

**Commission on the Status of Women  
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**INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL**

**Linkages between implementation of the Platform for Action and achievement of the MDGs**

The impact of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on the full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Report of the Expert Group Meeting, Geneva  
11-13 November 2009\*

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\* The views expressed in this PowerPoint Presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

### Beijing Platform for Action (1995)



Placed empowerment of women at centre stage  
Recognized that women's empowerment and rights are a requirement for advancement of all humanity  
Adopting and implementing the various elements of the PFA is essential for achieving the MDGs,

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### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000)



Time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions - income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability.

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## Different paths...

MDGs did not build on the Beijing PFA	MDGs define gender equality very narrowly	EG sees this lack of coherence between the Beijing PFA and the MDGs as a key reason why most MDGs are not on target
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The Expert Group has identified gender specific issues that have impeded progress within each of the MDGs

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### MDG1: Poverty, Hunger and Employment

Women-headed households are among the poorest and most disadvantaged

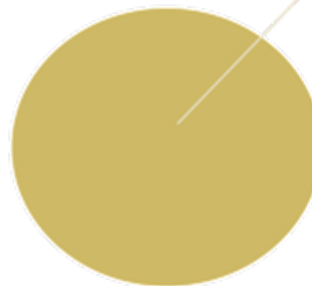
Within households, females have differential access to assets such as land and housing, less education, discriminatory domestic power relations and social norms.

When women control assets, they have more decision-making power within the household and they tend to allocate more income and resources towards child welfare

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### MDG 2: Universal primary

Past decade has seen a significant expansion of school infrastructure and facilities in many countries of the developing world.



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But ...

Female enrolment/ attendance rates are lower than for males in South Asia, SS Africa, Middle East and North Africa.

Actual attendance lags behind enrolment, esp for girls, e.g. in SS Africa, four out of 10 girls do not actually attend school

Schooling often of poor quality, with insufficient basic infrastructure, facilities and qualified teachers

High dropout rates, esp for girls because of social norms, caretaking for younger siblings, school fees and distance to school, poor quality of schooling or inadequate facilities such as separate toilets for girls.

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### MDG 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment

Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015

Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education;

Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

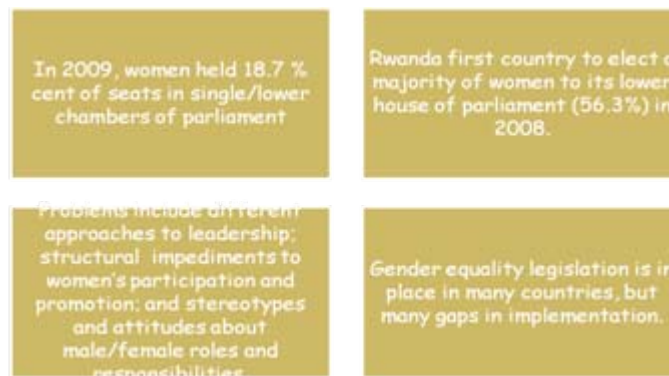
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## Female employment



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## Women in Politics



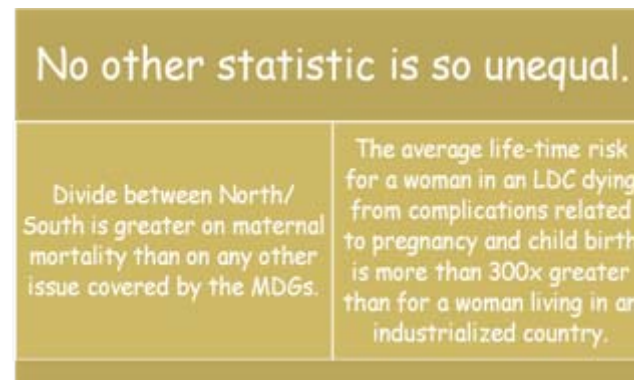
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## MDG 4: Child mortality

- Aims to reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015.
- Deaths of children under five years of age have declined steadily worldwide but 99% child deaths occur in LDCs.
- Child mortality varies dramatically across and within developing regions
- Mortality rates in rural areas are much higher than in urban areas.

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## MDG 5: Maternal health

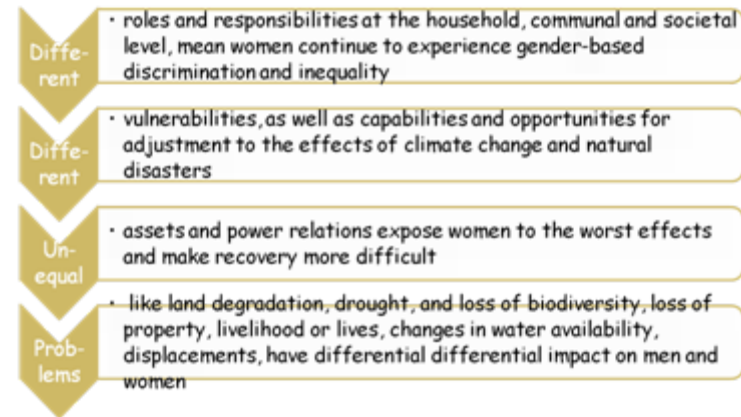


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### MDG 6: HIV/AIDS and other diseases

- Women account for half the people living with HIV worldwide and nearly 60% are in sub-Saharan Africa .
- Spread of HIV-AIDS also associated with social dislocation and violence against women.
- Malaria mortality also heavily concentrated in SS Africa.
- Tuberculosis incidence (among the non-HIV positive population) has levelled off in recent years except in SS Africa.
- In all cases women carry double burden both as patients and as care-givers.

### MDG 7: Environmental sustainability



### MDG 8: Global partnership for development

- distributional effects of trade policies are gender specific because women and men have different access to and control over resources and play distinct roles in market economy and household.
- gender analysis should inform design, implementation and monitoring of trade agreements.
- should cover: changing patterns and conditions of work (including both paid and unpaid work); gender wage gaps; patterns of ownership and control over assets; changes in consumption patterns and in public provision of social services.

### Why has implementation of the MDGS been slow?

- Lack of popular participation in their formulation , little attention to accountability from global to local level in their delivery and weak sense of popular ownership and mobilization in support of their achievement
- Recent economic growth was based on, and deepened inequalities both globally and within countries.
- The overall macroeconomic conditions that were essential for realizing the MDGs were not met in many countries.
- Market-determined processes were insufficient to deliver in themselves the MDG results, and often operated in the opposite direction. For example, economic growth did not lead to full and productive employment and decent work.

Critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action	MDG Targets & indicators
Women and poverty	MDG 1 (Target 1A, 1B, 1C)
Education and training	MDG 2; MDG 3 (Indicator 1); MDG 6 (Indicator 3 & 4)
Women and health	MDG 5; MDG 6
Violence against women	
Women and armed conflict	
Women and the economy	MDG 1; MDG 3 (Indicator 2); MDG 8
Women in power and decision-making	MDG 3 (Indicator 3)
Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women	Data element implied in indicators for MDG 3
Human rights of women	
Women and the media	
Women and the environment	MDG7
The girl child	MDG 2; MDG 4

- Rapid economic growth associated with environmental exploitation and related problems of pollution, degradation, depletion of natural resources, and climate change.
- The neglect of the agricultural sector in the developing world hurt peasant livelihoods and generated global food problems.
- In many countries, there has been no policy coherence and a lack of prioritization to public expenditure and other policies required to meet the MDGs.
- Emergence of the security agenda after September 2001 dominated the earlier development agenda, including efforts aimed at financing its implementation.
- The global financial and economic crisis resulted in setbacks for realizing the MDGs.
- Women's rights and international labour standards are inadequately implemented.

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### Why the Slow Implementation of BPfA?

National level institutional arrangements intended to support implementation of the PfA have had limited success towards transforming policies in ways that would accelerate the achievement of gender equality.

Insufficient or lack of action by governments and often little advocacy from civil society advocating for compliance with commitments.

Limited financial, technical or social resources at national level, and insufficient international aid.

Many of the PfA levers of change – gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive budgeting, systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex – have not received the necessary investments to make them effective.

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Indicators are still poor or non-existent. Since indicators are commonly national aggregates, they inevitably mask inequities, and those in the lowest quintiles often fall below an established target.

Few fora for critical dialogue locally, nationally and globally on the complexities of implementation.

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### ***Converging the MDGs and the PfA: Critical areas of intervention***

#### **Overall**

- Develop participatory and accountable systems of economic and political governance that give effective voice to those being governed.
- Governments must comply with the human rights obligations for women defined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Form of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the ILO Conventions Nos. 100 and 111.
- Encourage/ develop public awareness and advocacy campaigns to build and mobilize support for women's issues across women's movements, NGOs, trade unions and other civil society movements, and build alliances with other groups working for progressive change. Engage men and boys as advocates for gender equality.

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### **Specific Actions**

1. Make full employment and the generation of decent work the primary goal of macroeconomic policies.
2. Ensure full and equal participation of women in political decision-making at all levels.
3. Develop gender-responsive budgeting and gender auditing of all economic policies, linked to outcomes.
4. Guarantee fundamental rights at work, including for informal sector workers.
5. Ensure universal access to affordable food.
6. Provide universal access to education and to quality health systems, with special attention to gender equality.
7. Provide universal access to quality sexual and reproductive health service

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**8. Invest in infrastructure for water and energy resources, with special attention to the specific needs of women.**

**9. Ensure participatory and democratic systems of protection of natural resources and adaptation to climate change for the benefit of women.**

**10. Emphasize the collection and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex that would allow for better understanding of gaps as well as monitoring of policies and their implementation**

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