

**Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fourth session
New York, 1-12 March 2010**

INTERACTIVE EXPERT PANEL

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

Moving the agenda forward: championing implementation
of the Beijing Platform for Action for the achievement of the MDGs*

Submitted by

Zo Randriamaro

Training Coordinator, Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era (DAWN)

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

Lessons learned from the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Women's empowerment requires a coherent and multisectoral approach

- “Progress remained uneven and inadequate in all critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action” (UNDAW, 2009: 5)
- The conceptual shift in the approach to poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon has not been matched with a similar approach to women's empowerment.
- Poverty reduction strategies have focused on efforts to reduce poverty in general, without any specific efforts to address the gender dimensions of poverty, and to monitor their gendered impacts (UN, 2010).
- Fragmented and piecemeal approach to the objectives of the BPFA

Lessons learned from the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Women's empowerment and gender equality require an alternative development framework and a developmental State

- **Women and girls are the most affected by the deficiencies of the orthodox neoliberal approach to development**, which has been translated into measures that hinder the achievement of its objectives and undermine women's rights. Eg: half of all maternal deaths (265,000) occur in Sub-Saharan Africa ; the multiple crises that affect the neoliberal development system have thrown millions more women into poverty.
- **Very little understanding that the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the MDGs cannot be achieved when**
(1) **essential social services are being eroded by privatisation and deregulation, and**
(2) **the role of the State is reduced to promoting free-market policies** that do not bring about sustained growth of employment and incomes, and inclusive development which benefits poor people.

Lessons learned from the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Women's empowerment and gender equality require an effective accountability framework

- Failure to transform the MDGs into a legally binding agreement, thus allowing impunity in terms of their implementation
- The CEDAW provides a normative and accountability framework for the BPFA
- What is lacking is the political will of Governments to domesticate the legal framework and to apply the normative standards of equality and non-discrimination

Recommendations for action

- **A rights-based approach to the MDGs and gender equality** is a moral obligation as well as a development imperative.
- The accountability processes set up under CEDAW provide a model for assessing the process by which the MDGs are translated into results.
- **Take into account the impacts of the multiple global crises**, and address the gaps and challenges in the twelve areas of concern through a **coherent and multisectoral approach**

Beijing areas: 1, 2, 3,7,9,12

- **focus on the development and financing of universal and gender-sensitive social protection and insurance systems** in order to compensate for the reduction in real household incomes
- **expansion of employment opportunities for women and public provisioning of adequate support mechanisms** in order to alleviate women's work burden for social reproduction
- **Gender budgeting in developing and donor countries** to ensure that expenditures give priority to the needs of women and girls in terms of decent employment creation, social spending, agriculture and infrastructure investment, as well as to prevent regressive and gender-blind fiscal policies.

Recommendations for action

Beijing areas: 3,5

- **intensification of campaigns and actions on violence against women**

Beijing areas: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9,11

- **address past policy neglect in relation to the agricultural sector, particularly the subsistence subsector where women are concentrated** by focusing on on smallholder farms and subsistence agriculture, and be based on the principles of food sovereignty
- **A paradigmatic shift towards a gender-responsive and people-centered macroeconomic framework, which requires at least three types of macroeconomic reforms:**
- **tax reforms** in order to promote progressive and pro-poor taxation,
- **financial reforms** in order to reverse the trend that has widened the gap between the haves and the have nots; undercut jobs and growth; and, privatized profits while socializing risks;
- **trade reforms** in order to put an end to the hardship resulting from trade liberalisation for the rural and working poor, most of whom are women, and to develop the productive capacity of developing countries for inclusive economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.