



PREVIEW 2000

No 4, May 2000

An occasional bulletin of the International Women's Tribune Centre to cover plans and preparations for the 5 year review of the United Nations Platform for Action, an agenda for women's empowerment that came out of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing 1995

MOVING AHEAD FROM THE FINAL PREPCOM TO THE BEIJING PLUS FIVE SPECIAL SESSION

This issue of Preview 2000 takes one step back to look at what happened at the March 2000 United Nations Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) for the Beijing Plus Five Special Session in June 2000, and one step forward to look at what activities are actually being planned for the Special Session.

With some 1,400 NGOs present at the PrepCom, the panels, workshops and caucuses offered a glimpse of new approaches being explored by groups at all levels, -global, regional and country. Major issue areas included gender budgets and gender auditing, the impact of new information and communication technologies (ICTs) on our work and organizations, the devastating effect of armed conflict on our communities and countries and the emerging leadership of women in initiating peace-building activities. Along with on-going discussions on human rights issues, globalization and the increasing participation of women in the political and public arena were also major topics of discussion and concern.

If the panels, workshops and "one on one" discussions reflected the "what's new" in the women's movement, the "what's old" was more-than-usually evident on a daily basis! We were inundated by 350 right-to-life advocates who sought to disrupt

and undermine the caucus and advocacy efforts of NGOs, most particularly those working in the areas of women's health and youth. Their presence served as a vivid reminder of the growing backlash of right-wing and fundamentalist forces that are one of the major obstacles to the forward momentum of the women's movement worldwide.

(Almost all of the 350 fundamentalists, representing 5 groups, were from North America. For more on this, see pages 10-11.)

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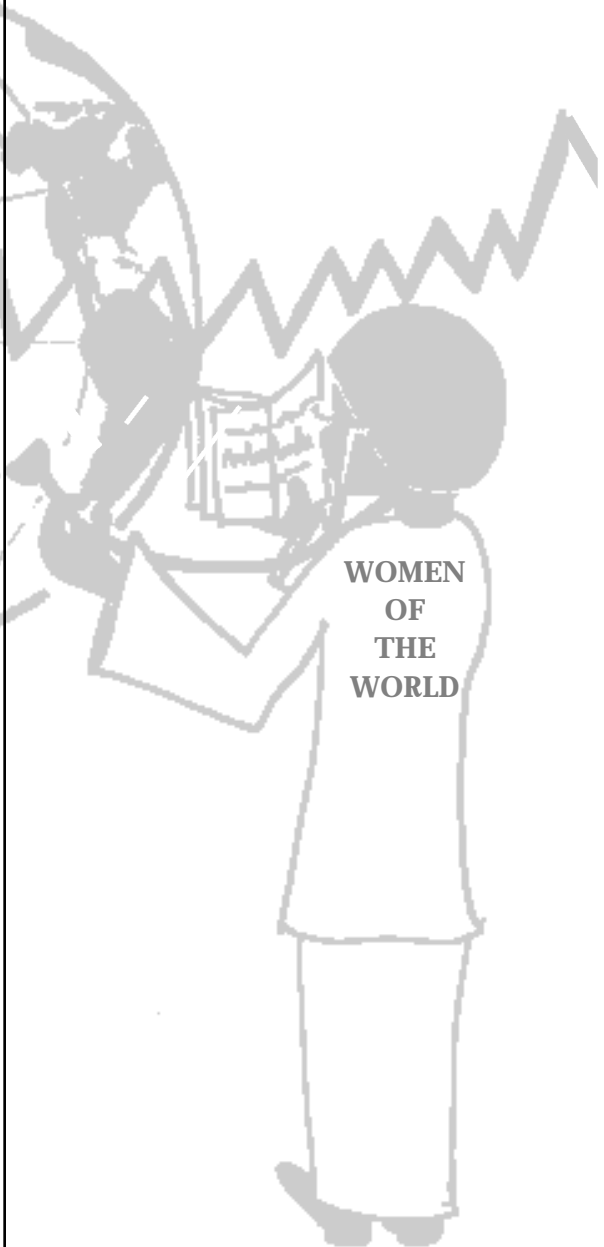
MONITORING THE GLOBAL GENDER HEART BEAT

With just weeks left before the Beijing +5 Special Session, there is a flurry of activity in various quarters to ensure that all the pieces are in place for creating an optimum event for all concerned. Since the beginning, a key concern among most organizations is how we can use this event to leverage change and accelerate action on behalf of women worldwide.

In reading through the reports and papers from the various meetings which have been held this past year, the most often repeated demands are: (1) a commitment of resources through a) the infusion of new funding or b) the re-allocation of national budget expenditures; (2) an increased show of political will through legislative and political action such as the removal of discriminatory legislation (see Equality Now campaign pg.10); signing the Optional Protocol to CEDAW and/or the appointment of women to key decision-making positions across all sectors; (3) attention to the collection of disaggregated data across all sectors. A lesson learned in the past is that if you aren't counted, then you don't count when budgetary allocations are made; and (4) the need to establish benchmarks and indicators.

Since planning first began for this Special Session, one of the foremost considerations was how to support and make visible action at the national level. In the end, the success of what we are all about is the changes we make at individual, community and country level. And while the events reported on in the past issues of *Preview 2000* have focused primarily on happenings and plans at the international level, it is what is happening at the national level that is fueling the forward momentum of the global women's movements.

During the lead up to this Special Session, there have been meetings at national, regional and global level. Reports have been prepared on each of the 12 critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action (PFA) plus new, emerging issues of concern. One of the more exciting outcomes has been the preparation of alternative country reports by NGOs that outline progress made in implementing the PFA. These reports offer a different perspective to the official government reports, and 112 had been received by the International NGO Coordinating Committee by May 12, a resounding affirmation of a new level of public activism on the part of women worldwide.



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ANATOMY OF PREPCOM 2000

WHAT: The final preparatory committee (PrepCom) of the Beijing +5 review process before the UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) June 5-9, 2000.

WHEN and WHERE: March 3-17, 2000, at the UN in NY.

THE PURPOSE: To negotiate and reach consensus among UN Member States on the Outcome Documents for the Special Session. The documents focus on continued monitoring and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) to ensure that the commitments made by national governments in Beijing in 1995 are incorporated into national law. Ultimately, the goal is to achieve gender equality in each of the twelve critical areas of concern.

THE DOCUMENTS:

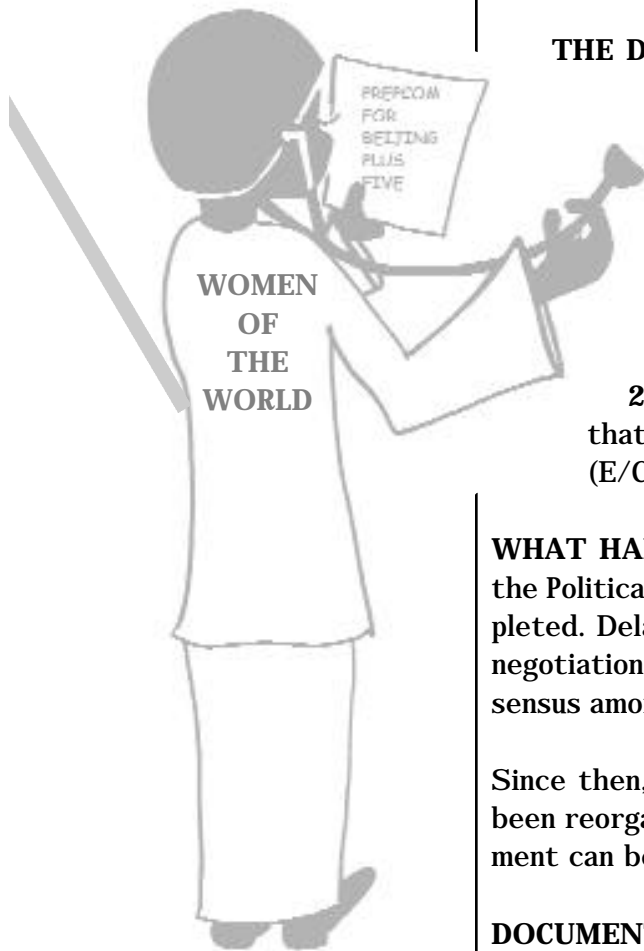
1. **Outcome Document.** This document focuses on implementing the PFA. It identifies obstacles for implementation, strategies to overcome these and new issues that have emerged since 1995. It is officially entitled "Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action" (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.1/Rev.2.)

2. **Political Declaration.** This takes the form of a resolution that reaffirms commitments to the PFA. (E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.5.)

WHAT HAPPENED? While the PrepCom was able to adopt a text for the Political Declaration, work on the Outcome Document was not completed. Delays frequently occurred in presenting group positions, and negotiations were often suspended in order for groups to reach consensus among themselves.

Since then, the content and wording of the Outcome Document has been reorganized within its existing structure. The streamlined document can be found on the UN/DAW web-site. (see above).

DOCUMENTATION AVAILABILITY: United Nations documents are available on-line at the UN/DAW web-site: <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>> or through the UN. Please order by reference number given. Copies of the National Plans of Action for Implementation of the Beijing PFA are available on the UN WomenWatch web-site at: <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/followup/national>>. Some copies of national reports are also available at this site.



ANATOMY OF PREPCOM 2000 (continued)

HOW ORGANIZED:

The UN Division for the Advancement of Women (UN/DAW) serves as the permanent secretariat for the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UN/CSW), a standing committee of the UN comprised of government representatives from 45 member states. The UN/CSW convenes for two weeks in March of each year to monitor the promotion of women's political, economic, civil and social rights.

During the Beijing +5 review process, UN/CSW established a Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) open to representatives from all Member States, to prepare the agenda and documents for the Special Session. The work of the PrepCom is guided by a bureau, or executive committee, selected from among government representatives.

UN/DAW supports the work of both the CSW and the PrepCom by undertaking the following tasks:

- Preparing background and substantive documents;
- Preparing questionnaires to serve as the basis for national reports submitted by member states;
- Providing updated information on the planning for the review;
- Servicing and facilitating negotiations between governments;
- Providing liaison services between the UN and NGOs, including assisting with accreditation and registration.

EXTENDED WORK AGENDA:

Since there was a considerable amount of work left undone at the close of the PrepCom, the Bureau (now referred to as the "Extended Bureau") has been continuing work during April and May, 2000. The following dates were established as the extended worktable:

3 April: The streamlined document (as prepared by UN/DAW) was presented to the Extended Bureau for further work, including the elimination of duplications, and the identification of new areas and issues,

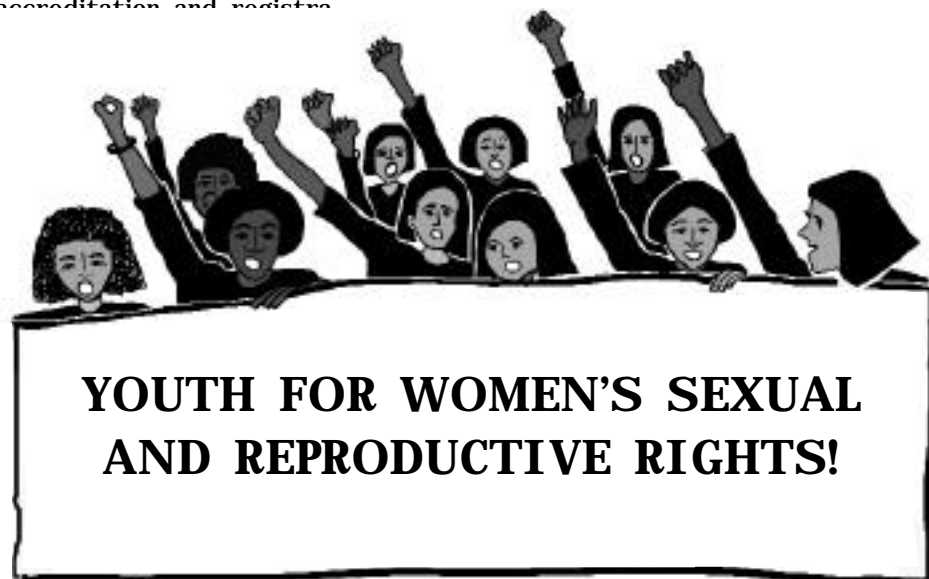
17 April: The review of the compilation document was completed by the Bureau.

17- 19 April: Regional groups read the prepared text and compiled responses.

20 April: The Extended Bureau met to comment on the responses and the nature of the compilation document, and to approve the introduction.

28 April: Final amendments were submitted by 77 Member States who were given additional time because of their particularly heavy schedule of other commitments and meetings.

5 May: Compilation text will be completed.



ANATOMY OF PREPCOM 2000 (continued)

EXTENDED WORK AGENDA: (continued)

8- 12 May: Inter-sessional meetings, or “Resumed Session” to approve text.

15- 19 May: Identified for possible continuation of “Resumed Session”.

24 May - 2 June: Final meetings of the “Resumed Session” to work on document to be presented at the Special Session June 5, 2000.

ISSUES THAT SLOWED DOWN THE PROCESS AT THE PREPCOM:

There were several issues debated at the PrepCom that in general were the reason why the “Outcomes Document” was not completed by the final session on Friday March 17, 2000. These were:

Family(ies):

The definition of what constitutes a family was strongly debated, with conservatives seeing the nuclear family as the only embodiment of family. Others lobbied for an expanded definition of family, to allow legal and economic benefits for those who have long-term partnership and/or group living arrangements and relationships.

Land and Inheritance Rights:

The PFA identified barriers women face to renting and owning land and property. Activists have used this recognition to press national governments to repeal or amend discriminatory property and inheritance laws and policies. Some governments continue to resist this pressure.

Right to Development:

Disagreement arose along North/South lines, with representatives from some governments in the South arguing that strict environmental and trade regulations restricted their right to economic development, and that these regulations were brought in after countries in the North had already developed.

Reproductive and Sexual Rights:

The Platform for Action (PFA) recognized several reproductive rights including “the right to health, reproductive health and family planning”. A few governments have implemented these rights but many have not. The focus in the debate was on the question of implementation.

Sexual Orientation:

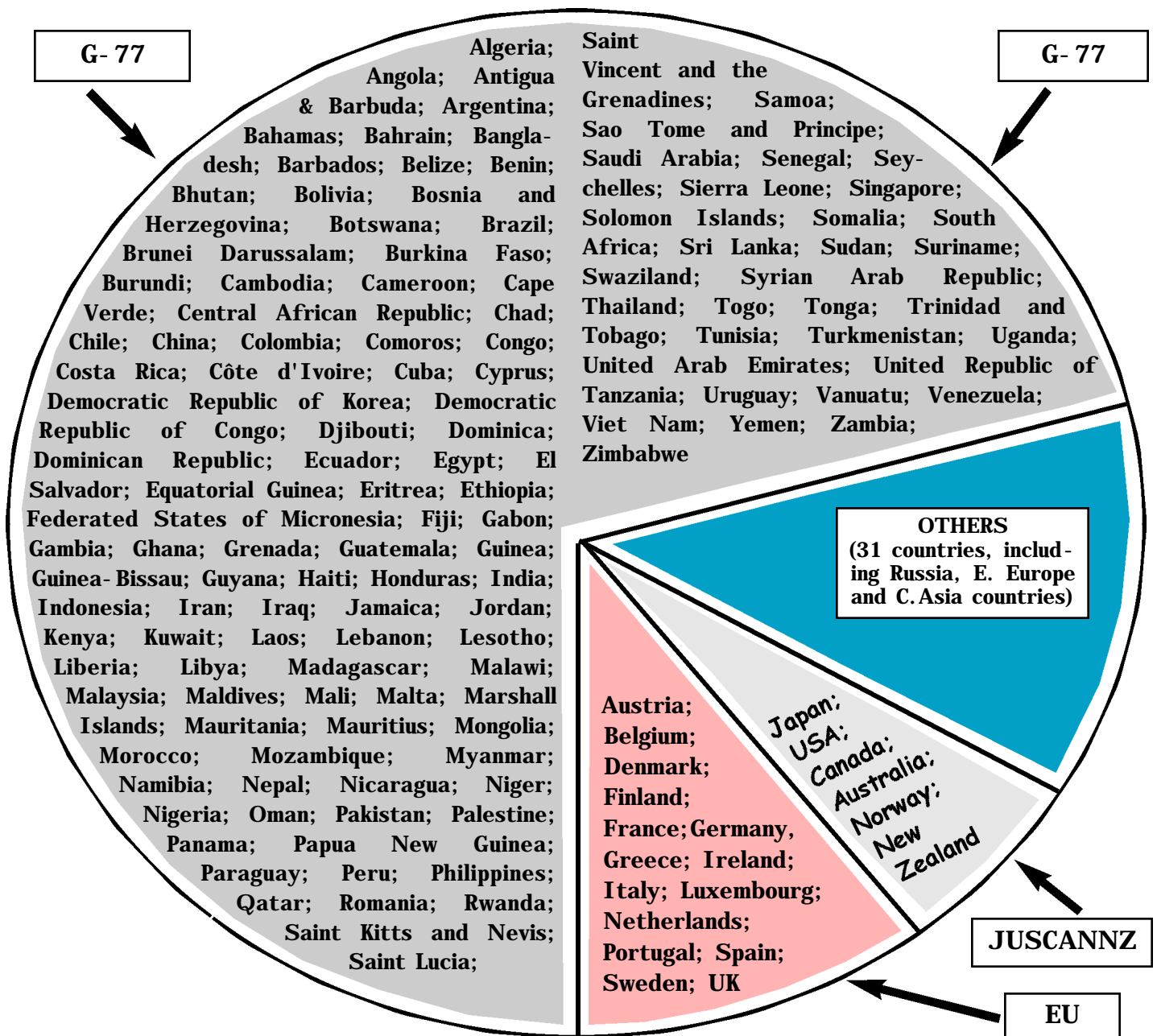
Currently, discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is not recognized as a violation of human rights. In 1995, sexual orientation was mentioned four times in the draft Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) but all four references were deleted from the final document.



PIE-CHART SHOWING THE UN POLITICAL MAP

Within the UN system, government representatives have formed three main negotiating blocks of like-minded countries. These groups change and evolve over time and depending upon the issue. However, generally speaking, the countries who group together feel that they share a common interest much of the time and stand to gain more by working together.

NOTE: The two smallest negotiating blocs -the EU and JUSCANNZ, with 21 countries in total - often work in collaboration. Between them, they pay for 87.18 % of the UN budget which gives them considerable influence. The largest voting bloc is the Group of 77 (G-77) with 133 countries in total. They pay only 7.889 % of the UN budget which on occasions can deprive them of economically-based influence.



NEGOTIATING THE FINAL PRODUCT

AN ASSESSMENT:

The following assessment, "*Beijing Plus Five Negotiations: Serious Risks and Disturbing Repetitions*", written by a representative of Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era (DAWN), offers insight into the political processes in motion.

What Politics Stalled the Negotiations?

In negotiations among the G77 countries during the Prepcom, gender equality issues and women's rights are apparently being more openly subordinated to traditional South-North issues. Partly this is happening because there appears to be an imbalance between the negotiating experience of conservative delegations (mainly composed of skills diplomats) and progressive ones (mainly composed of envoys from national

capitals, implementers from national machineries for the promotion of women's rights, empowerment and gender equality.) The latter are often strongly committed to women's rights but have insufficient experience with UN-level negotiating procedures and complexities.

A rather appalling difference [between these negotiations and Cairo +5] has been the almost complete absence of other UN agencies (including the World Bank) with the exception of UNIFEM to provide technical support during these negotiations.

Another disturbing element in these negotiations is the relative timidity of the JUSCANNZ and EU negotiating positions which can usually be counted upon for strong stances on gender equality and women's human rights. Somehow, they appear to have believed that by self-censorship on issues such as women's health, abortion, reproductive and sexual health rights, they could buy peace and speedy negotiations.

While the conservatives are certainly most virulent on abortion or sexual orientation, this is only symptomatic of their core objection to gender equality itself and to women's right to be full and self-affirming agents as men have always been. They are therefore equally adamant in their refusal to recognize the brutality of domestic violence against women in all societies; in their vehement assertion of the sanctity of 'cultural' and 'religious' beliefs and practices however harmful to women; and in the insidious attempt by the Vatican in many recent negotiations to substitute 'human dignity' for women's human rights.



NEGOTIATING THE FINAL PRODUCT

This core opposition of a small minority of governments to women's human rights as such became very obvious in Beijing. In the current negotiations these same forces have insisted on full respect for religious beliefs and cultural diversity while contesting respect for diversity among women.

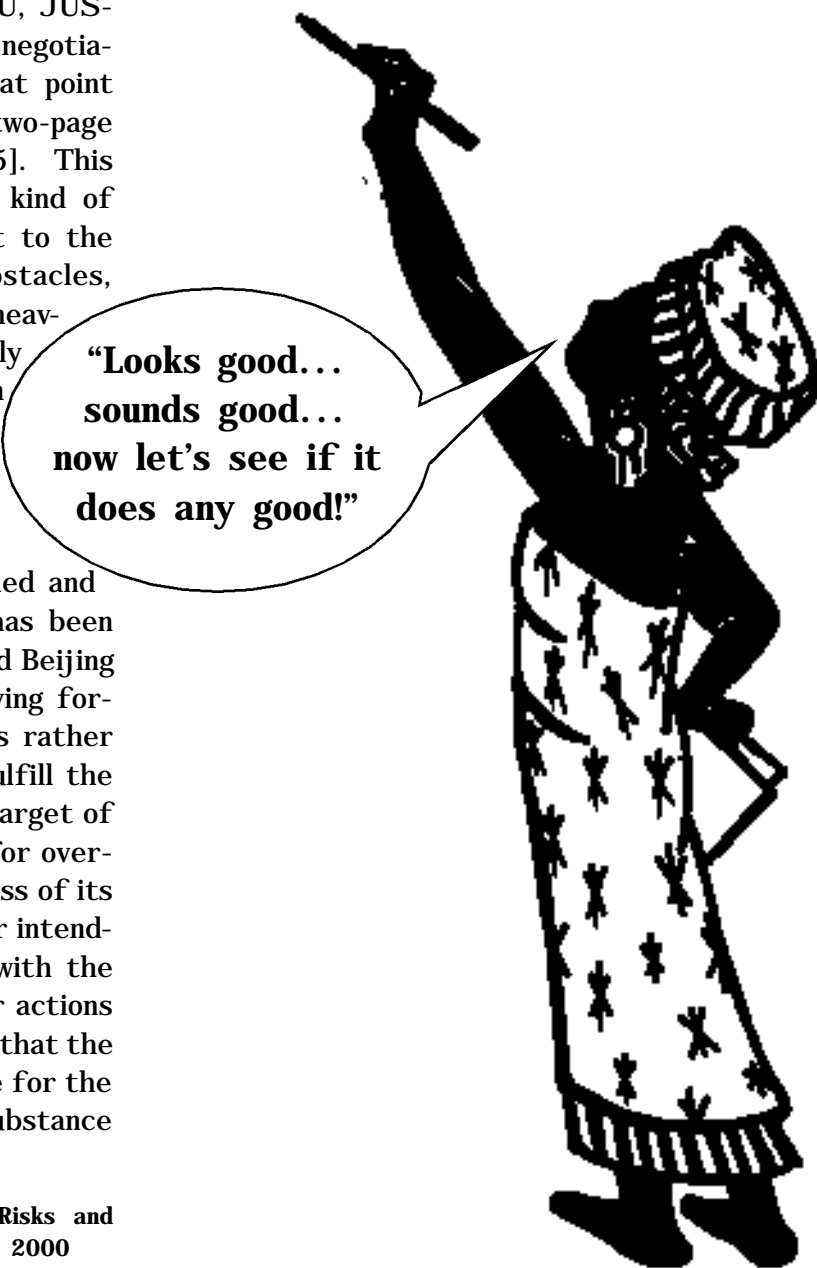
The Political Declaration

On the very last day, a contact group (EU, JUS-CANNZ, Egypt, Algeria and Chile) whose negotiations had been almost invisible up to that point emerged with an agreed text for a two-page Political Declaration [E/CN.6/2000/PC/L.5]. This text which is supposed to provide some kind of overarching reaffirmation of commitment to the PFA without any details regarding obstacles, achievements or future actions, had been heavily bracketed from the beginning. Practically all the substance including women's human rights and CEDAW were in brackets, as were financial resources and development assistance. These brackets are now gone.

While a Political Declaration is both needed and useful, the substance of the text that has been agreed to largely reaffirms the Nairobi and Beijing recommendations without particularly moving forward. On financial resources, the text is rather vague in its "reaffirmation to strive to fulfill the yet to be attained internationally agreed target of 0.7% of the GNP of developed countries for overall ODA as soon as possible". But, regardless of its content, the Political Declaration was never intended to provide implementers or activists with the substantive contents on which to draw for actions from here on. It should be clear therefore that the Political Declaration cannot be a substitute for the Outcomes Document, which is where the substance and details are.

From "Beijing Plus Five Negotiations: Serious Risks and Disturbing Repetitions." DAWN Team, March 26, 2000

POLITICAL DECLARATION ON ADVANCING WOMEN'S RIGHTS...



"Looks good...
sounds good...
now let's see if it
does any good!"

NGO PARTICIPATION IN PREPCOM 2000

HOW NGOs ORGANIZED:

International NGO Coordinating Committee:

The underlying structure that facilitates NGO interaction with the UN for this review process is the Conference of NGOs in relationship with the UN (CONGO) which, in June 1999, called for the setting up of an International NGO Beijing Plus Five Coordinating Committee (INCC), to begin planning for the Special Session in June 2000. A preliminary group met to decide on the composition of the INCC, which now includes 1) CONGO leaders; 2), representatives of NGO Committees on the Status of Women in New York, Geneva and Vienna; 3) regional representatives; and 4) representatives of women's global networks. Also called "NGOs for Women 2000", the INCC shares information and coordinates activities with NGOs worldwide.

Throughout the PrepCom in March, the INCC met each evening to deal with problems and issues as they arose, and to hear feedback from the various caucuses and events organized.

The Role of NGOs in PrepCom 2000:

Throughout the final PrepCom for the Beijing +5 review, NGOs played an active role in negotiating the final outcome document working individually with their own country delegates or collectively, through the caucus structure. Like government delegates, the substance of their work was the wording of the proposed documents.



Caucuses That Met at PrepCom:

Throughout the two-week period, new caucuses emerged as the need arose. The following list provides a sense of the variety of perspectives and subject matter that were discussed:

Critical Areas of Concern in the PFA Caucuses:

1. Poverty
2. Education
3. Health Care
4. Violence against Women
5. Women and Armed Conflict
6. Women and the Economy
7. Women in Power and Decision-Making
8. Institutional Mechanisms
9. Human Rights of Women
10. Women and the Media
11. Women and the Environment
12. The Girl-Child

Regional and Sub-Regional Caucuses:

1. Africa
2. Arab Women
3. Asia-Pacific
4. European Union
5. Francophone
6. Karat Coalition from Eastern Europe
7. Latin America

Other Caucuses:

1. Linkages Caucus
2. Women of Colour
3. Disability
4. Lesbian
5. Indigenous Women
6. Working Women
7. Youth
8. Mental Health
9. Older Women
10. Youth for Reproductive and Sexual Rights
11. HIV/AIDS
12. The World Conference on Women in 2005

NGO PARTICIPATION IN PREPCOM 2000

The Role of NGOs in PrepCom 2000: (cont.)

The NGO caucuses served as the primary vehicle for substantive NGO input in government negotiations. During the PrepCom, NGO representatives worked together in caucuses representing: 1) the 12 critical areas of concern; 2) each world region; and 3) additional and emerging areas of concerns. Each caucus developed new suggested text with which they lobbied government delegates throughout Beijing + 5 negotiations.

The Linkage Caucus:

Also known as the "NGO coalition in support of the BPFA", the Linkage Caucus was comprised of representatives from all other caucus and synthesized all suggestions into one document which treated the full outcome document and all issues.

Other Activities:

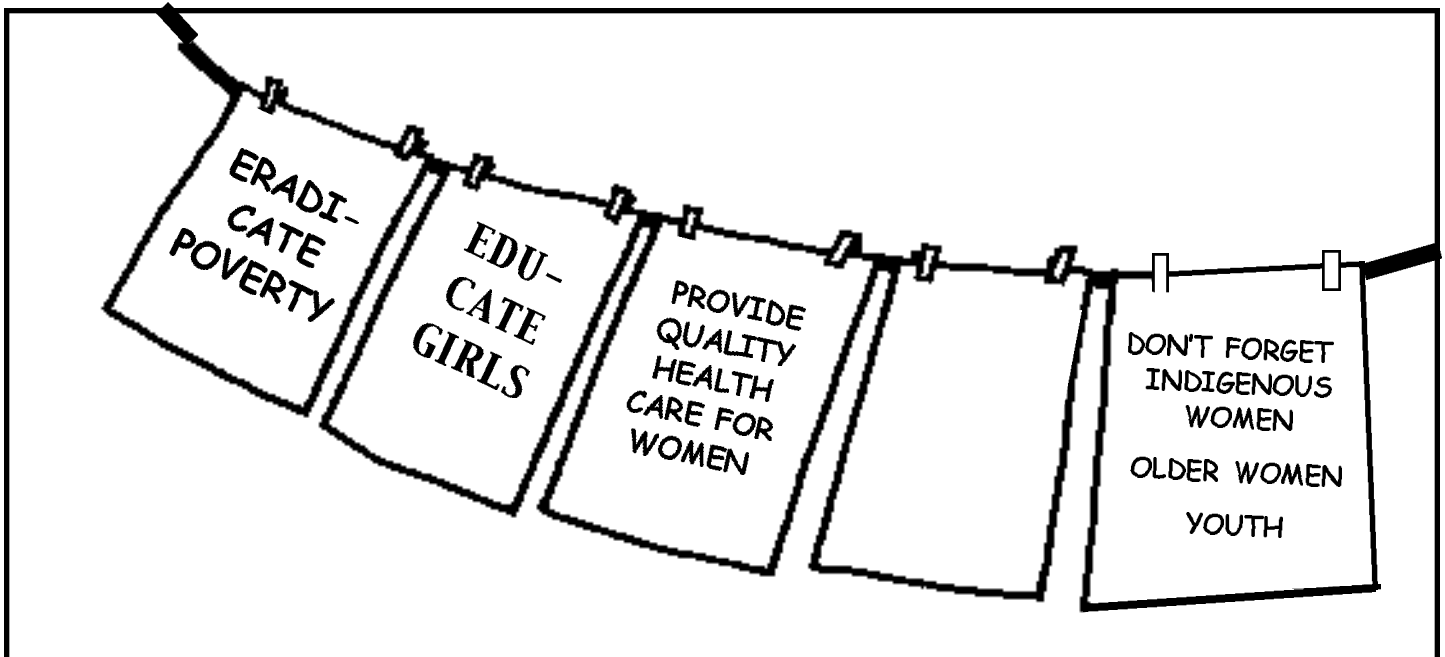
The March 2000 meetings also served as an opportunity for NGOs to strategize, identify issues for collective action, and to begin planning for beyond the Beijing +5 review. In addition to the panels, workshops, press briefing and book launches that took place, many organizations used this coming together as an opportunity to give visibility to cam-

paigns. For example, Equality Now distributed a series of advocacy cards featuring 14 discriminatory laws alongside the countries in which they are still in force. Discriminatory laws included those demanding wife obedience, denying women the right to vote, and restricting women's rights to inherit, to travel and to transfer citizenship. The cards called on governments to repeal or amend these laws before the Beijing +5 Special Session as a show of that government's commitment to the Platform for Action.

Equality Now at e-mail: <info@equalitynow.org> and/or fax: (212-586-1611)

Fundamentalist Opposition to the PFA:

Three hundred and fifty conservatives from five right-wing religious organizations were a vocal presence during two weeks of the Beijing+5 PrepCom from March 6-17. As governments re-examined agreements from the historic Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the conservatives tried to get important provisions and actions rolled back, particularly in the areas of reproductive rights and gender empowerment, and to prevent any further progress in areas like sexual orientation.



NGO PARTICIPATION IN PREPCOM 2000

Fundamentalist Opposition to the PFA: (cont.)

Virtually all the conservatives came from North America and more than half were men, including about twenty-five robed Catholic friars from a Canadian monastery. The conservatives were united in a coalition of fundamentalist Protestants, conservative Catholics and Mormons. They lobbied the G-77 voting bloc intensely, arguing that feminists from the Global North had imposed anti-family values on the rest of the world.

The Response of Feminist NGOs

Governments had agreed before the meeting that the Platform for Action could not be reopened for debate during the review process. Therefore, most caucuses countered Religious Right attempts to reverse gains made at Beijing by stating simply that the Platform for Action was not open for debate. While the caucuses found this clarification helpful and exhibited strong leadership (in particular the youth caucus which was inundated by the Religious Right), the continued pressure slowed the work of some caucuses.

Women's rights activists printed green buttons with the slogan "I support the PFA (Platform for Action)" to counteract the buttons worn by fundamentalists that read "Motherhood" and "Family". The green buttons enabled government delegates who support the Platform for Action to recognize supportive NGO participants. The youth caucus also produced buttons and T-shirts emblazoned with "Youth for Women's Rights", making clear where their sentiments lay.

Feminist religious NGOs had a stronger presence than ever before. Ecumenical Women 2000+, a coalition of Protestant UN offices and ecumenical organizations, brought to the PrepCom a group of Protestant women from all over the world. Protestant churches support the Beijing Platform for Action and have been active in the UN conferences on women.

Religion Counts, an initiative of Catholics for a Free Choice and the Park Ridge Center, brought together an interfaith group of women from around the world to lobby government delegates. A religion caucus initiated by Ecumenical Women 2000+ and Religion Counts printed stickers with the words "Women of faith believe in the PFA" which were very popular among all of the women's rights activists.

(From "300 Religious Right Representatives Attend Beijing Plus Five Preparatory Committee Meeting", by Jennifer Butler, Ecumenical Women 2000+. Available on-line at <<http://www.ew2000plus.org>>)

WOMEN OF FAITH BELIEVE IN THE PLATFORM FOR ACTION

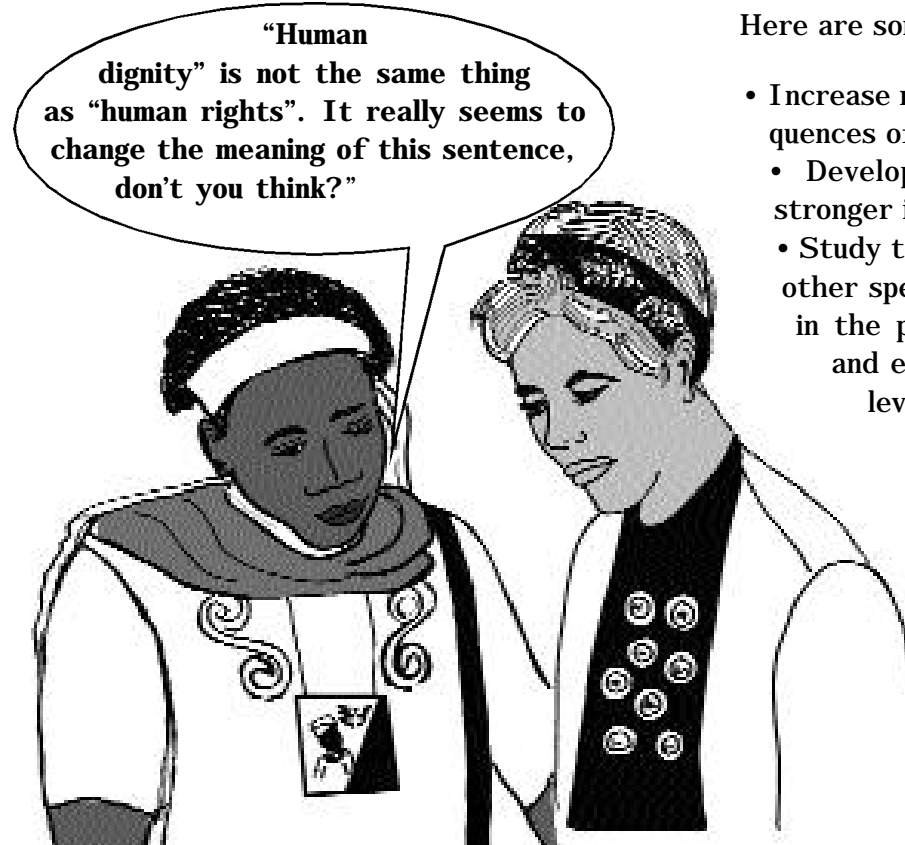


WHAT'S ON THE LINE AND EMERGING ISSUES

WHAT'S ON THE LINE?

With negotiations often divided along North-South lines, many NGO activists expressed concern that gender justice would be sacrificed by the North in the hopes of winning concessions on economic issues. The issues of women's human rights, the right to development, reproductive and sexual rights, sexual orientation and land and inheritance rights were reopened for debate without much forward progress.

The conservative delegates were loudest in their opposition to issues such as reproductive/sexual rights (which they read exclusively as rights to abortion) and sexual orientation, and in their refusal to recognize the brutality of domestic violence against women. The Holy See, which holds a special status at the UN as an Observer State, has emerged as a champion for the South on economic issues and in the weakening of human rights language by suggesting the substitution of "human dignity" in place of "human rights".



EMERGING ISSUES

Throughout the 44th session of the CSW and the Beijing +5 PrepCom, a number of new issues emerged both from governments and non-governmental organizations. These issues will require increased attention as they either provide new opportunities for women's advancement or present obstacles that have not been considered thus far.

Here are some of these "emerging issues"

- **HIV/AIDS pandemic** and the need for a more systematic understanding of the gender-differentiated impacts;
- **Need for more resources** to support implementation of the PFA, particularly for national machineries for the advancement of women;
- **Uneven and gender-differentiated impact of globalization**, which has in some cases deepened women's poverty;
- **Devastating consequences of armed conflict and internal displacement.**

Here are some suggestions made by delegations:

- Increase recognition of the extent and consequences of violence against women;
- Develop targets on gender to ensure stronger implementation of commitments;
- Study the impact of affirmative action and other special measures put in place to assist in the process of building gender equality and ending discrimination on the national level;

Finally, some delegations welcomed:

- New information and communications technologies, while noting that the gains of these technologies are, in some cases, accompanied by new forms of exclusion.

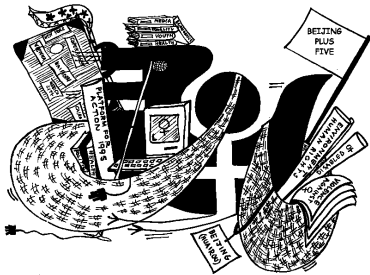
WHAT'S ON THE LINE AND EMERGING ISSUES

NGOs highlighted the following:

- The importance of looking at the negative consequences of globalization on women and the urgent need for adequate responses;
- A call for more concerted political will, including through the commitment of resources for the implementation of the Platform for Action, and the protection of women's human rights;
- Greater attention to particular issues of the girl-child and adolescent women, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The impact of globalization on the environment, particularly in the commercialization of water and development of "wonder foods".
- The continuing scourge of racism,
- Difficulties faced by women with physical disabilities,
- The increasing problems faced by women in the area of mental health,
- HIV/AIDS and its effect on women,
- Women facing old age and increasing dependency,
- Concerns of young women, lesbians, indigenous and working women.



OTHER PERSPECTIVES



Other groups have produced reports providing an analysis or commentary on the March 2000 PrepCom for the Beijing + 5 review, and these include:

- Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN): *“Beijing + 5 Negotiations: Serious Risks and Disturbing Repetitions”* Available from: Claire Slatter, University of the South Pacific, P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji. Fax: (+679)301-487. E-mail: <dawn@is.com.fj>
- Flora Tristan: Centro de la Mujer Peruana, *“Beijing +5 Y Los Avances De Las Mujeres”* y *“Boletín Beijing +5”*. Sírvase dirigir su correspondencia a: E-mail: <beijing@flora.org.pe> o revisa <<http://www.beijing5.org.pe>>. En español.
- Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women *“Geneva Advocacy Notes: Special Bulletin on the ECE Prepcom for Beijing + 5”*. Reports on the outcome of the ECE Regional Preparatory meeting for Beijing +5, 16-21 January 2000. Available from: Geneva NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Room E2, NGO Lounge, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Tel: (+41-22) 917 47 35. Fax: (+41 22) 917 01 81, E-mail: <ngocsw@irpolink.ch>
- International Institute for Sustainable Development: *“Linkages: 44th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women”*, available on-line (photographs included) at: <<http://www.iisd.ca/4wcw/csw44/index.html>>
- Isis International, *Women Envision*, a monthly publication providing coverage of the Beijing + 5 Review process. Available from: Isis International-Manila, PO Box 1837, Quezon City Main, Quezon City 1100, Philippines. Fax: (+63-2) 924 1065 E-mail: <communications@isiswomen.org> <<http://www.isiswomen.org>>
- UNIFEM, *“Gender Justice and Economic Justice - Reflections on the Five Year Reviews of the UN Conferences of the 1990’s”*, by Gita Sen and Sonia Correa. Available from UNIFEM at: United Nations Development Fund for Women, 304 East 45th Street, 15th floor, New York, NY 10017. Tel: (212)906-6400. Fax: 212/906-670. Website: <<http://www.unifem.undp.org>> E-mail: <unifem@undp.org>
- REPEM *“From Platform to Action: UN Commission on the Status of Women - PrepCom - Activities Reports”*, by Alejandra Scampini, Ana Vasquez, Viviana Maldonado and Celita Eccher. A series of reports written between 1 - 17 March, 2000, available on-line from Red De Educacion Popular Entre Mujeres (REPEM), Colonia 2069, Montevideo 11200, Uruguay. Tel: (+589-2) 40-6994/48-9158 Fax: (+598-2) 49-2343 E-Mail: <ipru@chasque.apc.org>
- *Womenswire*, a new web-based magazine has launched its special edition on Beijing +5. This edition focuses on young women’s activism during the PrepCom. Web-site: <<http://www.womenswire.org>>

ACTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

WHAT WE CAN DO NOW:

Whether or not you come to the Beijing + 5 Special Session in June, there are many things that you can do at home now. Throughout the month of May, inter-sessional meetings at the UN are taking place to continue work on the main Outcome Document. Government representatives will be seeking input from their home governments during these negotiations.



Here is a Check List of actions that you and your group could take in your country in preparation for the Special Session.

HAVE YOU...	YES	INTEND TO SOON	NO
1. Met with the government ministry responsible for gender issues in your country?			
2. Briefed your country's Beijing +5 delegation regarding NGO concerns and issues?			
3. Distributed your alternative national report (if one has been produced by NGOs in your country) widely to NGOs, government and the press? (A full list of NGO Alternative Reports can be found a WomenAction 2000 web-site: < http://www.womenaction.org > and will be available in Preview 2000 #5).			
4. Lobbied for NGO representation on your government's delegation?			
5. Organized a campaign to secure commitments of major media outlets to carry regular coverage of Special Session events?			
6. Identified a person or an organization with internet access willing to download daily updates from the Special Session?			

LOOKING AT THE SPECIAL SESSION

As mentioned on page one, this issue of *Preview 2000* takes one step back to look at what happened at the March 2000 PrepCom, and one step forward to look at what activities are actually being planned for the Special Session.

It is increasingly clear that the events, symposia and panels planned for that week reflect a new critical awareness by women of the interlocking mechanisms of the global political and economic institutions. It is an awareness that also covers a push by women to expand their arena of advocacy and action by taking on and challenging the most entrenched bastions of male power and privilege: economics and trade, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Globalization and a growing movement for gender justice all figure prominently on the week's agenda.

The Beijing +5 review process has offered women new opportunities to interact with government officials and other public institution representatives-to put forward needs, to explore new approaches, and, in doing so, to work towards building more democratic processes. In meetings in every world region during the past year, women's demands for accountability by their governments on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action have been accompanied by the widespread recognition that what is being asked for is not a favour but the responsibility and duty of governments to provide.

Logistically, there will be two major arenas of activity: 1) The UN Headquarters, the Church Center at the UN, and other meeting spaces in mid-town Manhattan; and 2) the US Custom House in lower Manhattan.

The mid-town Manhattan meetings will include the official UN meeting to be held in the General

Assembly (with other UN conference rooms used for government meetings and negotiations on the Outcome Document), and caucuses and lobbying activity by NGOs who are accredited to the UN. Closed circuit TV at various key sites, including the US Custom House, will provide ongoing coverage of the General Assembly discussions.

Although meetings within the UN will be restricted to government delegates and accredited NGOs, every effort has been made to identify spaces and places for meetings that will provide open access to all. This is particularly true of many of the specialized agencies of the UN who are seeking public spaces to hold meetings in order to engage non-accredited NGOs in debate.

ORGANIZING STRUCTURES CHART (opposite)

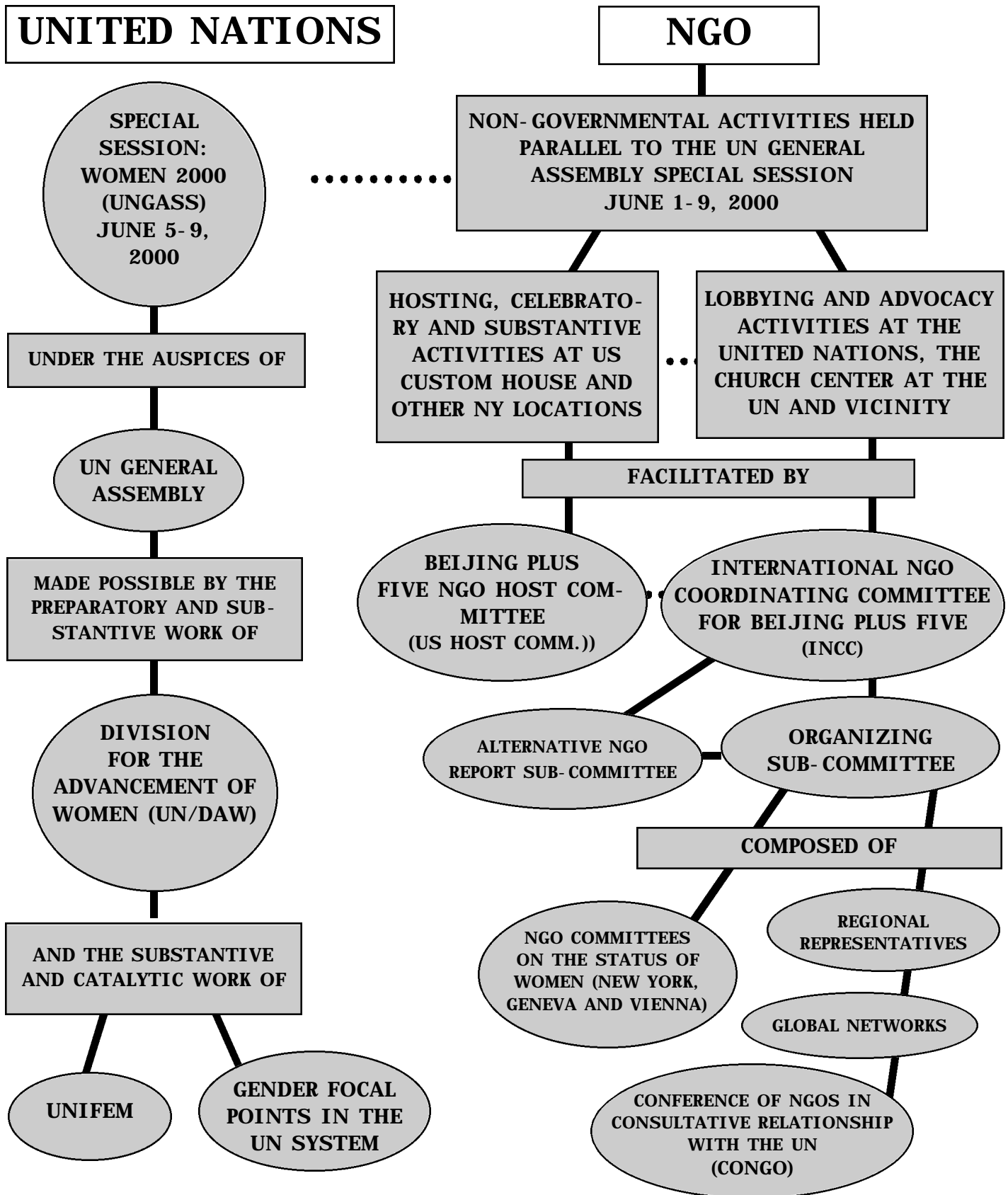
The following structural outline is an effort to explain the two parallel structures-UN and NGO-that are the coordinating agencies for the Special Session events. As in past events, the synergy between NGOs and government delegates, the opportunities for an open and frank exchange of ideas and viewpoints, have been essential ingredients in creating global policies that "work".

The role of the International NGO Coordinating Committee, established by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with ECOSOC (CONGO), is to create the conditions to enhance this interaction and to create spaces where the voices of women in the NGO community can be heard.

The role of the US Beijing Plus Five Host Committee, mainly established to provide events and activities for those NGOs who will be unable to take part in activities at the UN, is to create other spaces and opportunities for the exchange of ideas among women who are active in the women's movement in their own countries and communities.



ORGANIZING STRUCTURES CHART



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED FOR

Accredited NGOs may participate in the Special Session by attending open General Assembly meetings and lobbying delegates

Who has accreditation?

Your NGO is eligible for accreditation if:

- You are an NGO with Consultative Status with the UN and
- Your NGO was accredited to the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995
- NGOs set up since 1995 and actively involved in follow-up activities to Beijing.

Invitations were faxed to the first two categories of NGOs by the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (UN/DAW) in March 2000.

New NGOs were invited to apply for accreditation with specific information laid out under seven categories by the PrepCom in a resolution adopted on 14 March, 2000. A Special Committee of the UN has reviewed the on-line applications of these NGOs and made decisions as to who will be accredited.

With limited space available for NGOs (there is space for 1,000 seated and 1,000 others on UN premises), all UN passes for NGOs with consultative status may be suspended during the Special Session with new passes issued valid only during the week of UNGASS. It is possible that only 1-2 representatives per NGO will be issued passes.



UNITED NATIONS GA SPECIAL SESSION, June 5-9, 2000

UN General Assembly

Morning Session 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch. 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Afternoon Session 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

NGO Activities at the UN

Daily Briefing: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Caucuses, workshops 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch, lobbying, meetings . . . 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Caucuses, workshops 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Parallel NGO lobbying and advocacy caucuses and workshops will continue throughout this week of UNGASS at the UN and the Church Center. CONGO and DAW are compiling this schedule which will be available through the daily newspaper, and through a calendar being prepared by the NGO Beijing Plus Five Host Committee (US Host Committee) which will be available in print and on their web site at:

<[http:// www.beijingplus5hostcomm.com](http://www.beijingplus5hostcomm.com)>

WOMENACTION 2000 (WA2000)

This coalition of women's media and information networks from every world region will be uploading information on the WomenAction website each day. WA2000 will also be undertaking a daily newspaper, an Internet cafe, interactive TV and web radio broadcasts, and collaborating with a Global Media Project with Isis International/Manila to get articles from the Special Session to newspapers in various countries representing all world regions.

WomenAction 2000 can be found at the Church Center at the UN (CCUN), Second Floor.

THE SPECIAL SESSION IN JUNE?

BEGINNING PLAN OF EVENTS FOR NGOS

June 2-3, 2000

As outlined on page 10, an International NGO Coordinating Committee was set up in 1999 to facilitate NGO activities at the Special Session.

Pre UNGASS NGO activities begin on June 2nd and continue through the weekend of June 3-4, 2000

June 2: **NGO WELCOME GATHERING!**
An informal event is planned with music, drums and some speeches from NGO leaders.
OPEN TO ALL

June 3: **NGO WORKING SESSION
AT UNITED NATIONS**

ACTIVITY	FROM	TO
Opening	9:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Regional Presentations	10:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Lunch	1:00 p.m.	2:45 p.m.
Intergenerational Roundtable	2:45 p.m.	4:15 p.m.
Briefing on State of the Document	4:15 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

June 3: **Journalists Encounter &
Discussion on Women and Media
at 809 United Nations Plaza**

This is part of the Japanese Global Forum and pre-registration is required.

Contact Haruko Watanabe at:
E-mail <HKW2000@aol.com> or at their web-site:
<<http://members.aol.com/womenmedia>>

OTHER NGO EVENTS

If you do not have accreditation, there will still be hundreds of events throughout New York City in which you can participate. Most events will either be in the neighborhood of the United Nations or at the US Customs House but a number of schools and universities have provided space as well. The majority of these events are being coordinated by the following four organizations:

Conference of NGOs (CONGO)
CONGO has collected 100s of requests for space from NGOs from every world region. These events being coordinated by CONGO will be held in the Church Center at the UN and will include both NGO Caucus meetings as well as panels and workshops.

The United Nations Division on the Advancement of Women (DAW):

DAW coordinates all events organized by the UN and its specialized agencies as well as events organized by NGOs that will be held within the UN Headquarters. In addition to holding panels inside the UN, DAW will also host events in the UN neighborhood that will be open to all NGOs.



OTHER ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NGOs

**NGO Beijing +5 Host Committee
(US Host Committee):**

**VENUE (Unless otherwise noted):
US Custom House, One Bowling Green
New York, NY 10007**

NOTE: Host Committee events are marked "+". This committee of US-based NGOs has been set up to facilitate a variety of educational and celebratory events. Interested participants should register by May 15, either directly by mail to Beijing +5 Host Committee, 116 E. 16th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 0003 USA or by using the Registration Form on their web-site. In addition, overseas NGOs can register when they arrive. More information is available about each event on their website at: <<http://www.beijing-plus5hostcomm.com>>.

Japan Global Forum:

**VENUE: 809 United Nations Plaza,
New York, NY 10017**

NOTE: Japan Forum events are marked "*".

A 7-day series organized by the HKW Executive Committee for the Japan Global Forum. Registration is required. A full schedule can be found at their web-site:
<<http://members.aol.com/womenmedia/>>.

From among the activities planned by the four groups, you can expect a variety of substantive activities including academic panels and symposia, a cyber cafe, a film forum, book launches, and cultural performances that illustrate the themes of the Platform for Action. Events will address all critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and its implementation as well as emerging issues. Event organizers are drawing on the expertise of the thousands of women who will be arriving from all over the world.

The following calendar is a sampling of the many events being planned. Information is not yet avail-

able for most CONGO and DAW events. When you arrive in New York, check the NGO Hospitality Center on the 2nd floor of the Church Center at the United Nations for complete schedules of events.

NOTE: International NGO Coordinating Committee events are marked "#"

THURSDAY, June 1

+Forum on Cultural Boundaries and Cyber Spaces:
Women's Learning Partnership. Registration required. There is a fee.
Venue: New York University
<<http://www.learningpartnership.org>>

FRIDAY, June 2

#NGO WELCOME GATHERING:
International NGO Coordinating Committee for Beijing plus Five.
Outdoors in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
OPEN TO ALL

SATURDAY, June 3

#NGO WORKING SESSION:
International NGO Coordinating Committee for Beijing Plus Five
Venue: United Nations
Accredited NGOs only.

***Media Encounter Panel and Discussion on Women and Media: Japan Global Forum**

SUNDAY, June 4

+Forum on Women and Human Rights:
Center for Women's Global Leadership et al.
Venue: Columbia University.
<<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>>

+Forum on the Girl Child: UNICEF, WAGGGS, Girl Scouts of USA, CEDPA, Save the Children, AAUW.
Venue: Labouisse Hall, UNICEF House
<<http://www.girlsrights.org>>

***Meet Women at NGO Activities:**
Japan Global Forum.

OTHER ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NGOs

MONDAY, JUNE 5

+NGO OPENING CEREMONY:

NGO Beijing +5 Host Committee.
Outdoors in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
OPEN TO ALL

+Forum on Women, Science and Technology:

This is a 2-day event
Association for Women in Science, American
Association for the Advancement of Science.
<<http://www.awis.org>>

*Forum on Women and Peace:

Japan Global Forum

Program for Women Political Leaders:

Contact Irene Santiago at Tel: (63-917) 811
0386.(Philippines) or via e-mail at:
<irenesantiago@yahoo.com>

+Symposia, "Women and Globalization":

This is a 4-day event
National Council for Research on Women.
Venue: Center for the Study of Women in Society
at CUNY Graduate Center,
Registration required.
Venue: CUNY Graduate Center
Contact NCRW at tel: 212-875-7355.
E-Mail: <tjesrani@ncrw.org>
or contact the Center for the Study of Women and
Society at Tel: 212-817-2020.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

+Forum on Women's Economic Empowerment:

Center for Policy Alternatives, AFL-CIO, Women's
Edge et al.
<<http://www.stateaction.org>>

*Forum on Development and the Girl Child:

Japan Global Forum

+Women and Racism:

No Limits Project for Women.

BOOK LAUNCH/RECEPTION

Women, Ink. and IWTC, 6-8 pm
777 United Nations Plaza, 3rd Floor

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

+Forum on Women and Health:

Planned Parenthood Federation of America,
National Black Women's Health Project,
International Women's Health Coalition.
Venue: Hunter College
<<http://www.ppfa.org>> or
<<http://www.4woman.gov>>

*Forum on Productive Aging:

Japan Global Forum

+Women and Spirituality

Young Women's Political Leaders' Forum:

Contact Irene Santiago at
Tel: (63-917) 811 0386.(Philippines)
or via e-mail at: <irenesantiago@yahoo.com>

+Forum on Women and Decision Making:

Women's Environment and Development Organi -
zation (WEDO)

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

*Forum on Gender Equality:

Japan Global Forum

Roundtable of Women Political Leaders:

Contact Irene Santiago,
Tel: (63-917) 811 0386. (Philippines)
E-mail: <irenesantiago@yahoo.com>

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

+Women and Internalized Oppression:

No Limits Project for Women.

*Forum on NGO/Civil Society:

Japan Global Forum

*Japan Global Forum Closing Program

PLEASE NOTE!

Cultural events are planned throughout the time of
the Special Session, including "Women Can't
Wait!", a performance piece that is part of
Equality Now's Beijing Plus Five campaign against
discriminatory laws.

SOME OTHER BASICS

GETTING REGISTERED:

Registration for the NGO Working Session at the United Nations on Saturday, June 3, 2000 requires that you are accredited to the UN Special Session.

Some of the other planned activities for NGOs also require registration, e.g. US Host Committee and the Japan Global Forum activities. To register for US Host Committee activities, send your name, organization, address, telephone number and email to:

NGO Beijing Plus Five Host Committee,
c/o Sister Fund, 116 E. 16th St, 7th Floor,
New York, NY 10003, USA

or register on-line at their web-site:

<<http://www.beijingplus5hostcomm.com>>.

Deadline: May 15, 2000

(on-site for overseas visitors)

GETTING AND GIVING INFORMATION:

A daily newspaper is planned that will keep participants in touch with what is going on. A schedule of events will be included in each edition and will also be on-line at both the WomenAction 2000 and US Host Committee websites. Schedules will be available in the CONGO Hospitality Center on the 2nd Floor of the Church Center at the UN, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

WEB- SITES:

WomenAction2000: <<http://www.womenaction.org>>

US Host Com. : <<http://beijingplus5hostcomm.com>>

Some other web-sites where information will be available throughout the Special Session.

1. WomenWatch: The UN Women's site:
<<http://www.un.org/womenwatch>>
2. Conference of NGOs (CONGO):
<<http://www.conferenceofngos.org>>
3. UN Division for the Advancement of Women
<<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw>>
4. UNIFEM
<<http://www.unifem.undp.org>>

RESERVING SPACE:

Space for meetings, workshops, caucuses, and other events must be reserved by the coordinator of the activity. Space at both the United Nations and the Church Center at the UN (CCUN) will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For Space at the United Nations:

Contact the UN Division for the Advancement of Women at:

Koh Miyaoi

NGO Liaison Officer

UN Division for the Advancement of Women

United Nations

New York, NY 10017

E-mail: <beijing5@un.org>

For Space at the Church Center for the UN

Contact the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the UN (CONGO)

Beijing+5 Liaison Office:

Tsinu Tesfaye,

Beijing Plus Five Coordinator

(1-212) 661-2932 (tel)

(1-212) 687-7352 (fax)

E-mail: <beijing5ngo@aol.com>

Rebecca Nichols

Executive Director of CONGO

777 United Nations Plaza

New York, NY 10017

Tel: (1-212) 986-8557

Fax: (1-212) 986-0821

E-mail: <congongo@aol.com>

For Information on NGO Activities at UN and Church Center:

Communications Office

Janice M. Fett, Coordinator

(1-212) 986-6117 (tel)

(1-212) 687-7352 (fax)

E-mail: <congongo2@aol.com>

SOME OTHER BASICS

MEDIA ACTIVITIES

Press Center

Communications Consortium from Washington, DC, will be running a Press Center at the Church Center during the Special Session. For more information, contact: Kathy Bonk, Tel: (1-202) 326-8700. Fax: (1-202) 682-2154. E-mail: <kbonk@ccmc.org>

Internet Café

Due to popular demand and the success of the Internet Café at the Church Center during the CSW/PrepCom in March 2000, there will be an Internet Café again at the Church Centre, this time on the Second Floor. In addition, a Cyber Café will be operating at the US Custom House.

Daily Newspapers

More than one daily newspaper may be produced, including one by *WomenAction 2000* and the International NGO Coordinating Committee. It will include regular daily features and news reports, updates on the UN Outcome Document, and announcements of caucus meetings, events, workshops, etc. The first issue will include a comprehensive schedule of activities. Another is planned by an African team of media women and will have a strong African perspective. There are also plans for a daily *Earth Times*.

InterActive TV and Radio

A women's media group from Paris known as CyberFemmes is planning to undertake TV interviews, and FIRE from Costa Rica is planning to do radio interviews. Both of these groups are WomenAction2000 partners. These interviews will be broadcast via the World Wide Web.

Journalists' Encounter

This opening program of the Japan NGO Global Forum will provide an opportunity to network with media professionals committed to women's human rights. Panelists include Raghida Dergham, UN Correspondent; Barbara Crossette, UN Bureau Chief, NY Times; Susan Markham, Chief, Promotion and Planning UNDP; and Dr. Patricia Flor, Chairperson, CSW 1999.

Book Launches

Women, Ink and IWTC will host a book launch featuring a series of books from Third World Network on national machineries of women in Africa, plus a new book on women in small business in Uganda : "*From Burning Sun to Boardroom: Business Ventures and Investment Patterns of 84 Ugandan Women*". For more information, contact: Yasna Uberoi, Women, Ink (see back page for contact details).

UNIFEM also plans to launch "*Progress of the World's Women*" , a new biennial report on the importance of targets and indicators for holding governments accountable to commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action.

International Film Festival

A variety of films and videos, including some on the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and NGO Forum in Beijing, will be shown daily at the US Custom House. Check the daily newspaper for showtimes and listings. If you would like to submit a film or video to be considered for this series, please contact:

Peggy Kerry, NGO Liaison Officer,
US Mission to the United Nations

Fax: (1-212) 415-4053

E-mail: <kerry@state.gov>.

Note: All films must be at least 15 minutes long and in VHS format.

International Exhibit of Art and Artisan Work by Women

The International Museum of Women (IMOW) is to open in California in 2005. The Museum will be the first world-class cultural and educational institution examining and celebrating the lives of women throughout history. During the Special Session, IMOW will partner with UNIFEM to sponsor an international exhibit of art and artisan work which reflects women's progress and power. The exhibit, including art, crafts, and other forms of creative expression, will be displayed in the lobby of the visitors' entrance to the UN during the month of June.

WOMEN, INK. BOOKLINK #13

Booklink is a monthly e-mail update with information on what's new in the Women, Ink. collection, selected web-sites, events of interest, and more. Those without e-mail access can receive a print version by sending name and address to:

Yasna Uberoi, Women, Ink.

777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

Tel: (1-212) 687-8633 ext. 212

Fax: (1-212) 661-2704. E-mail: <wink@womenink.org>

Women, Ink. is a project of IWTC that empowers women worldwide with knowledge to transform communities.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE 2000 CATALOGUE

Women, Ink. has received new books recently, all of which are listed in a supplement to the Women, Ink. 2000 catalogue. If you are not already on the Women, Ink. mailing list, let us know.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Issues covered in new titles received include: a) media and women in Asia and the Pacific; b) gender and information technology in Africa, and; c) the history of FIRE, a radio broadcast initiative based in Costa Rica and its relation to global feminism.

Changing Lenses: Women's Perspectives on Media

Provides an overview of the state of women and media in Asia and the Pacific, with a particular focus on violence against women. The report also features ten country case studies. It is clear from these studies that many issues still remain on the feminist agenda about the representation and portrayal of women in the media.

1999. 173 pages. WE 498V. ISBN 971-8829-09-1. US\$8.00

Gender and the Information Revolution in Africa

Eva Rathgeber and Edith Ofwona Adera

Examines the current and potential impact of the explosion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in Africa. The focus is on gender issues and the book analyzes the extent to which women's needs and preferences are being served. Whether in the field of agriculture, health, micro-enterprise or education, the emphasis is on the needs of rural women. The authors argue that women must be decision-makers and active participants in the process of using new ICTs to accelerate African economic, social and political development.

2000. 256 pages. WE 503V. ISBN 0-88936-903-8. US\$35

Women's Voices on FIRE - Feminist International Radio Endeavour. MarÌa Suarez Toro

A history of the Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) in Costa Rica. Offers an account of FIRE's role in the growth of the global feminist movement. Since its beginnings in short-wave radio in 1991, FIRE has taken its microphones around the world to record women's lives and experiences. A major activity has been the catalyzing and recording of local, regional and international tribunals of violations of women's human rights.

2000, 510 pages. WE 496V. ISBN 0-9672912-0-8. US\$20.00

OTHER RESOURCES, WEB-SITES/CONFERENCES

Women in the News Media: A Focus on Leadership
Washington DC, May 21 -23, 2000.

International Women's Media Foundation.

Female media managers from around the globe will examine the affect on the media when women are absent from decision-making positions. Check their web-site at: <<http://www.iwmf.org/2000/conf.htm>>

Asian Women's Electronic Network Training Workshop (WENT 2000):

Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, South Korea
June 19-24, 2000

Undertaken by the Asian Women's Resource Exchange (AWORC) in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), to train participants in running web-based information services, using on-line communication tools for their networking and advocacy work, and in developing databases. For more information, write to:

E-mail: <went2000@isiswomen.org>. or check web-site at: <<http://www.isiswomen.org>>

WomensNet, South Africa:

A human rights section was added to the web-site of WomensNet in 2000. WomensNet serves to educate and empower women by opening up access to information and communication technologies (ICTs). Through ICTs, women are made aware of local and international conventions that protect their rights. Check their web-site at: <<http://womensnet.org.za/humanrights/>>

WOMEN, INK. ORDERING INFORMATION

All orders need to be prepaid by credit card (MasterCard/Visa), cheque (US dollars drawn on a US bank) or direct deposit into Women, Ink.'s bank account (Chase Bank, New York #152012761).

Order on-line at <<http://www.womenink.org>>
(More information at top of page)