

## FROM BEIJING TO DOHA: TRACKING THE GENDER DIMENSION OF FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY

**An annotated guide to those UN conferences and the associated outcome documents and follow-up meetings that make specific reference to the need for increased financing for gender equality and/or to support a strong gender dimension in financing for development, 1995-2008.**

### 1995

September: UN Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China

Outcome document: Beijing Platform for Action, A/CONF.177/20. This document asks for funding to be identified and mobilized from all possible sources across all sectors. Governments, holding the primary responsibility for implementing the strategic objectives of the Platform for Action, should make efforts to systematically review how women benefit from public sector expenditures, adjust budgets to ensure equality of access to public sector expenditures and achieve the gender-related commitments made in other United Nations (UN) summits and conferences. The Platform noted that sufficient resources should be allocated to national machineries for the advancement of women as well as to all institutions, as appropriate, that can contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action.

### 2000

June: 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly at UN Headquarters in New York, also known as “Beijing +5” as it was the five-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action. At this Session, the General Assembly emphasized the need for continued international cooperation to increase the flow of resources necessary to meet the Beijing Platform for Action’s goals of gender equality, development and peace. The General Assembly furthermore called upon governments to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption and execution of all budgetary processes, in order to establish adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programs that enhance women’s empowerment, and to develop the necessary analytical and methodological tools and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.

Outcome Document: Political Declaration, and the outcome document “Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”. An assessment of the implications of the declaration and the outcome document is available in the Report of the Secretary-General “Implementation of the Outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the Special Session of the General Assembly entitled ‘Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the Twenty-first Century’ ” (A/55/341).

July: High-level segment of the substantive session of 2000 of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), on the theme “Development and international cooperation in the twenty-first century: the role of information technology in the context of a knowledge-based global economy”.

**Outcome Document:** ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration, E/2000/L.9. This declaration, signed by Ministers and Heads of Delegations, affirmed the importance of decent work as a key development goal. In that context the declaration reaffirmed the determination of UN member states to promote gender equality, to provide adequate resources and adopt gender-responsive budget initiatives as well as accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

**September:** Millennium Summit at UN Headquarters in New York

**Outcome Document:** United Nations Millennium Declaration, A/RES/55/2. This declaration outlines eight goals, the so-called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be accomplished by the target date of 2015. It forms a blueprint for action, agreed upon by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions. Millennium Goal 3 is to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. It includes a commitment on financing for gender equality by governments at an international level.

## **2002**

**March:** International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), held in Monterrey, Mexico.

**Outcome Document:** Monterrey Consensus, A/CONF.198/11. The Monterrey Consensus resolved to address the challenges of financing for development, particularly in developing countries. It committed to mobilizing and increasing the effective use of financial resources and achieving the national and economic conditions needed to fulfill internationally agreed development goals. The document furthermore highlighted the importance of a holistic approach to financing for development, including gender-sensitive development, while calling for gender-sensitive investments in basic social and economic infrastructure, microcredit for women, and business frameworks that are sensitive to the gender implications of their undertakings. It also encouraged the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into development policies at all levels across all sectors. Additionally, it emphasized the critical need for reinforcing national efforts in building capacity for gender budget policies.

## **2003**

**October:** First High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development at UN Headquarters in New York. The High-Level Dialogue is a biannual intergovernmental meeting mandated by the General Assembly, following up on the Monterrey Consensus. At this first meeting only one of the eight ministerial roundtables addressed gender equality and made specific proposals, such as integrating women's issues and rights into the other MDGs.

**Outcome Document:** Secretary-General's Report, "Implementation of and follow-up to commitments and agreements made at the International Conference on Financing for Development", A/58/216.

## **2004**

**September:** World Leaders Meeting on "Action Against Hunger and Poverty". At the initiative of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, of Brazil, the Heads of State and Government discussed further international action to fight hunger, overcome poverty,

and increase financing for development.

Outcome Document: New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, which highlighted the need to raise development assistance levels and to give further attention to innovative mechanisms of financing, in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The declaration is available at [www.mre.gov.br/ingles/politica\\_externa/temas\\_agenda/acfp/final\\_declaration.doc](http://www.mre.gov.br/ingles/politica_externa/temas_agenda/acfp/final_declaration.doc)

## **2005**

February and March: 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at UN Headquarters in New York. This “Beijing +10” Session reviewed both the ten-year implementation of the Platform for Action, and the outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly. The ten-year review of the implementation of the Platform for Action indicated a significant gap between policy and practice in many countries. Lack of resources was defined as one key obstacle to effective implementation at national level.

Outcome Document: Declaration of the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, E/2005/27-E/CN.6/2005/11. In this Declaration, Member States pledged to undertake further action to ensure full and accelerated implementation.

June: Second High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development at UN Headquarters in New York. Participants emphasized that domestic resource mobilization policies should incorporate the international commitment to gender equality. They also recommended using gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that the relevant commitments are resourced, to upgrade the employment of women in the value chain, and to increase women’s access to assets and property rights.

Outcome Document: Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The Declaration is an expression of the general consensus amongst the international community on the direction for reform on aid delivery and management and for improved effectiveness and results. Grounded on the five mutually reinforcing principles of ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability, the Paris Declaration enshrines 56 partnership commitments to improve the quality of aid. It lays down 12 indicators to provide a measurable and evidence-based way to track progress against aid effectiveness objectives and sets targets for 11 of the indicators for the year 2010. It is endorsed by more than 100 countries and donor organizations. It does however not include any reference to gender equality. The Declaration is available at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/11/41/34428351.pdf>

## **2006**

February and March: 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at UN Headquarters in New York. CSW encouraged the international community, the UN system, all relevant regional and international organizations, and private sector and civil society to provide the necessary financial resources to assist national governments in their efforts to meet the development targets and benchmarks.

Outcome Document: Agreed conclusions, E/2006/27 - E/CN.6/2006/15

September: “Gender Equality as Smart Economics: A World Bank Group Gender Action Plan (Fiscal years 2007–10)”.

With this Action Plan, the World Bank aims to promote the implementation of MDG3. The launch of the Plan recognized that there is an economic return to investment in women. In addition to grants, the Bank also provides lending for investment in women’s empowerment, using both investment loans and development policy loans. The Action Plan was designed to increase the World Bank utilization of credits and loans in the economic sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, finance and private sector development. The Plan will provide \$30.2 million over four years, with half the funds coming from the World Bank and half from donor countries. The action plan is available at <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGENDER/Resources/GAPNov2.pdf>.

## **2007**

April: Workshop on Development Effectiveness in Practice, organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), held in Dublin, Ireland. Here it was emphasized that gender equality, human rights and environmental sustainability are fundamental cornerstones for the achievement of good development results and must be harnessed to advance the implementation of the Paris Declaration.

September: Expert Group Meeting on CSW, appointed by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, in Oslo, Norway. This meeting explored the mechanisms of financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular in relation to the follow-up to the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development.

Outcome document: Report of the Expert Group Meeting, EGM/FFGE/2007/REPORT

October: Third High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development at UN Headquarters in New York. This conference was mainly a preparation for the Follow-up International Conference on FfD to be held in 2008.

Outcome Document: Report of the Secretary-General on “Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development” (A/62/217)

## **2008**

February and March: 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at UN Headquarters in New York. The main theme is “Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

Anticipated Outcome Document: Agreed conclusions.

April: Annual Spring Meeting of ECOSOC in New York, with the Bretton Woods Institutes, the World Trade Organization, and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

April: UNCTAD XII, to be held in Accra, Ghana. This Ministerial conference is held every four years and is UNCTAD’s highest decision-making body. The main theme of this twelfth session is “addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for

development”. Hearings with Member States and civil society, as part of Preparatory Committees (PrepComs), are held on January 28, 2008, and March 3, 2008.

July: First biennial ECOSOC Development Cooperation Forum, as mandated by General Assembly Resolution 60/1 and 61/16. This Forum will review trends in international development cooperation, including strategies, policies and financing; promote greater coherence among the development activities of different development partners; and strengthen the links between the normative and operational work of the United Nations. This provides an opportunity to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment in development cooperation.

September: Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Accra, Ghana. This forum will assess the progress in the implementation of the Paris Declaration. Through the inclusion of newer actors such as civil society and emerging donors, it will also broaden and deepen the dialogue on aid effectiveness. Furthermore, it is a forward-looking event, which will identify the action needed and obstacles to overcome in order to make progress in improving aid effectiveness for 2010 and beyond. Anticipated Outcome Document: Ministerial statement.

November and December: Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha, Qatar. This conference provides a strategic opportunity for the international community to advance concrete action-oriented gender-sensitive policy recommendations. The preparatory process for the conference consists of six review sessions of chapters of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held throughout the year at the UN Headquarters in New York. The seventh event, on June 18, 2008 will be a hearing of civil society and the business sector. In the second week of July 2008, the Secretary-General will issue a report on the latest developments related to the review process on financing for development and the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. By the end of July, the President of the General Assembly will circulate a draft outcome document based on the outcome of the preparatory events. Informal consultations and drafting sessions on the outcome document will be held during the period from September 2008 until the holding of the Review Conference.