

**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

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*

Submitted by

**Ms. Eva Rathgeber
University of Ottawa and Carleton University**

* 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)



**Millennium Development Goals
(MDGs) (2000)**

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.

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009

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.

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009

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.

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009

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.

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009

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

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009

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

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009

Members of the Expert Group

- Marzia Fontana (Italy)
- Agnes Kabajuni (Uganda)
- Susana Lastarria-Cornhiel (Peru)
- Rachel Nampinga (Uganda)
- Piroska Östlin (Sweden)
- Jyoti Parikh (India)
- Eva Rathgeber (Canada)
- Verena Schmidt (Germany)
- Tomris Türmen (Turkey)
- Elaine Unterhalter (South Africa)

- Jayati Ghosh (India) (Consultant)

UNDAW-EGM, November 2009