

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

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW NEWSLETTER - August 2004, nr. 6



Equal Rights

*Dear IAW members,*

*This will be the last newsletter before the Centenary with the Programme for Berlin. Watch out for a FLASH with the latest news about the Centenary coming to you at the beginning of September. Lots of news in this newsletter about the preparation of the Review of Beijing + 10. The women's movement is preparing for this event all over the world!*

### **IAW CENTENARY PROGRAMME : BERLIN**

*"On Sunday 12th September, as part of the Centenary Celebrations in Berlin, an 'Open Forum' will be held at the Kongress Hotel Berlin-Rahnsdorf Fürstenwälder Damm 880 D- 12589. All those registered for the Celebration are invited to attend.*

*Also invited to attend are those who may be free to come to the Celebration only on Sunday. They will be asked to contribute 10 euro towards expens or euro 20 if they would like to have lunch too."*

The Programme proposed for Sunday 12th September is as follows:

- 11.00 Special Registration for the 'Sunday only' people.  
Introduction by the President of IAW Patricia Giles.
- 11.30 Tour of the Centenary Exhibition of the History of IAW prepared by Bettina Corke (Italy) Individual member/Board member.  
A guide/brochure will be available in German/English/French.  
Followed by a discussion: 'Then and Now'.
- 13.00 Lunch
- 13.45 Introduction and comment by Vice President Rosy Weiss.  
Josephine Matere (Zimbabwe), Individual member, will speak on  
"Women as Providers of Food, (nutrition/children).
- 15.00 Coffee/Tea
- 15.15 Helen Self (England), Commission Convenor, member of the Josephine Butler Society, will speak on "Women and War".
- 16.45 A Panel Presentation: "If only I were..... 'x'.....I would do....."  
Comment, Recap. and Close.

Please Note: a full interpretation service German/English/German will be available."

### **REVIEW BEIJING +10**

#### **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 28 Februari – 11 March 2005**

In New York, in March 2005, the CSW "will undertake, at its 49<sup>th</sup> session, a review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome Documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and consider current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls." (E/CN.6/2004/L.12)

DAW : Division for the Advancement of Women, 2 UN Plaza DC2 – 12<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY, 10017 USA, [daw@un.org](mailto:daw@un.org) - [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw)

On the same website you will find the Member States Responses to the Questionnaire on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) and the Outcome of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly (2000)

## UNECE/NA - UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION for EUROPE (and NORTH AMERICA)

**Two meetings after each other will be held: the NGO Forum Review Beijing + 10 for the UNECE Region will meet on December 12/13 2004 in Geneva. The UNECE/NA Review Beijing + 10 will meet on December 14/15 2004 in Geneva.**

*(For news of the Regional Meetings of Beijing +10 in ESCWA - ECLAC - ECA - ESCAP look for example at the website of [www.wedo.org/meetings.htm](http://www.wedo.org/meetings.htm)).*

**The main objectives of the UNECE/NA Meeting are:**

- (I) support the implementation of the Beijing commitments at national level through the provision of a regional platform for the assessment of progress
- (II) identify gaps and remaining challenges
- (II) exchange good practices to facilitate the process of policy convergence based on the successful experiences
- (IV) contribute to the global 10-year Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action."

"The **NGO Forum** would not address the 12 areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action but a selected number of them, depending on their particular relevance to the UNECE region".

The *main themes* are :

### 1. **Women in the economy**

- access to financing and assets
- employability and support to employment
- gender budgets
- social security and pensions

### 2. **Institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality**

- role and responsibilities of stakeholders (gender bureaus, line ministries, parliamentarians, civil society, academia)
- legislation for gender equality
- building partnership among stakeholders

### 3. **Trafficking of women in the context of migratory movements**

- patterns and causes
- national, regional and international responses
- trafficking and women's economic situation"

### 4. **Emerging issues**

"The cross sectoral approach to discussing each theme is proposed. Speakers would thus be invited to refer to **two major cross-sectoral issues** of concern for the UNECE region : **poverty and violence against women**, in a way which would be relevant for the themes."

### **Contact points for the 4 topics**

\* *Women in the economy*: **Conchita Poncini** : [conchita.poncini@bluewin.ch](mailto:conchita.poncini@bluewin.ch)

\* *Institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality* : **Jessica Kehl** : [ojekehl@bluewin.ch](mailto:ojekehl@bluewin.ch)

\* *Trafficking and migratory movements* : **Brigitte Polonovski Vauclair** : [bpolonovski@wanado](mailto:bpolonovski@wanado)

\* *Emerging issues* : **Charlotte Bunch** : [cbunch@igc.org](mailto:cbunch@igc.org)

### **Subregional focal points**

\* *European Women's Lobby* : Annette Lawson : e-mail : [arllawson@btopenworld.com](mailto:arllawson@btopenworld.com);

Mary Mc Phail, Secretary general - e-mail : [mcphail@womenlobby.org](mailto:mcphail@womenlobby.org); Cécile Gréboval , Policy co-ordinator - e-mail : [greboval@womenlobby.org](mailto:greboval@womenlobby.org)

\* *Canada*: Charlotte Thibault : Feminist Alliance for International Action (FAFIA), e-mail : [charlotte.thibault@videotron.ca](mailto:charlotte.thibault@videotron.ca) - [www.fafia-afai.org](http://www.fafia-afai.org) ; Stella Zola Lejohn : e-mail [lejohn@hotmail.com](mailto:lejohn@hotmail.com)

\* *USA*: Suzanne Kinderwatter: American Council for Voluntary International Action e-mail : [skinderwatter@interaction.org](mailto:skinderwatter@interaction.org) - [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org); Charlotte Bunch : Center for Women's Global Leadership, [cbunch@igc.org](mailto:cbunch@igc.org) - [www.cwgl.rutgers.edu](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu)

\* **Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia:** Kinga Lohmann : KARAT Coalition for Gender Equality, [Kinga\\_Lohmann@zigzag.pl](mailto:Kinga_Lohmann@zigzag.pl) - [www.karat.org](http://www.karat.org) (to be completed for Russia and Central Asia)

**Copied from 'A Feminist Strategy for 2004-2005' on:** [www.cwgl.rutgers.edu](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu) **THIS WON'T OPEN!!**

**Beijing + 10 Review: A Working Paper for NGOS on How to Move Forward, March 2004**

Progress on the Platform can be reviewed on the basis of these four cross-cutting forces or roadblocks

and how they impact women. Analysis of these obstacles to implementation of the platform needs to

take account of how they overlap and intersect as well as occasionally contradict each other as well.

The Alternatives or countervailing forces are to remind us that we seek to promote a positive vision of

change and not simply to make a critique. They can also be analyzed in terms of what it will take to realize them in each area of the Platform and beyond.

<i>Obstacles</i>	<i>Alternatives</i>
Globalization and Neoliberalism	Economic and Social Justice
Fundamentalisms/Extremism	Open Secular and Spiritual Spaces
Militarism and Imperialism	Peace and Democracy
Patriarchy and All Forms of Discrimination	Human Rights and Equality for All

Having some common questions can be useful to looking at our agenda as well as for guiding critiques of the obstacles. Below are some of the questions one might build around that can be asked at various levels. For example, asking "where is the money?" can be addressed to governments in terms of delivery on promises made in the platform. It can also link Beijing +10 to the MDGs – which are about where development money will go. It is also a way to raise issues about where money is now going – such as to wars and corporate profits, and where it is not going, like to address human needs, to end violence against women, etc

***Our Critique:***

Where is the money?  
Where is the justice?  
Where are the women?

***Our Agenda:***

What have we achieved?  
What's our vision?  
How is another world possible?

**GOOD NEWS FOR WOMEN IN THE UK**

**UK will sign the Protocol to CEDAW**

Lord Falconer announced the outcomes of a major Government review of human rights treaties. One important change resulting from the review is that, for the first time, the UK will accept an individual petition mechanism under one of the core UN human rights treaties - the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This means that people in the UK will be able to take complaints about discrimination against women directly to the UN body that monitors the treaty.

Lord Falconer said: "The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women is a particular landmark. Women are already well protected against discrimination in the UK, but our accepting the Protocol will send a strong message to other countries where the rights of women may not be so legally secure. It will also enable us to assess the effects of complaints mechanisms of this kind."

**UK: Women's commission to investigate 'gender pay gap'**

Tony Blair today announced a new commission to help women get a fair deal in the workplace. The commission will be asked to investigate the pay gap between men and women and the "glass ceiling" holding back female workers. Baroness Margaret Prosser, chairwoman of the Women's National

Commission and former deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, will chair the group which will report directly to No. 10.

Continue: <http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=3249408>

Or: [http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/archives/04\\_0724\\_uk\\_gender\\_pay\\_gap\\_commission.htm](http://www.onlinewomeninpolitics.org/archives/04_0724_uk_gender_pay_gap_commission.htm)

### **IMPORTANT UN POSTS AGAIN FILLED BY WOMEN**

Secretary-General Kofi Annan today announced the appointment of two Assistant Secretaries-General. **Margareta Wahlstrom** of Sweden will be appointed Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator. She replaces **Carolyn McAskie**, who has gone on to head the UN Mission in Burundi. Wahlstrom recently served in the UN Mission in Afghanistan as the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative, dealing with relief, reconstruction and development. **Rachel Mayanja** of Uganda has been appointed as the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, a post previously held by Angela King. Mayanja is currently serving as the Director of the Human Resources Management Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization. Ms. **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** has been named to be the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking.

### **ONE CHILD POLICY IN CHINA SHOWS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS**

China is offering to pay couples a premium for producing baby girls to counter an alarming gender imbalance created by the country's one-child population control policy. Last year, 117 boys were born for every 100 girls in China, compared with a global average of 105 to 100. Faced by a socially destabilising shortage of more than 30 million women by 2020, senior family planning officials said yesterday that they would offer welfare incentives to couples with two daughters and tighten the prohibition on sex-selective abortions.

"China has set the goal of lowering the sex ratio to a normal level by 2010," said Zhao Baige, vice-minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission. To reverse the trend, pilot programmes are already underway in China's poorest provinces. In some areas, couples with two daughters and no sons have been promised an annual payment of 600 renminbi (£38) once they reach 60 years of age. The money, which is a significant sum in areas where the average income is below 50 pence a day, will also be given to families with only one child to discourage couples with a daughter from trying again for a boy.

Officials blame the imbalance on cultural rather than political factors. They point out that other Asian nations, notably India and South Korea, have experienced similar problems. But China's demographic distortions have clearly worsened since the introduction of the one-child policy. In 1982, the country's boy-girl ratio was similar to the global average.

#### **Consequences boy-girl ratio**

The consequences are already apparent. In rural areas such as Hainan island, there are reports of classrooms filled mostly with boys and orphanages filled mainly with girls. In future, population planners fear the lack of brides will create social tensions as men migrate and compete more fiercely for mates. Wife-selling, baby-trafficking and prostitution are all expected to increase as the first generation born under the one-child policy hits the normal marriage age. Many of these problems predate the one-child policy, but they appear to be getting worse.

According to the UN Children's Fund, about 250,000 people were victims of trafficking in China in 2003. In the latest case, Chinese police arrested 95 members of a gang in Inner Mongolia accused of buying 76 babies to trade in other provinces. Last year, police freed 42,000 kidnapped women and children, which they say is only a fraction of the total traded. Despite such problems, the government insists the one-child policy is necessary. Since 1980, family planning officials say the restrictions have prevented 300 million births that would have otherwise have overwhelmed an overcrowded nation of 1.3 billion people.

#### **Laws**

Two laws have been passed banning gynaecologists from telling pregnant women the sex of a foetus once it is confirmed by ultrasound checks. But as doctors are increasingly more dependent on private income, many accept payments to reveal the gender and find an excuse for an abortion if it is a girl. The Guardian, Jonathan Watts in Beijing, Friday July 16, 2004

*Received fom IAW member Anjana Basu*

## **TIMID PROGRESS TOWARD A SMOKE-FREE WORLD** **with promises of a meaningful role for public interest NGOs**

The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) met 21-25 June 2004.

It elaborated proposals on different procedural, institutional, financial and budgetary issues that will be presented at the *Conference of the Parties (COP)* for its consideration and adoption. Countries expressed a broad range of views. The COP, made up of all Parties to the Treaty, will be held during the year following the entry into force of the WHO FCTC.

### **Participation of civil society**

Civil society participation was among the major topics of the meeting, along with the exclusion of the tobacco industry from FCTC implementation. Countries agreed on the importance of ongoing NGO involvement in tobacco control policies at national and international levels. It was recognised that the NGO community has enormous academic, technical and practical experience. A proposal was to allow NGOs in official relations (or equivalent status) with WHO to attend meetings as observers and to provide credentials to others as appropriate. A widely expressed view was that it was important for the COP to preserve autonomy from the parent body (WHO) in granting access. It was also felt that NGOs admitted as observers should be allowed to participate in meetings in a timely and meaningful way and to offer the benefit of their experience and knowledge.

There is also an emerging consensus that strong measures need to be taken to ensure that the tobacco corporations, their subsidiaries and affiliates do not interfere with the FCTC implementation. Global tobacco corporations such as Philip Morris/Altria, British American Tobacco (BAT) and Japan Tobacco International (JTI) have sought to water down and delay the FCTC and the Framework Convention preamble which clearly recognises the need to be alert to the industry's attempts to undermine tobacco control.

### **Gender issues**

The nature of the meeting precluded the inclusion of gender issues which were fully taken into consideration in parallel events dealing with tobacco in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and in particular with poverty eradication strategies.

*By IAW member Hélène Sackstein, July 2004*

## **WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION**

In November 2001, WTO members met in Doha, Qatar, to agree on the Doha Development Agenda, intended to start negotiations on opening world markets to agricultural and manufactured goods. This meeting was dubbed the "Doha round" of trade talks, and was meant to work towards a system of trade rules that were fairer to developing countries. In September 2003, in Cancun, Mexico, a summit was held to hammer out agreement on the Doha round, and concentrated on four main areas - agriculture, industrial goods, trade in services, and a new customs code. However those talks failed because rich and poor countries could not reach agreement, particularly on agriculture. A new alliance of developing nations emerged that refused to sign a proposed agreement which they felt favoured the richer WTO members. Why was agriculture such a big issue?

The poor countries accused the rich nations of protecting their farmers through subsidies, and then dumping their goods on poor countries at knock-down prices, undermining local farmers. The subsidies, usually funded through the taxpayer via governments or trade associations, have made production costs for Western farmers cheaper. This made them more competitive and as a result their production has increased.

### **Cotton etc.**

As well as having subsidised goods pouring into their countries, the poorer nations have also claimed that when they tried to export their goods to the West, they were vying against subsidised agribusinesses. Europe's Common Agricultural Policy, which swallows up nearly half the EU's annual expenditure, was in the firing line, as were multi-billion dollar subsidies given by the US government to its farmers, and especially to its cotton producers. With cheap US cotton flooding the world, prices are down around the world, making west African cotton very hard to sell.

### **The Proposals**

After talks in Geneva lasting well into Saturday night, key WTO members accepted proposals to cut the subsidies wealthy countries give their farmers for exports. The key nations, including the US, the EU, Brazil and Japan, agreed to eliminate export subsidies at a date to be set, to limit other subsidies and to lower tariff barriers. The plan includes a "down payment" that would see an immediate 20%



cut in the maximum permitted payments by rich nations. Developing countries also won the right to protect "special" products crucial to the well-being of their economies.

Wealthier nations, among them the EU's members, won better access to markets in developing nations, particularly for industrial goods. The draft deal also allows for moves to liberalise global trade in manufactured goods and services, although the WTO's poorest nations would not have to contribute. Customs procedures should be simplified, and stricter rules on state aid for rural development introduced.

The WTO believed progress in the talks was crucial now, as there are US presidential elections in November, and a change in the European Commission in the autumn.

#### **Deadlines**

The deal opens the way for full negotiations to start in September. It is hoped progress can be made before the December 2005 WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong. Analysts say it is vital that any new deal be agreed before 2007, when what is known as "fast-track legislation" expires in the US. Without fast-track, which limits the power of the US Congress to alter trade deals negotiated by Washington, there is little prospect that the US would adopt a new pact.

BBC News Online looks at why it took so long, and how the deal was reached (a selection).

#### **REQUEST from the International Network on Small Arms – IANSA - Darfur**

Dear IANSA Participants and Friends

Our colleagues at Amnesty International have asked us to circulate an action alert on the crisis in Darfur (Sudan). On 30 July, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1556 which calls for a suspension of arms transfers to 'all non-governmental entities and individuals, including the Janjaweed, operating in the states of North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur'. Nonetheless, the Resolution failed to adopt measures that are urgent and essential to address the appalling human rights situation in the region.

Please write to your Minister of Foreign Affairs, asking them to put pressure on the UN Security Council to suspend all transfers of military, security and police (MSP) equipment, weaponry, personnel, training

or cooperation to the Sudanese government and all parties to the conflict likely to be used to commit further human rights violations in Darfur.

You may also consider asking for an appointment with your foreign minister, those responsible for Sudan in your Ministry of Foreign Affairs or your country's Ambassador to the United Nations.

Please consult and coordinate your actions with your local Amnesty section. You can get your nearest Amnesty section address here <http://web.amnesty.org/contacts/engindex>

A detailed list of lobbying points can be found on the Amnesty International website at [http://news.amnesty.org/mavp/news.nsf/web\\_index/ENGAFR540922004](http://news.amnesty.org/mavp/news.nsf/web_index/ENGAFR540922004)

The Amnesty International website also contains further resources on Sudan, including reports, draft letters, images, video testimonies, an activist's toolkit, a press pack and links to campaigns underway in regional sections. These can be found at <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/sdn-index-eng>

Thank you for showing your solidarity with the people of Darfur.

Best regards, Rebecca Peters, Director IANSA - International Action Network on Small Arms  
director@iansa.org [www.iansa.org](http://www.iansa.org)

#### **WEBSITES - WEBSITES - WEBSITES**

##### **Websites to bookmark**

Calendar of regional intergovernmental as well as civil society events : [www.wedo.org/meetings.htm](http://www.wedo.org/meetings.htm)

Center for Women's Global Leadership: [cwl@igc.org](mailto:cwl@igc.org) - [www.cwgl.rutgers.edu](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu)

NGO Committee on the Status of Women : [ngo\\_csw\\_ny@hotmail.com](mailto:ngo_csw_ny@hotmail.com) - [www.ngo.congo.org](http://www.ngo.congo.org)

Women's Environment and Development Organization : [wedo@wedo.org](mailto:wedo@wedo.org) - [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)

IWTC Women's GlobalNet <"<http://www.iwtc.org>>

##### **A new network and a new website**

Responding to a request from many civil society organisations around the globe, the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family has sent up a new web site at [www.civilsocietynetworks.org](http://www.civilsocietynetworks.org) open to all civil society organisations, at the local, national and international level world-wide, which consider themselves to be family-oriented in whole or in part of their aims. This incorporates and expands the networks the Vienna Committee on the Family had already set up in Eastern African and in Central

and Eastern European Countries to include a world-wide membership. If you know organisations which would perhaps be interested in joining this new network, all they need to do is contact me at [peter.crowley@t-onlin.de](mailto:peter.crowley@t-onlin.de) and they will receive a User-Identity and Password to enter and update their information, free of charge.

### **2005 – Year of Microcredit**

The UN General Assembly designated 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit and has invited Governments, the United Nations system, concerned non-governmental organizations and others from civil society, the private sector and the media to join in raising the profile and building the capacity of the microcredit and microfinance sectors. Through a concerted, collaborative and spirited effort by all stakeholders, microcredit can assume an even larger role in the global strategy for meeting the international pledge of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the commitment to cut poverty in half by 2015. Website:  
<http://www.uncdf.org/english/microfinance/year/>

**Personal note.** My old e-mail address is not accepted by heavy spam filters. It contains my first name 'joke' or 'small Jo', so I have changed it recently. It is now [iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net](mailto:iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net). It is no joke!

The old e-mail address will still be in existence, but please, be so kind to use the new one from now on.

*Thank you for your co-operation, Joke Sebus*

**Note:** To avoid misunderstanding, we always send the IAW Newsletter: 1) in the body of the e-mail, and 2) as an attachment. Both have exactly the same content. The only difference is, that the attachment has a better lay-out, so it will be easy for Affiliates to copy it and send it by post to IAW members without e-mail. Also, please advise Pat Richardson if you know of any IAW members or affiliate/associate organisations with an e-mail address

### **Contacts**

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Membership Officer	: Pat Richardson	<iaw.membership@tsn.cc>
Treasurer	: Marieluise Weber	<marieluise.weber@web.de>