

**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/July 2012, no. 6



Equal Rights

Dear members,

An enormous amount of energy has gone into preparing the Summit of RIO+20. Scientists from all over the world studied our planet, trying to find solutions for threats of the future, with people from all ways of life joining the discussion. It made the internet a fascinating place for reading and watching - sometimes live - all kinds of webcasts. We had to make a selection for this newsletter:

1. preparing RIO with IAW joining in;
2. a letter from a participant in RIO;
3. the big five UN Regional Commissions;
4. two side events: a big one on clustering seven mid American countries on forestry and a green small one on seaweed cultivation after a disaster, and run by women;
5. the outcome document and what about women and 'gender equity';
6. RIO afterwards, with a new women's movement, an informative website and
7. the launch of Ban Ki-moon of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge

Also: an initiative and a report from Joanna Manganara on effects of the economic crisis on women in Europe, IAW and older women, a 2013 CSW deadline, and at the end: elections and women in Libya, 8 powerful women in Africa and women in Mexico made a splash!

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN

Communications Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Communications Procedure of the Commission on the Status of Women is a unique tool for individuals and organizations to use in order to raise awareness about injustice and discriminatory practices against women in any country in the world. Claims to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration at its next session (27 February to 9 March 2013) must be submitted by 1 August 2012. To learn more click here: <http://www.unwomen.org/csw/communications-procedure>
Mailed to us by IAW member Jessica Kehl.

IAW and Older Women

There is an opportunity to submit information about discrimination against older women through CSW. See the following: <http://www.unwomen.org/csw/communications-procedure>
SCOW grew out of a subcommittee on older women that began as a joint committee of the NGO Committee on Ageing and the NGO CSW during the time Kay Fraleigh was chair of that Committee and I was vice-chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing.
However, it is now housed only in the NGO Committee on Ageing. I continue to be a member of SCOW. At the request of Pat Brownell I spoke at Fordham University on a panel at a meeting of SCOW that took place during the last CSW. A video was made of the panel which is yet to arrive. Once I get it, we can decide whether or not we should make it available in that form or turn it into a paper or report. Be that as it is, IAW has paid great attention to its role as an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC.

We might consider a forum to discuss the kind of information we would like to see submitted. This is one way in which we can bring opportunities for our affiliates to submit information about discrimination against older women through CSW as well as CEDAW. We also might include the statement of the special rapporteur on women and violence who addressed violence against older women in her role as an expert at the expert group meeting on the rights of older persons which took place in May 29-30. I attended it and will write a piece as soon as the report is issued. However, the

special rapporteur was very interested in increasing the circulation and knowledge of her work to women 's international organizations and our newsletter might be a good way to do that.
Please be so kind to respond to this kind proposal of Judy Gordon, IAW Older Women Co-ordinator. Do you like this proposal? Write to iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net.

Effects of the economic crisis on women in Europe

Report - during the last General Assembly of the European Women's Lobby (11-13 May 2012) the IAW took the initiative to organize an Issue Group on the effects of the economic crisis on women in Europe, in collaboration with the Greek and French National Coordinations.

Presentations

The IAW (Joanna Manganara) made a presentation on the gender dimension of the crisis as well as its effects on women in Greece. Mika Ioannidou (Greek Coordination) made a presentation about the Greek situation and Françoise Morvan (French Coordination) made a presentation about poverty in France.

Presentations were also made by Jacqueline Healy (Irish Coordination), Alexandra Sofia de Moura Teixeira da Silva (Portuguese Coordination), Maria Ludovica Bottarelli-Tranquilli Leali (Italian Coordination), and Marion Boeker (IAW alternate).

A number of delegations from the North and the South of Europe also intervened during the discussion. The main points of the presentations were the following:

- * The financial crisis is the result of a failure in the governance of finance. Finance has been allowed to grow too large in comparison with the real economy.
- * This governance is gendered because there is a large under-representation of women in financial decision making and as a result the goals prioritised have been the requirements of finance capital at the expense of the paid and domestic economies.
- * The role of gender inequality in creating the crisis should be recognised.
- * We have therefore to try to find solutions to the current and ongoing crisis that take into account the gender perspective, with the direct involvement of women.

The main objectives of the Economic Adjustment programmes agreed with creditors are: improve competitiveness; fiscal consolidation; wage cuts; unemployment; taxation; social welfare; violence against women and pension changes.

Editor's comment: this report is well worth reading. Compliments to Joanna Manganara, IAW Regional Vice President Europe. If you would like a copy, write to <iaw.newsletter@inter.nl.net>.

UN Conference on Sustainable Development - RIO+20

1. Preparing RIO+20 and IAW

Irini Sarlis from IAW New York, wrote: The 9 Major Groups established by the CSD post-Rio were **represented by women** at the closing dialogue which seemed remarkable, and a first. They were alphabetically: 1. Business & Industry; 2. Children & Youth; 3. Farmers; 4. Indigenous Peoples; 5. Local Authorities; 6. NGOs; 7. Scientific & Technological Community; 8. Women; 9. Workers & Trade Unions.

As many of you know, the IAW was a founder - pre-major-group-identification, in 1992, with the Society for International Development - and ran the Science & Technology Ad Hoc Working Group, then Caucus, for the decade, being on the NGO CSD Steering Committee; and it has gathered the 20 EcoSoc NGOs required for the establishment of a Committee on S&T, delayed by the subsequent requirement that all be members of CONGO, which some have expressed hesitancy to do.

However, this may be something to reconsider, despite the recent demise of some of the Committees. In view of the current focus on the critical, central issue of water, and food, and the "toxic burden" on human progeny, the earlier note on a multitude of major scientists' 2010 claim that the Toxification of the Earth is a threat at least equal to Climate Change, bears repeating, I believe.

The Women's Major Group has accepted that suggestion, at the Intersessional.

Soon-Young Yoon, IAW Chief Representative to the UN in New York, mailed us the video portal of the United Webcast that broadcasts daily, live and on demand. It is on: www.webtv.un.org/

Nathalia Kostus, head of the IAW delegation to RIO+20, wrote: I will write articles on my impressions on the conference and the outcome, also comparing it to the CSW. Rio is an historic time and will define the face of sustainable development for the years to come. The gender text: the Holy See and some other minority governments have been very outspoken and watered down the text on gender, even below the commitments from Beijing and Rio. The Brazilian government has been hosting informal consultations on the text.

Thank you, Irini, Soon-Young and Nathalia!

2. A letter from Rio

As civil society--*and that includes each of you*-- we have put an enormous amount of hard work and resources into this process either directly or by our other commons-based and all-win activities! Here in Rio, we feel that the governments have wasted time bickering over old entrenched positions instead of taking the bold steps necessary to help us deal with the crisis. They have ignored the huge amount of research, best practices and suggestions provided by civil society as individuals, as representatives of civil society organizations who have made one or two statements almost daily during the many conferences leading up to this Summit and via the Compilation Document. This amazing 7000 page document had invited the views from ***all people worldwide***. Now under the guidance of Brazil, Government delegates are working day and night to salvage something.

Brazil stated that there are two directions we can take - that of love and that of hate. The Brazilian Government representative also said that, as the host Government of the Summit, it will present the 119 paragraphs agreed so far and present these to the Heads of State and Government to sign and that governments that are involved in conflict with other governments over the remaining 190 paragraphs should get together and agree on the text or else these vital paragraphs will be left out.

What this boils down to is the representatives of the US, the EU and the G77 (134 developing countries) sit in a corner and negotiate while all the other governments stand around and listen. Governments are now working day and night, till 11 at night, 2 in the morning and will possibly even work the night through to be ready for when the 160 Heads of State and Government arrive on this Wednesday, the 20th, in time for the Summit on the 21st and 22nd. But the outcome is likely to be a face-saving device instead of the bold agreement necessary for us to go ahead as one world.

Letter, mailed to IAW Honorary President Rosy Weiss by a friend in Rio.

3. The UN's five Regional Commissions:

"It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform ideas and aspirations into bold action," stated Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) at the Rio+20 high-level meeting that opened in Rio on Wednesday, June 21: "Bold leadership and commitment are needed - the cost of inaction is unacceptably high, and will be borne by the most vulnerable states and people".

On: <http://www.irna.ir/News/Economic/Rio-20-Summit-requires-bold-leadership-and-commitment/80192983>

The UN's five Regional Commissions are:

- the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP),**
- the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA),**
- the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE),**
- the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and**
- the Economic Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).**

Editor's comment

Dr. Noeleen Heyzer of ESCAP is an interesting woman to follow on the Internet. Her statements, opinions and recommendations on behalf of ESCAP are informative and often inspiring. One of the sentences in her opening speech of RIO+20 on behalf of ESCAP became a headline in the press: "Bold leadership and commitment are needed - the cost of inaction is unacceptably high, and will be borne by the most vulnerable states and people."

On June 22, when speaking of the outcome of RIO+20 on behalf of the five Regional Commissions, this sentence was lost ... Where have they gone, those bold leaders and their commitment?

RIO+20 - the Outcome Document

The outcome document calls for a wide range of actions, such as beginning the process to establish sustainable development goals; detailing how the green economy can be used as a tool to achieve sustainable development; strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP); promoting corporate sustainability reporting measures; taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product to assess the well-being of a country; developing a strategy for sustainable development financing; and, adopting a framework for tackling sustainable consumption and production.

Gender equity?

The document also focuses on improving gender equity; recognizing the importance of voluntary commitments on sustainable development; and stressing the need to engage civil society and incorporate science into policy; among other points.

More information on: <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>

Editor's comment: gender equity is not the same as gender equality. It is less. It gives gender equality a value. It is an interpretation and that is all in 'the eye of the beholder'.

(In the Netherlands the women's movement has been fighting for years for 'gelijk' instead of 'gelijkwaardig', for equality instead of equity.)

Agroforestry

“Agroforestry is our only alternative to mitigate and adapt to climate change,” Alberto Chinchilla, executive director of the Central American Coordinating Association of Indigenous and Peasant Community Agroforestry (ACICAFOC) told Tierramérica.

A side event of Rio+20, held June 20-22 in Rio de Janeiro, addressed this “climate-smart” agriculture approach that could help reduce the vulnerability of the Central American region.

The meeting was attended by government ministers, scientists, technicians and farmers.

An agroforestry system combines trees with agricultural production and livestock grazing.

Its practice, enhanced by scientific research, can contribute to the development of environmentally friendly methods and technologies, said Chinchilla.

For example, trees can help in the recovery of water sources, provide protective shade to crops, conserve moisture, and keep pasture lands cooler, reducing the heat stress suffered by cattle.

Agroforestry can also contribute to the recovery of native or endangered tree species while increasing the food security of communities.

Seven Central American countries - 43 million inhabitants

“Agroforestry links agriculture, food production and trees. We can no longer continue to implement agricultural policies with the Ministry of Agriculture separated from the Ministry of Environment.

We must harmonize these policies, and trees must be part of agriculture,” Chinchilla maintained.

The effects of climate change are the biggest threats facing Central America, made up by seven countries with a combined population of 43 million inhabitants, almost half of whom live in poverty. Protected areas make up 27.5 percent of the region’s total land area.

But it possesses enormous biodiversity, according to Rigoberto Cuéllar, the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Honduras.

Loss of GDP by disasters

Central America’s GDP is growing by five percent annually, but it is estimated that the region has lost 1.7 percentage points of GDP in the last two decades due to climate disasters.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Japan Social Development Fund administered by the World Bank are financing initiatives for agroforestry systems incorporating cacao and coffee production, silvopasture systems (combining livestock grazing and tree crops) and reforestation.

Over the next four years, some 10 million dollars will be invested in community agroforestry through projects with ACICAFOC partners. The beneficiaries are members of indigenous and peasant farmer communities.

Chinchilla said that the challenge is to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge.

More interesting news on Agroforestry on: <http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/06/climate-smart-agriculture-to-reduce-vulnerability/>

Seaweed cultivation and mangrove nursery projects bring new hope to women in Sunderbans

Ishika Mondal, 34, works for two hours every day in waist deep water, trying to keep the fragile 'Gracilaria' or 'Seola' (seaweed) seeds alive at the small experimental seed bank in her village of Harekrishnapur in Sunderbans, West Bengal. "This is our hope for the future. Selling the seaweed every 40 days will bring money for our families," says Ishika.

In contrast Raushi Singh, 45, wakes up at 4 am and treks for about one-and-half hours along the muddy banks of the river Bidya in the delta region, searching for crab marks. She plunges her hand deep into the crab holes and pulls out these crustaceans. "It's risky and crab bites are common, but most women in our village forage for crabs like this. We then walk to the market, about two-hours away, to sell them so that we can buy essentials for our family," says Raushi.

Impact of the cyclone

The continued impact of Cyclone Aila – that hit parts of Eastern India and Bangladesh in 2009 – has taken a heavy toll, both on the environment and the local communities in the Sunderbans. There has been large-scale migration of the men to larger cities in search of work, which has left Ishika, Raushi and many other women to fend for their children and themselves on their own.

Panchanan Das, Chairman, Forest and Land Committee, observes, "There has been almost no rabi or kharif (winter and summer agricultural seasons) cultivation in the region since Aila because of the salinity in the soil caused by the receding flood waters.

Forget paddy, even fruits and vegetables refuse to grow. Prawn and fish cultivation is also at a standstill, as the 'bheris' and ponds in which they were reared, were filled with saline water.

Incidence of viral disease in fish, post-Aila, has gone up as well.

With no livelihood options left, 90 per cent of the male youth and about 20 per cent of the young women here have moved to cities like Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and even to the Andamans and Gujarat. In most villages only women are left behind with young children."

With no men around, finding work became a priority

Then, with the aim to provide a better means of livelihood to the local women, the Nature Environment Wildlife Society (NEWS) initiated the seaweed project on an experimental basis in three villages on four plots. "Seaweed needs both saline and sweet water to flourish and the Sunderbans is ideal for this, as saline water regularly flows in during high tides," reveals Barnita Dasgupta, Project radamoyee SHG under Jyotispur gram panchayat, which runs the Seaweed Project at Harekrishnapur,

Excellent food

'Seola' offers a nutritious dietary alternative and is extremely beneficial for pregnant women. It's excellent food for the people in Sunderbans. It can also sell to baby food and diet supplement manufacturers. There will be a yield every 40 days if the experiment works."

It is heartening that the residents, particularly women, are trying to mitigate the financial, social and environmental impact of Aila to some extent, and doing this themselves.

Written by Ajitha Menon for [Women's Feature Service](#) (WFS) on January 12 2012 and republished here in arrangement with WFS. |

More on: <http://www.thebetterindia.com/4628/seaweed-cultivation-and-mangrove-nursery-projects-bring-new-hope-to-women-in-sunderbans/>

Mailed to us by IAW member Anjana Basu

A NEW WOMEN'S MOVEMENT FOR RIO+20

Women's organizations have been mobilizing at Sino de Vale, Brazil, to prepare for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), and aiming to develop a common voice that will help expand the role of women in sustainable development.

This is the great value for women of the outcome of RIO+20. All those women, focussing on their way to a green economy and the Future We Want.

In this newsletter we can only name a few good practices. An interesting website on the new women's movement is to be found on: http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=arioplus20&id_article=3889

UN Zero Hunger Challenge

22 June 2012 – Rio de Janeiro. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched a 'Zero Hunger Challenge' which invites all countries to work for a future where every individual has adequate nutrition and where all food systems are resilient. "I invite all of you to join me in working for a future without hunger," he said.

“Zero hunger would boost economic growth, reduce poverty and safeguard the environment. It would foster peace and stability,” Mr. Ban added, calling on farmers, business people, scientists, civil society and consumers to join the challenge by honouring past promises and work together to put an end to hunger.

Five main objectives

The ‘Zero Hunger Challenge’ has five main objectives:

- * to achieve 100 per cent access to adequate food all year round;
- * to end malnutrition in pregnancy and early childhood;
- * to make all food systems sustainable;
- * to increase growth in the productivity and income of smallholders, particularly women;
- * to achieve a zero rate of food waste.

The ‘Zero Hunger Challenge’ is supported by UN Food and Agriculture Organization ([FAO](#)), International Fund for Agricultural Development ([IFAD](#)), World Food Programme ([WFP](#)), UN Children’s Fund ([UNICEF](#)), the World Bank and Biodiversity International. On: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42304&Cr=Sustainable+Development&Cr1=>

AROUND THE WORLD

Equal participation of women vital for building new Libya, says UN envoy

26 June 2012 - “The new Libya provides a new opportunity for Libyan women to articulate your political, economic and social aspirations,” the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and head of the UN Support Mission in Libya ([UNSMIL](#)), Ian Martin, [said](#) at an event held yesterday in the capital, Tripoli. Some 2.7 million people in the North African nation have registered to vote for members of a new National Congress, which will be tasked with drafting a new constitution for Libya.

First free elections

The polls, which are scheduled to be held on 7 July, will be the first free elections in decades in Libya, where Muammar al-Qadhafi ruled for more than 40 years until a pro-democracy uprising last year led to civil war and the deposing of his regime.

On: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42328&Cr=libya&Cr1=The top United Nations>

Women make splash in Mexico's elections

Mexico is facing a milestone for women as it fields its first female candidate from a major party in the July 1 presidential election. But women are vying to make an impact in local elections as well.

On: <http://m.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/Latin-America-Monitor/2012/0628/Women-make-splash-in-Mexico-s-elections>

Power women: Africa's ruling ladies

Africa's women are increasingly taking centre stage in Africa's politics, occupying positions of power across the continent. Here, CNN's [African Voices](#) profiles eight women that have been shaping African politics in recent years.

On: http://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2012/06/world/faces.africa.politics/index.html?hpt=iaf_t4

1. Call for input to thematic consultations on inequalities

The UN thematic consultations on inequalities (one of the 9 thematic consultations held by the UN) will be co-led by UN Women and UNICEF. To help frame that debate, individuals, academics and NGOs are invited to submit theoretical papers, to present findings from completed research or to present on-going work that raises methodological or conceptual issues.

PLEASE NOTE that Beyond 2015 will submit a paper on behalf of the campaign (See Beyond 2015’s Call for coordinating CSOs on UN thematic consultations on:

<http://www.beyond2015.org/news/call-coordinating-csos-un-post-2015-thematic-consultations>

Deadline on behalf of Beyond 2015 **by 13 July**.

In addition, all Beyond 2015 participating organisations are called upon to submit papers in their own capacity and are invited to identify themselves as part of Beyond 2015 when doing so.

You can also contact Shannon O’Shea at UNICEF (soshea@unicef.org) or Laura Turquet at UN WOMEN (laura.turquet@unwomen.org) with any additional questions.

Submission deadlines:

- Proposal for full paper (250-300 words) submitted in English, French or Spanish by **20 July 2012**
- Notification of outcome to authors by **15 August 2012**
- Completed Paper (around 5,000 words) due from author(s) by **15 October 2012**

2. UN task team on post-2015 report to UN Secretary General published

The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda has published its first report – **Realizing the Future We Want for All** – where it recommends that new goals should build on the strengths of the Millennium Development Goals, apply to all countries, and be based on the fundamental principles of human rights, equality, and sustainability

You can read the **full report** on:

<http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/Realizing%20the%20future%20we%20want.pdf>:

Beyond 2015's UN working group is currently preparing a reaction to the report which will be made available on www.beyond2015.org

3. Call for 2 positions within the UN Global Conversation planning team

The Global Conversation, a worldwide outreach to civil society using social media and other tools to consult on their priorities regarding the post-2015 framework, is being set up at the moment, with the UN Millennium Campaign and other UN entities leading the process.

Criteria for the selection are

- expertise and experience in the respective area (which are web platforms/social media outreach and governance/guideline drafting, respectively)
- experience in working with and within UN processes
- availability for regular planning calls
- commitment to proactively liaise with Beyond 2015 secretariat

Please submit your self-nominations **by 15 July** to twww@beyond2015.org

Sent to us by Chief Representative to the UN in New York Soon-Young Yoon

Note

We are sending this Newsletter as an attachment, saved in .pdf. An attachment saved in Word 97 is available, if you cannot open it.

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 also can mail them this Newsletter.

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