#### Themes

The main focus of the session will be on the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), including current challenges that affect its implementation and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Commission will undertake a review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 20 years after its adoption at the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) in 1995. The review ([Beijing+20](#)) will also include the outcomes of the [23rd special session of the General Assembly](#), the first five-year assessment conducted after the adoption of the Platform for Action, which highlighted further actions and initiatives.

The session will also address opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda.

# Commission on the Status of Women 59<sup>th</sup> Session

## 2030 is too long to wait for the full implementation of BPfA

### Let us act now!

by Joanna Manganara

#### 2015 is a very important year for women's human rights

2015 is a very important year for women's human rights. The international community will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the outcome of the 23<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly entitled: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Commission on the Status of Women of the UN will be undertaking the review of progress and obstacles concerning the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action since 1995.

This is a very significant review in a year in which governments through the UN will be adopting the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

#### Political Declaration on Day 1 instead of Agreed Conclusions at end of Session

Women's NGOs and civil society organizations are experiencing a lot of frustration as the CSW is not going to adopt as usual Agreed Conclusions at the end of the session but instead there will be a Political Declaration adopted on the first day of the session.

The reason given is because high level people such as Presidents, Heads of State, etc. will be present on Day 1 and commitments and a reaffirmation of the BPfA will be on the agenda. Ministers can go home and say that they adopted the Declaration. Women's groups and networks therefore will not have real quality space and opportunity to contribute to the discussions, to inform the Political Declaration and to bring forward all the extraordinary issues that came out of their regional reviews. Any negotiations must be done before March 9 and on the national level.

The President of NGO/CSW, Geneva Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, sent a letter to the CSW Bureau on the timing of the Adoption of the Declaration, stating that the time is very short for communities to review, consult and send in their recommendation. Further, this simply limits participation to those civil society and women's networks that have access to internet or other modern forms of communication. This therefore would result in an exclusionary and elitist process that does not take into account the fundamental inequalities that exist in relation to access to information. IAW has submitted amendments to reinforce the language of women's human rights in the text of the Declaration.

The timing of the Adoption of the Declaration is an expression of the backlash on women's human rights. It also shows that civil society, and in particular women's organizations, lack decision making power and cannot

influence a process that is geared to the amelioration of their lives.

Civil society is experiencing direct and indirect efforts to limit its influence by different conservative and populist forces that are questioning the principle of equality and gender.

The world has changed dramatically since the Beijing Conference. The growing dominance of finance in the economy and in people's lives has deepened existing inequalities between countries and within countries and between men and women. In this changing context in which patriarchy still persists and legitimises women's inferiority and the violation of women's human rights, women have been disproportionately negatively impacted.

Since 1995 no other World Conference has taken place because Governments are against this due to economic reasons. Some of them are not in favour of women's human rights. NGOs are also against because they are afraid that the Beijing text would be re-opened and at the end of the day they would find themselves with much less than what has already been achieved.

What has been adopted since 2005 are renewals of commitments of Governments to the Beijing Platform for Action. This is not enough. But 2015 is even worse. The Declaration is a rather watered down text. Although the text will be negotiated until the end of February, I'm not very optimistic about the end result. Moreover women's organizations seem very discouraged. I am quoting what some of them are saying:

- *What is alarming is to re-read the Beijing Platform for Action and note the areas we have actually gone backwards.*

- *When I read the draft Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, I was alarmed to see the following in point 8: "to fully realize gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls by 2030". That's 35 years after the 4th World Conference on Women. This is two generations later. An unacceptable timeline for realizing this goal.*

- *Those women and children who remain in crushing poverty, slavery, violence and in the horrors of war, cannot wait another year, another day, indeed a minute as their very survival is at hand and their human rights diminished by the absurdity of forwarding a deadline of 2030. Setting a goal of 2030 in and of itself is a form of oppression and adherence to gender based inequality.*

# CSW 59

by Joanna Manganara continued

## NGOs want decision making power

Another important issue that has to do with the limited engagement and participation of women's NGOs in the work of the CSW is the working methods of the CSW. NGOs do not want only dialogue and a chance to have inputs although they are grateful for chances to send written statements, oral statements and meeting with governments. They want to have decision making power as well.

## Review of CSW working methods

The Commission on the Status of Women will be reviewing its working methods in its forthcoming 59th Session. The ways for enhancing the impact of its work were recently reviewed in a report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/2014/14). It is expected that a Resolution on the working methods of the CSW will be adopted at the CSW 59 by the Commission. The text of the working methods will be negotiated until the end of February.

UN Women is keen that the Commission's consideration of its working methods are informed by the views of civil society. UN Women has invited civil society to develop key wants/needs and to respond to the document. UN Women has charged NGO CSW/NY with coordinating that document.

The Chair of NGO/CSW NY, Soon-Young Yoon, has written to the Chair of the Bureau of the CSW seeking more participation by NGOs in the Commission's work. Soon Young is requesting:

- that NGOs be allowed to be observers during the negotiations on the outcome document - whether this be the Agreed Conclusion Declaration or Working Methods document - throughout the process
- that the NGO/CSW committees will take responsibility to select at least two observers from each region based on regional caucuses to attend negotiations.

IAW has elaborated a position paper on the working methods of the CSW putting emphasis on the catalytic role that NGOs could play in monitoring the Commission's Agreed Conclusions at the national level. NGOs can play an important role in holding national and international leaders accountable for commitments made and results achieved. Civil society should be given access to negotiations to enhance its contribution to the work of the Commission.

IAW is in favour of a resolution as the format to be adopted on the outcome of the negotiations on thematic issues. From an IAW point of view it would be better not to work by consensus because the Agreed Conclusions are necessarily watered down in the process. A resolution would be more action oriented and its format would give an incentive to implement it.

A number of other interesting ideas have been put forward by members of the North America-Europe Caucus like exemplifying experiences from other UN processes:

- The Human Rights Council has an Advisory Board of NGOs formed of independent experts, academics, grassroots representatives etc. Such a body could help us with the monitoring of the implementation of the outcomes of CSW sessions.
- In the conference of the Parties negotiations around Climate Change in Lima and many treaty processes, NGOs are reserved two places at each plenary session to speak.

## The Way Forward

A Task Force could be created that would work directly on the better functioning of the CSW and prepare an institution building package among others.

It is at the national level that women's organizations and other networks should be bring forward their redlines both for the Declaration and the working methods of the CSW.

The way forward is a long one. We should strive to bring changes in the CSW working methods that give decision making power to women's NGOs in particular access to negotiations over the outcomes of the CSW. These changes will enable them to play a catalytic role concerning the monitoring of the accountability of governments regarding the implementation of the BPfA at the national level.

The women's movement should try to create a global partnership committed to a global enabling macroeconomic environment and to promoting and protecting women's human rights through the full implementation of human rights instruments, especially CEDAW.

The women's movement should strive for the acknowledgement of the above two priorities as essential structural components of the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

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*Joanna Manganara is the President of the International Alliance of Women, and a former Minister-Counselor for human rights at the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*

## IAW Side Events - CSW 59

### “Lessons Learnt from Women Presidents and Prime Ministers Worldwide”

**Senior Researcher Torild Skard, IAW, Norway** presents her new book “*Women of power – half a century of female presidents and prime ministers worldwide*” (Bristol: Policy Press).

The findings of the book and policies to increase the number of women in the top leadership worldwide will be discussed by -

**Helen Clark**, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) (tbc)

**Mona Lena Krook**, Associate Professor at Rutgers University, New Jersey, US,

**Portia Simpson-Miller**, Prime Minister of Jamaica (tbc)

**Moderator: Joanna Manganara, President, IAW**

### DEEDS - NO WORDS Implementing CEDAW & UN Security Council Resolution 1325

#### Women – Peace – Security

**Keynote speaker: Professor Marilou McPhedran, Director, Institute for International Women's Rights, Winnipeg Canada**

**Legal Framework CEDAW and UN SC Resolution 1325**



#### Discussants:

**Mavic Cabrera Balleza**, Philippines  
Global Coordinator of Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

*Sexual and Gender-based Violence as a weapon of war*  
**Hibaaq Osman**, CEO El-Karama, Cairo Egypt  
*Women as agents in conflict prevention, conflict resolution peace building and reconstruction of societies*

**Eva Nagy**, Norway, International Institute for Peace Education (tbc)

*Educating for conflict prevention and resolution*

**Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni**, Deputy Secretary General Council of Europe (tbc) *Council of Europe / EU South Programme*

**Moderator: Rosy Weiss, Hon. President of IAW**  
**Co-chairs: Joanna Manganara, President IAW and Hibaaq Osman, Founder and CEO El-Karama**  
**Co-sponsor: El- Karama, Cairo**

### “Why the future of economics and economic development must be feminist”

#### Objective

This side-event will gather a panel of feminist economists to reflect on how can insights from feminist economics inform policies and contribute to the realization of women's social and economic rights.

#### Background/motivation

The distribution of resources remains gendered and processes of change, including economic crises, neoliberal reforms, welfare state retrenchment and globalization, have huge gendered impacts.

Today feminist economics has become an academic field of its own, which is an important source of theory, methods, tools and empirical evidence, necessary for policies and models to assure ending the economic discrimination against women.

#### Speakers:

**Edith Kuiper**, Economics Department & Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

State University of New York at New Paltz

*Women and Gender are Core to the Field*

**Marilyn Power**, Sarah Lawrence College

*Social Provisioning as a starting point for Feminist Economics*

**Jennifer Olmsted**, Dept of Economics and Director of Middle East studies, Drew University, Madison, NJ, USA

*Challenging the Humanitarian/Development Divide through a Feminist Economics Lens*

**Tulay Atay Avsar-Ana**, Anadolu University, Turkey

*Title: To be confirmed*

**Margunn Bjørnholt**, Policy and Social Research

*New advances, new policies: theory, activism and policy making.*



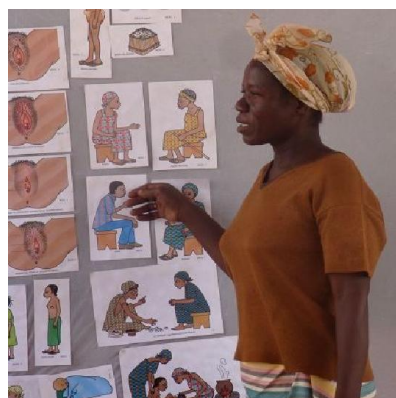
## IS CULTURAL CHANGE “JUST AROUND THE CORNER”?

from Gudrun Haupter, Deutscher Frauenring e.V.  
Coordinator of the PROJECT COMMITTEE for West Africa

My organization, Deutscher Frauenring, co-operated as early as 1990 with women's associations in Burkina Faso specialising in the promotion of eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). We financed campaigns by journalists who – in 7 national (vernacular) languages – broadcast results of debates on the issue collected during village meetings from the local populations in five provinces. Since 2010 we have had a collaborative project with a German partner organisation in North-Western Burkina Faso.

Qualifications of our local partner organisation Association Féminine Songmanegre pour le Développement include:

A) Thorough knowledge of a tool adapted to FGM, developed by GRAAP (Groupe de recherche et d'appui pour l'autopromotion des populations rurales) and applied in West Africa to educate farmers.



*Working with the GRAAP tool*

The tool uses traditional methods, such as meetings under the palaver tree, to raise the attention of crowds, and to obtain desired results. It particularly suits illiterate audiences (in Burkina Faso even young women aged 15 to 25 years are only 33

percent literate).

B) Acquaintance with best practices in fighting FGM established by the German Technical Cooperation in close contact with local experts, e.g. training secondary level students of both sexes to become multipliers and spread the word; winning over traditional, religious and administrative authorities as agents of change.

C) Awareness of how to found and coach, with the help of special social workers, “Clubs d'Écoute”. The concept originally promoted bringing people together to listen to the radio. In our project, village women gather several times a week. They are encouraged for example to assert themselves in the paternalistic environment, as a group and as individuals; to keep contact with excisors – women suspected of “cutting the girls”; to have gainful activities on the basis of micro-credits. The annual celebrations of 8 March, when Clubs from several villages join forces, are definitely a highlight. In 2013 our intern was present at the impressive event.

D) Training to write project applications, deal with accounting and with reporting after a campaign and, last not least, to communicate with financial partners.

Tables designed by our German partner to keep track of the extent of activities we fund are a very helpful tool. They enable us to quantify success and to learn which villages need further activities to win over the whole population of the department of Kongoussi, Province BAM. Transparency of the activities became a must when in 2013 a family planning component had been added to our project addressing Clubs d'Écoute and students in secondary school. Accessing the services is an unresolved problem. Women in the project villages still have 6 children or more. Pregnant girls are frequently thrown out of the family home – one more field of action for our partners.

The organisation also helps women and girls who suffer from the consequences of FGM to get relief by surgery available in the district hospital. Help means financial and moral support.

The skills and dedication of our partners are but one side of the medal. The other is: all these activities have to be funded, including transportation and organisational costs, maintenance of vehicles, staff wages as well as small allowances to “agents of change” and material required for the work to be done, etc.

Our German partner and we, the *Project Committee of Deutscher Frauenring*, pool donated money, to go on with this successful project.

*With the AFD we say NO to Excision*

Currently at least 8 villages are deemed ready to declare in a public ceremony “This village says no to excision”.

The end of the very old tradition is symbolised by the excisors' putting down their knives and by the village chiefs holding up road signs with the inscription, to be put up at the village entrance.



The existing comprehensive and unconditional international ban is not without being challenged, for example, by all those who practice FGM in hygienic conditions and with anesthesia; by individual “activists” who enlist support for requests to allow exceptions; by governments of countries of prevalence who fail to legally ban FGM and implement punishing perpetrators.

## **WANTED: 600 MILLION JOBS - UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

***Most people joining the global workforce today will only have a few years of school with limited skills to make a living. Most will toil from dawn to dusk in harsh conditions, usually in agriculture or demanding physical labour, earning less than \$1.25 per day. Some of the lucky ones with university degrees will take a job that undervalues them. This is a reality that ECOSOC and the ILO wish to change.***

Nearly 839 million workers in developing countries, 27 percent of global employment, are unable to earn enough to lift themselves and their families above the poverty threshold. There are 75 million unemployed young people today and those who are employed earn less than the living wage. Unemployment and underemployment are a major issue in many countries, regardless of their level of development. On top of all this, many of the world's workplaces leave big carbon footprints.

In order to generate 45 million new jobs each year for new entrants to the labour market, and provide jobs for those who have lost theirs due to the impact of the financial and economic crises, the world must create 600 million jobs over the next decade.

Will these be decent jobs with fair remuneration, good working conditions and respect for their rights at work? Will these jobs take into account the impact on the environment of their activities? Or will they create greater income inequalities leaving many behind? Or will they continue to pollute the environment that will increase water- and airborne illnesses, destroying arable land and increasing the acidification of the oceans which support life on earth?

### **Creating decent work opportunities**

**With much at stake, the theme for the 2015 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration segment will focus on, "Achieving sustainable development through employment creation and decent work for all."**

This session, starting on 30 March 2015, will provide an opportunity for Member States, civil society, trade unions, the private sector, academia and other key actors to discuss and elaborate upon how employment creation and decent work for all could help promote the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Participants will include Heads of State and Government, Ministers, ILO's tripartite constituency, local governments, the UN system, foundations, NGOs, academia and the private sector.

In order to optimize the opportunities for an integrated and constructive discussion, the conference will stage roundtable sessions, where representatives from diverse sectors are asked to focus on ways to promote policy convergence based on country experiences, good practices and lessons learned.

ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik says ECOSOC is the central hub for engaging global actors and for mobilizing action.

### **Jobs for climate smart future**

We are now at a tipping point in how we use the earth's resources and build a more sustainable future, an important focus throughout the event. Participants will discuss the types of jobs that are needed to provide solutions to climate change and which policies are required for effective implementation. They will examine which investments could generate the

greatest job potential while maintaining environmental sustainability.

Informal economy will be discussed on the session's first day. This term refers to the very large proportion of people in developing countries who work without a formal contract. Poor employment conditions are often characterized by compulsory overtime or extra shifts without pay, "at-will" employment contracts, unsafe working conditions and the absence of social benefits such as pensions, paid sick leave, maternity leave and health insurance.

Unemployment and informal employment remains a particular concern in Africa, particularly among young people. The continent will therefore, be in the spotlight on the second day of the meeting, where participants aim to find an answer to the question: How can sustained economic growth be translated into decent work in African countries?

### **Taking the high road to growth**

Seeing that economic growth is essential in many parts of the world, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been advocating that Member States support decent work which includes respect for international labour standards, a voice at work, well-functioning labour management relations and sharing fairly in the profits that they have helped generate.

Participants will, on the second day of the integration segment, discuss how the normative framework set out by the ILO Conventions, especially the eight fundamental Conventions, to help reduce human exploitation and encourage innovation and higher level of productivity.

### **Creating 600 million jobs in a decade is a real challenge, making them green and decent is probably an even greater challenge**

When Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon hosted the Climate Summit in September 2014, he expressed confidence in the task at hand. "Solutions exist and we are already seeing significant changes in government policies and investments in sustainable ways of living and doing business," Mr. Ban said. "The race is on, and now is the time for leaders to step up and steer the world towards a safer future."

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder expressed faith in the creation of a well-functioning labour market, and has urged a "process of social dialogue which embodies the basic democratic principle that people affected by decisions should have a voice in constantly renewing the social contract that is so vital to sustainable development".

The ECOSOC Integration segment will result in policy recommendations for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development through the creation of new jobs and promotion of decent work. These will then be considered at the ECOSOC High-Level Segment and High-Level Political Forum that is scheduled to take place in July 2015.

Source: DESA News

## Women around the World

### Mayor of Baghdad

Dr Zekra Alwach is the first woman in Iraqi history to be appointed Mayor of Baghdad and the only woman to hold such a post out of 22 Arab League nations.



Dr Alwach holds a PhD in civil engineering and works as Director General of Iraq's Ministry of Higher Education, the government agency responsible for higher education and scientific research.

Source: [www.wunrn.com](http://www.wunrn.com) - AFP, Baghdad 21/2/2015

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### Israel - "Modest" clothing threats

Campaigners against gender segregation in an ultra-orthodox Jewish community persuaded a court to rule against signs demanding that women wear "modest" clothing in public. Damages of 15,000 shekels were awarded to each of the four women after the local authority in the city of Beit Shemesh refused to remove the signs on the grounds that this might prompt violence. The judge found that the signs violated the women's civil rights. He ruled that the "hurtful, degrading and discriminatory" signs "delivered a mortal blow to the rights of women in the city".

Similar signs have appeared on walls in ultra-orthodox neighbourhoods of Jerusalem, requiring loose clothing and specifying the length of sleeves and height of neckline. A series of bus ads in Jerusalem attracted controversy for claiming "short clothing = shortened life"!

Source: [www.wunrn.com](http://www.wunrn.com) - The Guardian 29/1/2015

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### Civil Marriage difficult in Lebanon

Activists in Lebanon want obstacles to civil marriage contracts removed. The vast majority of marriages in Lebanon go through religious courts and it is difficult for civil unions to be enacted or mixed religion marriages to be validated. If a couple does not belong to a religious group, their marriage can be legally treated as a civil issue although apparently this doesn't often happen. Currently Cyprus is a choice of destination for Lebanese couples who want to obtain a civil marriage.

### Nepal - Changing Attitudes on Child Marriage

Bajura is located in the Far-Western Region of Nepal, with some of the country's most remote and developmentally challenged villages; incomes are low and child marriages are correspondingly high.

Changing attitudes here is not easy, but that hasn't stopped girls like 16-year-old Rashmi Hamal, president of the Jyalpa Child Club in the remote Badi Mallika Municipality, from trying. Her club rescued a 14 year old girl in Bajura from her marriage shortly after she ran away from home. "We are not afraid anymore because a majority of our community members now want to fight against child marriages," Hamal says.



Rashmi is one of 10 girls who came together in 2014 with the help of PeaceWin and a youth-led agency Restless Development, with support from UNICEF, to strategise on how best to stem the practice of child marriage once and for all.

South Asia is home to an estimated 42 percent of the world's child brides, with Nepal ranked third – behind Bangladesh and India – according to a study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Nepal's National Women's Commission believes economic, social and religious factors all play a role. In the country's southern Tarai belt, for instance, continuation of the dowry system keeps the practice of child marriage alive. The younger the girl, the less her parents are expected to pay the groom, forcing many to part with their daughters at an ever younger age. Others simply choose to marry off their daughters so they have one less mouth to feed.

Source: IPS News 4/3/2015

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### GENDER EQUALITY MUST BE MAINSTREAMED INTO THE PROJECTED SDGs

SANTIAGO, March 3 2015 (IPS) - **Women leaders from every continent**, brought together by UN Women and the Chilean government, **demand that gender equality be mainstreamed into the 17 projected Sustainable Development Goals to prevent the progress from being slow and uneven**, as it has been in the last 20 years in the case of the Beijing Platform for Action agreed at the Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1995. **Only that way, they say, can the enormous inequality gap that still affects women and children around the world be closed.**

## **A forward looking approach to the Beijing Platform for Action IAW Statement to the Commission on the Status of Women 59**

The International Alliance of Women is of the view that Beijing+20 is taking place at a historic moment when major international efforts to advance human development and human rights converge.

This review of the Beijing Platform for Action is important because it will inform the Post 2015 Development Agenda process.

Trends will be identified at the regional level as well as obstacles and progress in its implementation. It will also strengthen the case for transformative goals on gender equality, women's human rights and women's empowerment and call for gender mainstreaming across all other goals.

Although the normative force of the Beijing Platform for Action has repeatedly been reaffirmed there is still a long way to go to realize the full promises of the Beijing Agenda. One of the reasons has been that the Millennium Development goals did not tackle structural issues and macroeconomic and financial policies which affect the realization of human rights in particular women's human rights. To this end, a post 2015 framework must ensure that the international financial system works to advance gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights.

However, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals are not still sufficiently transformative, ambitious, or rights based. There are only a few explicit mentions of human rights in the targets and human rights are not, as was hoped, the framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. Particularly disappointing is the lack of commitment to the full realization of women's human rights in goal 5.

Another challenge concerning the implementation of Beijing+20 has been the ongoing financial, economic and social crisis which has affected most regions of the world and has had particularly adverse effects for women. Women workers in the developing and the developed world have been paying a heavy price as the global economic crisis unraveled their rights, including their right to decent work, their livelihoods and their families' welfare, with knock on effects, that will last a generation. The economic crisis has led to a slowdown of progress by directing attention away from gender equality objectives towards seemingly pressing policy imperatives, such as establishing austerity measures.

Equality between women and men should be an inherent part of recovery plans including the direct involvement of women in financial and economic decision making and of feminist economists in the definition and implementation of policies related to recovery.

The International Alliance of Women has major concerns in relation to the unfulfilled promises of the Beijing Platform for Action. The most important of these are gender inequality and the feminization of poverty, both of which have been exacerbated by the ongoing economic/financial crisis. In addition, they have been deepened by the current development model based on growth that has failed to address the concentration of power and wealth within and between countries. Women comprise the majority of the world's poor. The majority of workers in the most vulnerable sectors: domestic work, garment, workers in subsistence farming, are women. Women also suffer from climate disasters that they are least responsible for. A post 2015 Development Agenda should address the structural factors that perpetuate crisis, inequality, insecurity and human rights violations.

Other concerns for International Alliance of Women are the conditions for the realization of women's rights, which are crucial in addressing the structural causes of gender inequality and poverty. These include pandemic of violence. Violence against women has become an epidemic in some countries. Women are not only raped, they are also killed. It appears that in many of the cases the state and its administration are not concerned and on occasions culpable. Femicide is the ultimate form of violence against women and girls. To end femicide we need to end impunity and bring perpetrators to justice. Violence, in particular sexual violence, in situations of armed conflict and in post conflict contexts is perpetuated as impunity for these gross violations of human rights persists.

Despite their increased participation in the workforce women are disproportionately represented in informal work, which is generally precarious, poorly paid and not covered by labour legislation. The promotion of decent work in the post 2015 Development Agenda will need to identify and change the structural factors that have been contributing to the rise of precarious and informal employment. Women still subsidize the entire economy by performing most of the unpaid domestic and care work derived from the sexual division of labour.



## IAW Statement to CSW 59 continued

Discriminatory gender stereotypes, as well as the financial crisis, are perpetuating and deepening the unequal distribution of care work, thereby impacting on women's equal enjoyment of a wide range of interlinked rights. Unpaid work must be recognized in statistics and policies, reduced by public investment and redistributed, so that it is shared equally between women and men, thus eliminating inequalities in resource control and ownership.

Equal participation of women in decision making has been an area where the pace of change has been slow and uneven across regions. In the area of economic decision making women are consistently absent from key decision making bodies influencing the distribution of resources in both public and private sectors.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights for all have not been realized nor has the provision of comprehensive sexuality education to all young people in and out of school. These rights need to be a clear priority in the post 2015 Development Agenda.

The rights of women to participate in peacekeeping, peace building and reconstruction have also not been realized, as well as the protection of women human rights defenders. We regret that the goal on "peaceful and inclusive societies" of the Sustainable Development Goals does not include these targets. Governments should be asked to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and to report under the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.

Finally, we would like to put an emphasis on the most important reason for the lack of fulfillment of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, which is their lack of a framework of participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms to evaluate commitments of duty bearers.

Accountability refers to the obligation of those in authority to take responsibility for their actions, to answer for them to those that are affected and to be subjected to some form of sanctions if their conduct or explanation is found wanting. Accountability is about empowering people in particular women to articulate their priorities while taking more control over their lives.

Accountability is about monitoring the effectiveness of local national, regional as well as international policies and providing data to improve the policies.,

The International Alliance of Women will work for the adoption and implementation of participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms that will make possible the fulfillment of promises held in the Beijing Platform for Action and the post 2015 Development Agenda hoping that this time commitments by duty bearers will prove credible.

## UNWomen A selection of achievements during 2014

### **Tunisia's new Constitution enshrines Women's Rights January 26, 2014**

Years in the making, Tunisia's constitution gets the seal of approval, enshrining women's rights and laying the foundations of a new democracy. Considered among the most progressive Constitutions in the Arab region, it states that all citizens, men and women, have the same rights and duties and are equal before the law without discrimination.

### **Morocco: Controversial "rape marriage law" repealed January 2014**

An article in a penal code that enabled a rapist to skirt prosecution if he married his under age victim is unanimously repealed by Morocco's parliament. The move comes two years after 16 year-old Amina al-Filali committed suicide for being forced to marry her alleged rapist to uphold her family's honour.

### **Reparations for wartime survivors of sexual violence March 20 2014**

For the first time, Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244/99) amends a law that will offer redress – including health, housing and employment benefits – to survivors of sexual violence during its 1998-99 conflict. By presidential decree, a high-level National Council was established to bring together key actors and stakeholders towards an improved coordinated response to support the survivors. A month later, Uganda's parliament passes a resolution that acknowledges for the first time the need to provide gender-sensitive reparations to the women and men who suffered at the hands of the Lord's Resistance Army during the 20-year insurgency in northern Uganda, including crimes of sexual and gender-based violence. Both achievements come after years of advocacy by civil society and the UN system.

### **United Kingdom: Hospitals mandated to record FGM cases April 1, 2014**

British hospitals under the National Health Service (NHS) start logging cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) for the first time. The effort is part of a larger government initiative to evaluate the scale of the problem in the United Kingdom and to combat the practice that poses devastating health and psychological effects on women and girls.

### **European convention on ending violence against women comes into force August 1, 2014**

A landmark Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence comes into force after receiving the required 10 ratifications from countries in the region. The legally-binding instrument, commonly referred to as the "Istanbul Convention", obliges governments who have signed on to take concrete steps to counter all forms of violence against women, from domestic violence to female genital mutilation.

### **November 27 – December 10, 2014**

Landmarks, such as the Empire State Building in New York and the pyramids in Cairo, light up orange for the first time as part of a United Nations call to #orangehood on the International Day to End Violence against Women and during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence.

## La sous utilisation des méthodes modernes de contraception et les grossesses non désirées

par Gudrun Haupter, Présidente de la commission Santé de l'AIF

Une étude de quatre chercheurs dont Marleen Timmerman de l'OMS, a été publiée dans *Oxford Journals sur l'apport de la sous utilisation des méthodes modernes de contraception (MM) aux grossesses non désirées* dans 35 pays à revenu faible ou moyen.

### J'aimerais présenter quelques informations-clé de cette étude ainsi que d'une fiche d'information de l'OMS.

Un fait connu est qu'à l'échelle mondiale chaque année 87 millions de femmes tombent enceintes involontairement à cause de la sous utilisation des MM. L'analyse des dates de ces 35 pays a révélé que quatre sur cinq des grossesses non désirées auraient pu être évitées. L'utilisation de méthodes traditionnelles augmenterait la probabilité d'une grossesse non désirée par le facteur 3, la non utilisation d'une méthode de contraception le porterait à 14.

Les grossesses non désirées exposent les femmes à un risque élevé de mortalité et de morbidité. De plus, leur potentiel de développement et de travail se réduit. En conformité avec d'autres études les femmes pauvres et celles à faible niveau d'éducation seraient les moins probables à utiliser n'importe quelle méthode contraceptive. Il faut noter que parmi les femmes pauvres le coût des contraceptifs n'était même pas généralement cité comme obstacle.



*En milieu rural du Burkina Faso un choix de contraceptifs est disponible.*

*Le problème des femmes est l'accès: Pour avoir la consultation, de longues attentes à l'ABBEF (Association burkinabè pour le bien-être familial) sont la règle, des fois il faut revenir le lendemain. Avec la prescription il faut se rendre à la maternité de l'hôpital, payer la somme fixée pour le produit contraceptif dans le cadre du "marketing social", et attendre. Pour ces femmes qui n'ont pas un sous de trop les frais du transport comptent également.*

**Les femmes sexuellement actives qui ne désiraient pas tomber enceintes ont majoritairement attribué la non utilisation des MM à la crainte d'effets secondaires et de répercussions sur la santé, à l'opposition religieuse à leur**

**emploi, ainsi qu'au risque sous-estimé de tomber enceinte.** Quoi faire pour remédier à la sous utilisation des MM ? Selon les chercheurs il importe de mieux informer ces femmes et de leur ôter les craintes non fondées. Pour y arriver il faut mieux entraîner les conseillères et conseillers en santé.

Sommairement la réponse donnée par l'étude est que 15 millions des 16.7 million grossesses annuelles non désirées dans ces 35 pays auraient pu être évitées par l'utilisation optimale des méthodes modernes de la contraception.

La fiche d'information de l'OMS intitulée « *Contraception : orientations et recommandations* » s'adresse aux gouvernements qui doivent « Garantir les droits de l'homme lors de la fourniture d'informations et de services en matière de contraception ». En plus, il est recommandé que les communautés, et en particulier les personnes directement concernées, aient la possibilité de participer effectivement à tous les aspects de la conception, de la mise en œuvre et du suivi des politiques et des programmes de contraception. Quant aux besoins en contraception moderne non satisfaits, les dernières estimations établissent à 222 millions le nombre de femmes laissées pour compte. Les besoins sont d'ailleurs d'autant plus grands que les risques de mortalité maternelle sont plus élevés.

Ce qui entrave leur accès à l'information et aux services en matière de contraception et connexes, est souvent l'exigence de l'autorisation d'un tiers, le plus souvent celle du mari. L'OMS recommande donc d'éliminer cette exigence.

Afin de répondre aux besoins des adolescentes et adolescents en éducation et en services, elle recommande également la fourniture de services de santé sexuelle et génésique, y compris des informations et des services en matière de contraception, aux adolescent(e)s sans exiger obligatoirement l'autorisation des parents ou tuteurs/tutrices et leur notification.

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La contraception d'urgence en prévention (PCU) est incluse expressément dans la gamme des méthodes existantes. Les nouvelles PCU, comme l'acétate d'ulipristal, sont plus performantes que les anciennes PCU car elles sont efficaces jusqu'à 120 heures après un rapport sexuel non protégé. En outre, leur étiquetage est également meilleur que celui des PCU plus anciennes.

*Dans une résolution adoptée en 2007 l'AIF a d'ailleurs demandé une action concertée à tous les niveaux pour remédier aux besoins non satisfaits des femmes en matière de contraception moderne. Il est grand temps que leurs droits à la santé soient mieux respectés.*

[Version anglaise téléchargeable sur](http://humrep.oxfordjournals.org/)

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<sup>2</sup> [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/102761/1/WHO\\_RHR\\_14.03\\_fre.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/102761/1/WHO_RHR_14.03_fre.pdf?ua=1)

## La Revue de BEIJING+20 – Recommandations de L'AIF à l'adresse du Forum ONG CEE /CSW de Genève, 3 – 5 Novembre 2014



**Les recommandations résument des points importants de la déclaration envoyée par l'AIF à la 59ème session de la Commission de la Conditions de la Femme, CSW.**

Les gouvernements de la CEE devraient:

Mettre en place des mécanismes sur la responsabilité au niveau national et régional en ce qui concerne les engagements pris pour la réalisation de l'égalité hommes/ femmes et des droits humains des femmes.

### **a) économie**

Relever et publier toutes les analyses sensibles au genre, sur l'impact de la crise économique et des réponses qui lui ont été données, avant leur mise en œuvre.

Réévaluer la valeur du travail dans le secteur des soins, Réduire et redistribuer les soins non rémunérés.

Promouvoir un travail décent pour les femmes et réduire leur représentation disproportionnée dans le travail non déclaré, en général précaire, peu payé et non couvert par la législation du travail. Identifier et changer les facteurs structurels qui contribuent à l'augmentation de ce type d'emplois.

En finir avec les différences de paie entre les femmes et les hommes, vers 2025.

Repenser et reprendre les budgets afin d'assurer aux femmes leurs besoins et leurs droits aux niveaux nationaux et communaux.

Promouvoir une représentation égale des femmes dans la prise de décisions en particulier dans le secteur économique.

### **b) stéréotypes**

Agir contre les stéréotypes féminins dans tous les secteurs de la vie y inclus en sensibilisant hommes et garçons.

### **c) violence**

Combattre toutes formes de violence envers les femmes, y compris en finançant des services d'aide et de protection pour les femmes victimes, ainsi qu'une éducation non sexiste. Approche qui devra prendre en compte le rôle des hommes et des garçons on s'attaquant aux racines de la violence masculine. Ratifier la convention d'Istanbul.

### **d) accès à la justice**

Faciliter à tous et notamment aux femmes et aux groupes marginalisés, l'accès à un système judiciaire sérieux, accessible et basé sur les Droits de l'Homme.

### **e) santé**

Assurer l'accès au planning familial pour toutes les femmes, jeunes filles comprises, dans tous les pays, afin de réduire une mortalité et une morbidité que l'on peut tout à fait prévenir.

Les pays qui ont une législation restrictive sur l'avortement devraient lever cet embargo ou tout au moins permettre des exceptions y compris pour raison sociale. Les femmes qui ont recours aux avortements clandestins devraient recevoir des soins médicaux post- avortement en cas de nécessité. La contraception d'urgence devrait être accessible et abordable.

### **f) paix et sécurité, les effets des conflits armés, et autres sortes de conflits, sur les femmes**

Mettre en œuvre la résolution 1325 du Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU et les résolutions subséquentes de l'Agenda Femmes, Paix et Sécurité et en faire le compte rendu national à la CEDEF.

Établir une protection effective contre la violence sexuelle et genrée, utilisée comme arme politique à l'égard des femmes et des jeunes filles.

Ratifier et mettre en œuvre le Traité sur le Commerce des Armes.

*par Gudrun Haupter, Présidente de la commission Santé de l'AIF*

## Conférence débat à l'occasion de la Journée Internationale des Filles "APPRENDRE SANS PEUR" Co-organisé par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et du Développement International et Plan International Paris - 8 octobre 2014

par Danielle Levy et Monique Bouaziz

Cette conférence débat, qui s'inscrit dans la perspective de l'adoption du futur agenda pour le développement après 2015, réunissait, entre autres, Mme Girardin, Secrétaire d'État au Développement et à la Francophonie, Madame Irina Bokova, Directrice Générale de l'UNESCO, Madame Aïcha Bah Diallo, ancienne Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale en Guinée, défenseur de l'Éducation des Filles et des Femmes et membre de l'AIF, Madame Kumba Boly Barry, Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale et de l'Alphabétisation du Burkina Faso, Madame Kandia Camara, Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale de Côte d'Ivoire, UNGEI et des acteurs de la société civile engagés sur cette problématique. Cet événement avait "pour objectif de sensibiliser les acteurs et responsables politiques sur la question des violences de genre en milieu scolaire, par un partage d'expériences"

### Il en est sorti notamment:

Que les pays ont ratifié les instruments juridiques internationaux. Qu'il faut les faire connaître; les publier et les vulgariser

Qu'il faut identifier et sanctionner **très fortement** les auteurs de Violence de Genre en Milieu Scolaire (VGMS) et pour cela il faut que les ministres des Droits des Femmes, de la Justice et les Droits Humains travaillent ensemble

Que si la femme s'occupe des enfants, Elle n'est pas seule responsable de toute la société. Il faut éduquer en ce sens, car s'il est vrai "qu'éduquer une femme c'est éduquer une nation", le mari doit aussi s'occuper des enfants et les petits garçons peuvent garder les animaux ou laver les vêtements.

Que si l'on veut que les filles aillent à l'école il faut, bien sûr, que toutes aient un acte de naissance, et donc, il faut la gratuité de l'enregistrement des naissances pour les enfants sans identité. Il faut commencer tôt l'école, et il faut que, non seulement l'école primaire, mais aussi le collège soient obligatoires et gratuits. **Cela évitera les mariages et naissances précoces.**

Que les écoles soit pourvue de personnel formés pour éviter les violences de genre, les humiliations, et apporter une éducation de qualité. Que les toilettes des filles soient séparées de celles des garçons. Il faut que **l'école, les moyens d'accès à l'école, et le voisinage de la maison à l'école soient sécurisés, exempts de toute violence**, car grâce à l'éducation "la famille se porte mieux et les filles éduquées joueront le rôle d'agent de changement".

On a insisté sur le problème des filles car les 2/3 des personnes non éduquées sont les filles et les femmes, mais ce qui est demandé c'est *une éducation pour tous*, aussi bien pour les filles que pour les autres. Il faut aussi penser aux garçons (au Tchad les petits garçons ne vont pas l'école), et à ceux qui ont des besoins spécifiques, comme les handicapés.

Comme l'a dit Meme Aicha BAH DIALLO «il faut reconnaître notre volonté politique active, et c'est pourquoi les Ministres sont là", et certains pays africains ont déjà mis en place nombre de solutions et ont des résultats. **"Cette violence de genre, on va réussir à lutter contre, pour réussir l'éducation pour tous, tout au long de la vie dans un environnement sécurisé"**

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S NEWS / NOUVELLES FÉMINISTES INTERNATIONALES

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