

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN  
ALLIANCE INTERNATIONALE DES FEMMES

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

Equal Rights - Equal Responsibilities  
Droits Égaux - Responsabilités Égales

IAW NEWSLETTER October 2009, no. 10



Equal Rights

*Dear members,*

*There was a lot of news this month. This is what we selected.*

*Two new resolutions by the Security Council, of the utmost importance for women. Another step has been taken! Also a step forward for a possible Arms Trade Treaty.*

*Other issues are: an evaluation of 15 years Cairo 1994 on Population and Development, the result of several conferences on Climate Change, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women or CEDAW, a new structure for the European Union and child labour in India.*

*IAW is preparing for CSW, focussing on the implementation of Beijing+15. Our representatives in the Human Rights Council have mailed news on the Universal Periodic Review and the New York team has been attending sessions of the UN Second and Third Committee.*

## WOMEN and the SECURITY COUNCIL

### Two New Resolutions Adopted by the UN Security Council

During the 5 October 2009 “Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security” which marked the 9th anniversary of SC Resolution 1325, the Security Council, under the presidency of Vietnam, adopted Resolution 1889 on the theme of ‘women, peace and security’. This resolution follows closely on the heels of Resolution 1888, which was adopted on 30 September 2009.

Resolution 1888 aims to further strengthen the efforts of the international community to combat sexual violence in armed conflict. Resolution 1889 focuses on women’s participation, protection and empowerment in post-conflict needs assessment and planning.

#### [Resolution 1888](#)

This resolution, co-sponsored by more than 60 UN Member States, calls on the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to intensify efforts to end sexual violence against women and children in conflict situations and who should engage on a high level with military and civilian leaders.

#### **SCR 1888 builds on two earlier resolutions: SRC 1325 and SCR 1820**

[SCR 1325](#), adopted in October 2000, provides a political framework that makes women and a gender perspective relevant to all aspects of peace processes; [SCR 1820](#), adopted in June 2008, recognizes the links between sexual violence in armed conflict and its aftermath, and sustainable peace and security.

[SCR 1820](#) commits the Security Council to considering appropriate steps to end sexual violence and to punish the perpetrators and requests a report from the UN Secretary-General on situations in which sexual violence is being widely or systematically employed against civilians and on strategies for ending the practice.

[Resolution 1889](#) focuses on women’s participation and urges Member States, UN bodies, donors and civil society to ensure that women’s protection and empowerment is taken into account during post-conflict needs assessment and planning, and is factored into subsequent funding and programming. The resolution also calls on all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and integration programmes, in particular, to take into account the needs of women and girls associated with armed groups, as well as the needs of their children.

Through [SCR 1888](#) the Special Representative would coordinate a range of mechanisms and oversee implementation of both SCR 1325 and SCR 1888.

Other provisions of the text include identifying women’s protection advisers among gender advisers and human rights protection units; the strengthening of monitoring and reporting on sexual violence; the re-training of peacekeepers, national forces and police; and calls to boost the participation of women in peace building and other post-conflict processes.

#### **Report within 12 months**

Through the text, the Council also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report within 12 months focused on women in post-conflict situations, and to ensure cooperation between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict, whose appointment had been requested by SCR 1888.

Speaking as the current chair of the Security Council, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said: "We are here to address an issue that has received too little attention, not only in the Council but also by all governments around the world." Ms. Clinton noted the gravity and brutality of sexual crimes committed in North and South Kivu, the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where 1,100 rapes were reported each month with an average of 36 daily.

#### **Even children 10 years old or younger**

More than 10% involved children 10 years old or younger. Sexual violence has worsened since the beginning of this year in areas controlled by both the insurgent Force démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Uganda-based Lord's Resistance Army, as well as in areas of deployment of the recently integrated Congolese Army.

While the DRC and the Darfur region of Sudan are perhaps the most widely publicised examples, rape as a tactic of war has been and is still used in war zones across the world such as Bosnia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad and Burundi, she stressed, adding that in too many countries and in too many cases, the perpetrators of this violence are not punished, and so this impunity encourages further attacks.

#### **Women have successfully led grassroots peace movements**

According to the [United Nations Development Fund for Women](#) (UNIFEM), women have successfully led grassroots peace movements in communities shattered by violence, from Guatemala to Northern Ireland. However, women have been largely neglected as third-party mediators and even as representatives of the UN in conflict-affected countries. The UNIFEM representative noted that a group of women's activists from the eastern DRC seeking to participate in peace talks was excluded from the process.

More on: <http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article1633>

### **New Arms Trade Treaty**

#### **Campaign begins to start gun treaty negotiations**

UN - Seven countries have launched a campaign for the UN to start negotiations on a new treaty regulating the global arms trade to help prevent the illegal transfer of guns that kill and maim thousands every day.

John Duncan, Britain's ambassador for multilateral arms control and disarmament, said the four-week meeting of the General Assembly's disarmament committee will be "pivotal" in deciding whether to launch formal negotiations on a new Arms Trade Treaty.

According to a report published this week by the British relief agency Oxfam and 11 other non-governmental organizations, some 2.1 million people — overwhelmingly civilians — have died either directly or indirectly as a result of armed violence since the General Assembly first voted in December 2006 to work toward a treaty regulating the growing, multi billion dollar arms trade.

#### **Equivalent of 2000 people dying every day**

This is the equivalent of more than 2,000 people dying every day — worse than one person killed each minute, the report said.

"There is an overflow of government sponsored and private illegal armies, ethnic militias and non-state guerrilla forces" former UN humanitarian chief Jan Egeland, who now heads the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, said in a forward to the report. "And they are supplied as never before with lethal weapons by reckless states" Egeland said. "Only a forceful, unambiguous and verifiable convention can control transfers and do away with the networks of illegal arms brokers that supply our generation's weapons of mass killings and mass misery."

### **Seven country Agreement**

After three years of discussions, Britain, Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Kenya have proposed a resolution establishing negotiations to draft and agree on a new arms trade treaty.

The idea of a treaty "is still contentious," Duncan said. But supporters are hoping the disarmament committee will support the resolution and the 192-member General Assembly will approve the measure later this year. That would pave the way for negotiations leading up to an international conference in 2012 that would hopefully adopt the new treaty.

Last year, the Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed a working group to move toward negotiations by a vote of 147-2, with the U.S. and Zimbabwe casting "no" votes. Others were either absent or abstained.

#### **United States of America**

Whether President Barack Obama's administration will now back negotiations remains to be seen. Gun control is a hotly contentious issue in the United States, where the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees citizens the right to "keep and bear arms" and powerful lobby groups routinely oppose almost every effort to restrict gun sales and ownership — and usually win. Supporters of a new treaty stress that it will not interfere with legal arms sales but will target illegal weapons transfers.

*Summary of an article by Edith M. Lederer (Associated Press)*

### **INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF WOMEN**

#### **Commission on the Status of Women**

IAW Secretary Lene Pind writes:

Preregistration for the 54th Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women is now open. The meeting will take place March 1 - 12 2010 in New York

Look at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/index.html> with an NGO Forum taking place 27 - 28 February: <http://www.ngocsw.org/en/events/2010-forum>

Have a look at the links. It will be an important session for CSW and an important event for NGOs as we are celebrating Beijing+ 15.

#### **Preregistration**

Those of you who wish to go to New York for the event, please, inform Rosy Weiss (cc Lene Pind) who is responsible for the pre-registration of IAW representatives.

Some of you may attend as representatives of other organisations or of governments. Please, let us know. It would be very good to have the total picture of IAW members present.

Best wishes and hoping to see many IAW members in New York

#### **Commission on the Status of Women and Beijing + 15**

Joanna Manganara, IAW Regional Coordinator Europe and Representative to the European Women's Lobby writes us:

Dear friends, I would like to thank those of you who have answered the IAW questionnaire Beijing+15 for the following reasons:

a) You have contributed to the positive image of our organization as the EWL has been asking member organizations whether they are preparing alternative reports for Beijing +15. I have answered with yes.

b) You have helped me in my contribution to the EWL alternative report Beijing+15 as I have taken some ideas from you Questionnaires.

For the reasons mentioned above I am making a plea to all those who have not answered the IAW questionnaire to do so at the latest before November 1st. By doing so, you help make the IAW a stronger and more visible organization.

I am attaching the IAW Beijing +15 questionnaire and here is the EWL September Newsflash:

[http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=2602&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID\\_sousmenu=](http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=2602&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=)

#### **Useful EU links**

Also, you can visit the following links concerning the EU Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 & 1820 on: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=242&lang=EN>  
The Council is the main decision-making body of the European Union.

Direct Link to 43-Page Full Document: <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/08/st15/st15671-re01.en08.pdf>

Irini Sarlis, Kay Fraleigh and Judy Gordon from the **IAW team in New York**, have been attending sessions on the Third Committee, which has been meeting on Human Rights Questions, after addressing Advancement of Women last week. The Second Committee has addressed Women in

Development.

The New York team will try to send more information after their meeting in November.

Calendar on: <http://www.un.org/ga/60/third/calendar.pdf>

### **Human Rights Council - Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

Hélène Sackstein, IAW representative at the Human Rights Council, has mailed us the following on the Universal Periodic Review.

"Note that the issues can also be thematic and members like Soon-Young Yoon could also contribute on tobacco or climate change. Note also that we (I) can lobby the 'troika' governments designated to ask questions to the reviewed governments to ensure our issues are taken up."

**UPR - From: [Civil Society Unit OHCHR](#)**

Reminder - Deadlines for submission of information concerning the Eighth and the Ninth Sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

Submissions in relation to the 16 countries scheduled to be reviewed at the **Eighth session** of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (May 2010) should be sent by:

2 November 2009 for submissions on **Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR**; and

9 November 2009 for submissions on **Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Armenia, Belarus**.

Submissions in relation to the 16 countries scheduled to be reviewed at the **Ninth Session** of the Working Group on the UPR (December 2010) should be sent to the above-indicated address by:

12 April 2010 for submissions on **Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritania, Lebanon, Maldives, Marshal Islands, Micronesia**; and

19 April 2010 for submissions on **Mongolia, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, United States of America, Andorra, Bulgaria, Croatia**.

Please note: The page limit for submissions is 5 pages when submitted by individual stakeholders, and 10 pages when submitted by large coalitions of stakeholders.

That all UPR submissions must be submitted and received by 12.00 pm Geneva time (CET) on the day of the given deadline. Late Submissions will not be considered.

*Thank you so much, Hélène!*

## **AROUND THE WORLD**

### **European Union and the Lisbon Treaty**

With Ireland, Poland and the Czech Republic signing and ratifying the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union will become a different entity. Ireland had a tough time deciding by referendum to sign the treaty, but the economic crisis was a burden too heavy for Ireland alone, so ...

Its NO NAY NEVER... - NO NAY NEVER NO MORE

I'll reject Lisbon Treaties - NO NEVER NO MORE

I went home to my Europe - Confessed what I've done - And asked it to pardon its prodigal son,  
Now Europe will kiss me as oft-times before - And I will not reject Lisbon Treaties no more

It's NO NAY NEVER... etc.

### **International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) - Cairo 1994**

Fifteen years after a United Nations conference on population vowed to put gender equality and reproductive rights at the centre of development, the number of maternal deaths from childbirth – “a staggering toll of more than half a million women each year” – has not changed.

#### **Progress, yes, but not enough**

He cited the progress made: more women and couples today use modern contraception, with the rate rising from 47 to 56 per cent; 51 of every 1,000 babies now die during their first year of life, as compared to 71, and more than 60 per cent of women giving birth in developing countries now have skilled health personnel to help them, up from less than half.

“But as we all know, despite these efforts, for far too many people the Cairo consensus remains more a goal than a reality” he said. “Some 200 million women still do not have access to safe and effective contraception.”

Too many women resort to abortions that are not safe, because they lack access to family planning. “In too many countries, girls are still married off as child brides. The dangerous practice of genital mutilation and other harmful traditions continue to have a terrible impact. Sexual violence, especially during conflict, continues to victimize women on a mass scale.”

#### **Millennium Development Goals**

Stressing the number of childbirth deaths, Mr. Ban noted that progress on target five of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – to cut maternal mortality and achieve universal access to reproductive health care – lagged behind any other.

The eight MDGs seek to slash a host of social ills, from extreme poverty and hunger to maternal and infant mortality to lack of access to health care and education, all by the year 2015.

On: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32506&Cr=women&Cr1=>

#### **India has good laws restricting child labour — but they are not enforced**

In the child labour debate, one apologetic argument often rears its ugly head. It posits that many poor people rely on their children to work to support the family and that it would be naive to think this situation can be reversed quickly.

Which is preferable, proponents of this line of logic ask: a family able to feed itself, or a starving child in school? It is the question that passes through countless Western heads when they see small children hawking magazines at Indian traffic stops or serving chai at tea stalls.

Those with greater insight into the scourge of child labour, however, think differently. Bhuwan Ribhu has rescued hundreds of child labourers from Delhi’s sweatshops and brothels. His stance is unremitting: child labour must be stamped out.

#### **Most children earn a pittance**

First, Mr Ribhu notes that most child workers make a pittance. The average wage of 35 children he rescued from a sweatshop this month was between 50 and 100 rupees — about 69p to £1.38 — a week, plus meals.

This is not family-supporting employment, it is slavery. For the most part, children are employed because they are easily bullied and beaten, demand fewer rights than adults and can be paid next to nothing. There is no moral defence of an economy that rests on these conditions.

#### **60 million unemployed adults**

Second, Mr Ribhu believes that India has at least 60 million unemployed adults. Why, he asks, can they not take the place of their working children (especially if some of these children are earning enough to help to support a family)? Indeed, there is a provision in Indian law that says the roles occupied by child labourers must be offered to an adult member of their family — and another law that says that children must go to school.

Here, of course, lies the rub: India has reasonably good laws, but they are seldom enforced. Laws are a very good start — but if the country is to take its place as a true global power, it cannot afford to be weighed down by millions of uneducated young people. The nation’s future depends on the laws being acted upon — now.

On: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6875312.ece>

Rhys Blakely: Analysis. From The Times, October 15, 2009

*Sent to us by IAW member Anjana Basu*

#### **European UNION - Climate Change**

Some 4,000 participants from 1,500 organisations are expected to attend a Stockholm event showcasing EU efforts to boost development. The three-day event, starting on 22 October, includes training, discussion forums and workshops. A development ‘village’ gives organisations the chance to present themselves to delegates and the public, and to raise awareness of their aims.

#### **Poorer countries**

Under the overarching theme of ‘citizens and development’, this year’s event will focus on the effects of global warming and the recession on poorer countries.

Although they are usually least to blame, these countries are particularly hard hit by both the economic downturn and climate change.

Rising sea levels, desertification and more frequent and severe natural disasters could push millions into poverty and undo past progress on the [millennium development goals](#). And the current economic

climate has lead to a reduction in aid donations to developing countries, reducing food security in already vulnerable regions.

#### **Awards**

Several development-related prizes will be awarded, including the [Lorenzo Natali journalism prize](#) for excellence in reporting on human rights, democracy and development issues. The [development youth prize](#) goes to teenagers for posters or videos showing human development in Africa.

On 22 October, the EU will also publish the first-ever [European development report](#). It will form a basis for discussions on the EU's approach to 'fragile' countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The EU provides more than half of all development aid.

More on: [http://ec.europa.eu/news/external\\_relations/091019\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/news/external_relations/091019_en.htm)

#### **New York - Climate Change**

On 22 September, on the Summit on Climate Change in New York, 101 Heads of State and 163 Government officials signalled their desire to achieve an agreed outcome at the Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen from 7 to 18 December.

#### **Bangkok - Climate Change**

In Bangkok, in October, in the negotiations leading up to Copenhagen, progress had been made in key areas such as adaptation, technology, capacity-building and reducing emissions from deforestation, and developing countries were moving forward in a "spirit of pragmatic cooperation".

#### **Little progress in emission reduction and financing**

Yet little progress had been made on core political issues such as mid-term emission reduction targets for industrialized countries and clarity was still lacking on the issue of finances that developing countries would need in order to undertake additional actions in emission growth and adaptation.

However, *there is still a disconnect between what national leaders say in summit meetings and what their negotiators offer on the negotiating floor,*" said Mr. Pasztor of the Bangkok talks, held under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change ([UNFCCC](#)).

More on: [w.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2009/091012\\_Pasztor.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs//2009/091012_Pasztor.doc.htm) and on:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32513&Cr=climate+change&Cr1=>

### **CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

#### **CEDAW country and shadow reports**

For the 45th session of CEDAW (18 January - 5 February 2010) - Palais des Nations, Salle XVI, Geneva, look at: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws45.htm>

In the 45th session there will be reports from Botswana, **Egypt**, **Malawi**, **Netherlands**, Panama, **Ukraine**, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan. Countries where IAW has members are in bold. The reports are in 6 languages.

#### **All CEDAW country and shadow reports are on line**

Please have a look at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reports.htm>

The NGO shadow reports are to be found on the same website.

For example: Egypt has two shadow reports in English. From 1. the Egyptian NGOs CEDAW Coalition and 2. the Centre for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA).

#### **Declarations, Reservations and Objections to CEDAW are on:**

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reservations-country.htm>

(Unless otherwise indicated, the declarations and reservations were made upon ratification, accession or succession. For objections thereto, see herein after ).

#### **CEDAW in Italy**

ROME, Oct 21 (IPS) - On the eve of the 30th anniversary of CEDAW, Italy is far from attaining gender equality. According to the latest global gap report index, in Europe only the Czech Republic, Romania, Greece, Cyprus and Malta have bigger gender gaps than Italy. Italy ranks 67 among the 130 countries in the index. Read more on: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=48939>

### **EVENTS - CONFERENCES - USEFUL LINKS -**

16 – 18 November 2009, Rome - [World Summit on Food Security](#)

The global food insecurity situation has worsened. The number of people suffering from hunger has been growing relentlessly. The global economic crisis is aggravating the situation. FAO estimates the

number of hungry people could increase by 100 million in 2009 and pass the one billion mark. The World Summit on Food Security will agree on actions to tackle this crisis.

**16 October 2009 - [World Food Day](#)**

The global economic crisis is affecting many people in the world, but especially small-scale farmers and the rural poor, who are less able to defend themselves against the effects of the crisis. According to figures from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the number of hungry people in 2009 increased by 105 million, bringing the total number of malnourished people in the world at 1.02 billion.

**World Survey on the Role of Women in Development**

The survey notes with some concern, among other key issues, lack of women's access to financial and economic resources, as well as their absence from key decision-making bodies influencing the distribution of resources in both public and private sectors, despite evidence on positive impacts of women's representation in decision-making.

(Embargo until Monday, 26 October, Noon, New York time).

For more information on the Survey, see <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/ws2009>

**Manual on Gender and Climate Change on:**

[http://www.generoyambiente.org/archivos-de-usuario/File/ecosistemas\\_especificos.pdf](http://www.generoyambiente.org/archivos-de-usuario/File/ecosistemas_especificos.pdf)

**UK:** Autumn edition of the Women's National Commission Newsletter is now available on:

[http://www.thewnc.org.uk/publications/cat\\_view/65-newsletters.html](http://www.thewnc.org.uk/publications/cat_view/65-newsletters.html)

*Sent to us by IAW member Helen Self*

**ICT and E-Governance**

The Philippines Career Executive Service Board (CESB) will organize a National Conference in Iloilo City on 10-12 November 2009. A modified Academy curriculum entitled "ICT and E-Governance" will be one of the learning tracks at the conference. There will be over 600 participants attending the conference and at least 100 participants are expected to participate in each learning track.

More on: <http://www.unapcict.org/events/cesb-national-conference>

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