

WILDAF WEST AFRICA

Newsletter

Women in Law and Development in Africa

N°26 - April 2006

EDITORIAL

Two months after WILDAF network members attended the 50th CSW session, this edition of WILDAF West Africa Newsletter revisits issues of the meeting which were discussed concerning increasing the participation of women in development, the establishment of an enabling environment for gender equity and the promotion of women, particularly in the areas of education, health and work, and equal participation of women and men in decision-making at all levels.

This edition will extensively inform you on the activities of the network during the session, specifically on the participation of women in decision-making. You will also find information on other activities organised by other partners and in which WILDAF took part.

Years are passing by but are not the same. A taboo until recently, women's rights issues were seen as a topic of some feminists who were disrupting the order of things for trivialities. Then the United Nations understood that the struggle was worth waging for the sake of development and one needed to struggle alongside the women for the respect and exercise of their rights. Today, we are delighted with the new achievement that has just been made as thoughts change to bring pressure to bear on our governments to honour their commitments if they want to receive development aid. In this edition, there is more information on the new aid conditions after having read extracts of a document entitled « Promoting gender equity in the new modalities of assistance and new partnerships ».

The major event of the beginning of the year, which is the CSW, does not make us forget to report on the activities of our network. Hence, in this edition, you will also find out that the first activity: a sub-regional workshop for the approval of the new « Good governance and participation of women in seven West African countries » project was held and a summary report of it presented in this edition. The same goes for the workshops at which the discussions held in Senegal and Togo were presented.

The rest is yours to discover

Kafui KUWONU

Programme Officer, Sub-regional office

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ECHO FROM THE 50TH SESSION OF THE CSW

A delegation made up of representatives of WILDAF/FeDDAF – West Africa (W/F-WA) member organisations or working with the network attended the 50th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held from 27th February to 10th March 2006 at the UN Headquarters in New York, in the United States.

At the 1st workshop organised by the network on participation of women in decision-making process, Mrs. Elizabeth AKPALU, chairperson of WILDAF-Ghana traced the history of the participation of women in decision-making processes in many African countries and gave statistical data, thus showing the evolution of the number of women in parliaments. Until the 90s, she said, it could hardly be thought that a woman could stand in a presidential election in Africa. However, Charity Ngilu and Wangari Maathai stood in the 1998 presidential election in Kenya. Rose Rugendo of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi party of Tanzania sought the nomination of her party at the 1995 presidential election primaries, so did Sarah Jibril in Nigeria in 1989. Despite the fact that they did not succeed in this ambition for power, these women created an important precedent in their respective countries. The election of Mrs. Ellen JOHNSON-SIRLEAF at this beginning of the millennium gives fresh courage.

Talking about the legal framework, Mrs AKPALU said that though it was generally favourable, somewhat perfectible, that alone it is inadequate and consequently it should be coupled with sustained efforts to change mentalities through education, training and the media. According to the speaker, one of the most efficient systems for improving the representation of women in institutions remains the quota system which could be either a legal system i.e. instituted by the law or voluntary system coming from the stakeholders themselves and

for that matter in our case, political parties.

In conclusion, Mrs. AKPALU emphasised that in West Africa, there are no constitutional provisions that make it obligatory for Governments or political parties to insure a balanced gender representation in decision-making positions. She then recommended that an extensive awareness programme should be put together for population groups in order to arouse their involvement in the electoral process at local and national levels. It is up to the political parties, civil society organisations (CSOs) and mostly human rights NGOs, she said, to play this leading role in its efforts. To conclude, she put particular emphasis on the need for West African organisations to fight to ensure that legal reforms are instituted in order to ensure the balanced representation of women in decision-making bodies as is the case in Southern Africa.

At the same workshop, Mrs Jan PETERSON of HUIAIROU Commission shared experience of her network in connection with women's participation in decision-making.

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The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

Eighteen (18) States have ratified it and 40 have signed it as of April 24, 2006. Entry into force : 25th November 2005

WEST AFRICA	EAST AFRICA	SOUTHERN AFRICA	CENTRAL AFRICA	NORTH AFRICA
BENIN	COMOROS	LESOTHO	Burundi	Algeria
Burkina Faso	DJIBOUTI	MALAWI	Congo	LIBYA
CAP VERDE	Ethiopia	MOZAMBIQUE	Chad	
Côte d'Ivoire	Kenya	NAMIBIA	Democratic Rep. Of Congo	
GAMBIA	Madagascar	SOUTH AFRICA	Equatorial Guinea	
Ghana	Mauritius	Swaziland	Gabon	
Guinea	RWANDA	Zambia		
Guinea Bissau	SEYCHELLES	Zimbabwe		
Liberia	Somalia			
MALI	Tanzania			
MAURITANIA	Uganda			
Niger				
NIGERIA				
SENEGAL				
Sierra Leone				
TOGO				
14	11	7	6	2
Number of countries for each region				
16	13	10	9	5
Number of countries which have ratified for each region				
8	4	5	0	1

ECHO FROM THE 50TH SESSION OF THE CSW

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Talking about her organisation, she touched on one of the major challenges most organisations working on the issue of governance frequently faced namely, how to establish a network at a global level from the grassroots to the top, grassroots women's organisations that would link up themselves within a country and among countries in order to be able to influence decisions that are taken by public and private authorities and that impact on the life and the well-being of women. She illustrated her idea through the collaboration that her organisation has with UN-HABITAT concerning central issues like housing, water, land ownership and through work that GROOTS Africa, networks established in some African countries such as Kenya, Ghana, Cameroon and Nigeria are doing and which are working in these countries with women who work in the area of HIV/AIDS.

One of the good practices that Mrs Peterson shared with participants is what she called "local to local" which involves ensuring that women are able to organise, identify their priorities by themselves and go to discuss them with the governments. Finally, she stressed that UN-HABITAT is waging a global campaign within the framework of a three-year programme with an institution called "Les Cités Unies" in order to change bad practices and behaviours concerning development aid that impact negatively women's lives. Part of the work of HUAIROU Commission is to find out how funding works in order to fight to ensure that the money goes to it has to go.

The meeting also made it possible to share UNIFEM's experiences concerning good governance and women's participation. The intervention of the representative of UNIFEM, Anne Marie GOETZ, focused on the "duty to report" of decision makers. According to her, there are two systems: the vertical system that makes it possible to hold leaders to account and the horizontal system that consist of the control of government action by institutions such as parliament, control commissions, specialised services in administration inspection, legal institutions.

She noted that women are already struggling and organising themselves to be present where the action is in the institutions. She condemned the fact that in the vertical system, citizens and particularly women is however absent. It is for this reason that the principle of "gender and governance" should be developed. To justify this affirmation, she gave the example of an Indian farmer's trade union that succeeded to ordering an audit in the local government in order to understand the management of the funds of a project that was being implemented in their locality. Only the quality of good governance makes this kind of action possible, she specified.

In conclusion, she stated that political parties could take account of the aspiration of the populations, but, the entry of women into political parties is difficult because of socio-economic constraints they face. However, women should not give up, they hold a lot many potentials and determination, they should do all in their capacity to impose themselves and occupy the right place on decision-making structures.

Experiences shared by one another enabled the participants to learn lessons likely to enrich their work on the field. They brainstormed over ways and means of creating links and synergy among themselves and the other stakeholders in the field.

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WOMAN OF HONOUR



Mrs. Jennifer Williams
nominees for
the 2006
Martin Ennals
Award for
Human Rights
Defenders

The World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), in the framework of their joint programme, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, are pleased to announce that Mrs. **Jennifer Williams**, is one of four persons which was selected as nominees for the 2006 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders.

Mrs. **Jennifer Williams (Zimbabwe)**, one of the leaders of the NGO Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA), has been regularly arrested and subjected to acts of harassment because of her activities within WOZA. For instance, on 18 June 2005, twenty WOZA members, including Mrs. Jennifer Williams, were arrested while protesting against the governmental programme of illegal buildings and premises clearance "Operation Murambatsivina". Mrs. Williams' house was further searched without a warrant. The demonstration being considered as illegal, the women were indicted with "impeding public traffic", a charge liable with up to a three-month prison sentence or a fine, and released on bail on 20 June 2005. However, on 11 July 2005, the Bulawayo Provincial Magistrates Court ruled that "women demonstrating, and therefore moving, could not possibly block the sidewalk", and acquitted them.

Read more:

omct.org/base.cfm?page=article&num=5855&consol=close&kwrd=OMCT&cfid=2930694&cftoken=41804110&SWITCHLNG=EN

ECHO FROM THE 50TH SESSION OF THE CSW

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As a resolution, they said among others that it is necessary for the capacity of women to be built in order to be aware of their rights and be able to demand accounts, that it is necessary to organise themselves with allies which could also include men to do efficient lobbying to change things, that links should be created with organisations or networks that are working in the area of the economic empowerment of women at the grassroots.

Huirou Commission: huairou.org

The 8th March celebration availed African women representatives present at the session the opportunity to make an important declaration

They demonstrated their determination to combat all forms of discrimination against women and to demand from governments and international institutions concrete actions for the effective implementation of legal instruments ratified with precise and measurable indicators in order to achieve an equal, united and sustainable human development.

They also took advantage of the on-going reform of the United Nations system to condemn the absence of Africa on the Security Council and called for the representation of the continent.

To conclude, they expressed the desire to see a woman elected to the position of Secretary General of the United Nations to succeed Mr. Kofi ANNAN whose term ends soon. The entire whole declaration can be accessed on WILDAF website in the Newsletter section under News.

“Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships”

As efforts intensify to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015, developed and developing countries have committed to new partnerships and aid modalities, designed to align aid to nationally-determined development priorities, to pool diverse aid sources into direct support to the national budget or to particular sectors, and to ensure greater stability and predictability in aid flows. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness summarizes the principles and indicators of progress agreed to by the OECD-DAC donor countries and the developing country partners.

Linking gender equality to the aid effectiveness agenda

Gender equality is central to achieving the MDGs and other development goals, making it important to ensure that aid structures target and monitor progress towards gender equality goals. Ultimately, gender equality outcomes will be important signs of the effectiveness of the new approach to aid delivery and partnership.

To support gender equality, the new aid architecture should include:

- adequate financing for programmes that respond to women's needs;
- accountability systems for governments and donors to track and enhance their contributions to gender equality; and

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WILDAF appeals to African Heads of States

The WILDAF West Africa Network made a speech at the official session of the afternoon of the 1st March. In its intervention, it expressed, in its capacity as a network working for the participation of women in development at national and regional levels, its concern on the low level of women's participation in decision-making in Africa; thereby leading to the disregard of the needs, priorities and interests of women in socio-political and economic decisions.

Mindful of the major challenge being the participation of women in the management of public affairs, WILDAF committed itself to pursue a programme on women and governance which already commenced in January 2006. It appealed to African States to take concrete measures to ensure equal participation of women in policy-making processes as required by the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, as well as the statutory declaration of the African Union relating to gender equity. It urged them to consider women at the central, decentralised and local levels as genuine stakeholders capable of helping to improve decisions for the well-being of women and communities, and to confirm their commitment to promoting women's rights: by ratifying and implementing the protocol relating to women's rights in Africa, by also ratifying the protocol relating to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and implementing the commitments made in the Beijing Platform of Action and in the Millennium Development Goals.

The entire Declaration can be accessed on our website: wildaf-ao.org/eng/article.php3?id_article=726

“Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships”

- gender-sensitive progress assessments, performance monitoring and indicators for aid effectiveness.

This note is an outcome of a November 2005 international consultation in Brussels organized by the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the European Commission. It identifies an initial set of considerations to ensure that gender equality is central to the aid effectiveness agenda. This note is intended for policy-makers currently adjusting to the new aid modalities — such as officials and analysts in Ministries of Finance, Planning and Women’s Affairs; women’s rights advocates at domestic, regional and international levels; and bilateral and multilateral development actors such as Resident Coordinators in the UN system [...].

Principles of the New Aid Agenda

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness was developed as a follow-up to the Monterrey agreements and the G8 Summit. It calls for donors to increase aid and to adopt concrete actions that can be monitored while aid delivery and management is reformed. The Paris Declaration established aid effectiveness targets and progress indicators that were endorsed by member states at the September 2005 World Summit at the United Nations.

The Paris Declaration and its guidelines set out the principles for the new approach:

Ownership: Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and coordinate development action.

Alignment: Donors base their overall support on partner countries’ national development strategies, institutions and procedures, and link funding to a single framework of conditions and/or a manageable set of indicators derived from the national development strategy. It also entails expanding the shift from project/programme-based aid towards general or sectoral direct budget support in order to ensure

holistic support for poverty reduction strategies and development priorities.

Harmonization: Donors make their actions more consistent with each other, more transparent and collectively effective. This includes rationalizing donor activities, increasing predictability, regulating conditionality and scaling up aid toward the levels required to achieve development goals.

Results: Managing and implementing aid with a focus on results.

Mutual Accountability: Donors and partners are accountable for development results through systems, procedures and capacities in donor and recipient countries that measure aid performance.

Central approaches to planning and aid delivery in the new aid architecture

Budget Support

Budget Support covers financial assistance as a contribution to the overall budget. Within this category, funds may be nominally accounted for against certain sectors, but there is no formal limitation on where funds may actually be spent.

Sector Wide Approach (SWAp)

Sector Wide Approaches involve donor support to the development of an entire sector in a given country, such as health, education or agriculture, rather than specific project support.

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs)

PRSPs were introduced by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund as a prerequisite for borrowing by its poorest and most indebted country clients. They are intended to outline the country’s main problems relating to poverty and its strategy to overcome them. PRSPs are meant to be drafted by the recipient government through a national participatory process in consultation with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Basket Funding

Basket Funding is a joint funding modality by several donors towards a programme, sector or budget support. It may entail agreement of donors on harmonized procedures.

[...].Gender equality in a changing development assistance architecture — opportunities and risks

Women stand to benefit as much as any other social category from development assistance that supports a nationally-owned development strategy and accountability systems that can track progress. Predictable aid flows — one of the anticipated benefits of the new aid architecture — may also work to advance gender equality, encouraging investment in activities that promote gender equality in the long term but that may not have

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You are member of WiLDAF/FeDDAF West African Network and wish to publicize your activities? Your initiative? Your association?

Send us your text (long or short, what counts is the content!) by e-mail to WiLDAF West Africa. **The deadline for the reception of the texts is: June 1st 2006 (for July 2006 issue).**

Who are the Newsletter readers? The WiLDAF West Africa Newsletter is distributed to WiLDAF West Africa members in nine countries of the sub-region BUT ALSO to our partners in Africa, Europe, Scandinavian countries and America.

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“Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships”

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immediate short-term results. Gender sensitive institutional change, for instance, takes time, as do changing attitudes and building public awareness. However, women will only benefit from the new aid architecture if gender equality is recognized as a key component of poverty reduction and national development. In addition, women need to be fully represented in decision making, and equally included among the ‘publics’ served by bureaucracies.

The Paris Declaration and related guidelines, indicators and action plans focus on the processes of building national ownership, harmonizing and aligning aid flows and assessing impact. They do not specify the *content* of development priorities. There is one exception: a commitment to carrying out environmental impact assessments (including their relation to health and social issues). But otherwise, no measures to promote gender equality or human rights standards are being proposed.

While environmental sustainability has been recognized as a structural component of economic and human development, the centrality of gender equality to development effectiveness is not explicitly acknowledged through impact assessments or any other measures.

An overarching check on the content or direction of development spending in aid recipient countries does of course exist: all aid is expected to contribute to achieving the MDGs. Although the third Millennium Development Goal seeks to advance gender equality,

governments have tended to focus on the most easily measurable associated target for this goal: closing the gender gap in education. Many other essential elements of the struggle for gender equality are omitted.

A closer look at the Paris Declaration’s key pillars of aid effectiveness reveals several areas of concern and opportunities with regard to their implications for women’s engagement and gender equality.

Ownership

Women have taken a keen interest in national development planning around the world, and have participated in debating national priorities where possible. But some studies show that national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and other planning documents can fail to incorporate gender equality goals adequately. National action plans for the advancement of women (now available in more than 120 countries) are still rarely fully integrated in national development plans, nor is adequate provision for implementing them made in national budgets.

The stress placed on national ownership in the new aid relationships provides a tremendous opportunity for developing countries and donors alike to ensure that women take a meaningful role in articulating women’s needs and seeking responses from policy-makers.

Women’s meaningful ownership of national development processes requires a concerted investment in women’s analytical capacity, policymakers’ gender analysis skills and donors’ support. In Uganda there was inadequate attention to women’s priorities in the 1997 Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), and in its first revision in 2000. This galvanized officials from the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, as well as the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, to mobilize women in civil society and colleagues at other ministries to form a PEAP Gender Team. With DFID support, the team prepared for the second PEAP revision in 2004

by analyzing the impact of gender inequalities on economic growth, and by including gender benchmarks in dialogue between the government, the World Bank and other donors engaged in direct budget support. It is sobering to note that it took seven years for a gender-sensitive national poverty strategy to emerge, even in a country with a diverse and robust domestic women’s movement and with supportive donor engagement. Assessments of the quality of national ownership that fail to determine the extent to which women’s perspectives and priorities are reflected in national development plans will result in a gender-biased measure of ownership.

Alignment

Through direct budget support, donors aim to align aid flows with the government sectors that are reported on national budgets. There is sufficient evidence of the limited degree to which gender equality priorities are mainstreamed in national development plans (and consequently in budgets) to cause concern that alignment will mean that national priorities funded through direct budget and sector support will not adequately address gender equality priorities.

Alignment has so far been discussed mainly as it affects national-level aid flows. In a context where governments are increasingly moving towards decentralization to local levels, it is not clear how alignment will affect the flow of aid funds to the local level or what provisions are expected to ensure that inter-governmental fiscal transfers reflect aid funds. From a gender equality and poverty reduction perspective this is an important issue because the level of funding flows to local levels has a significant impact on the resources available for poor or socially excluded groups. The indicators of aid effectiveness in the Paris Declaration do not measure the adequacy of the flow of resources to local levels. Not only are indicators needed on this, but to be gender sensitive they could include assessments of how effectively local government spending addresses women’s needs.

As to the shift from project-based aid

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Violences against women are violences against the society.



ECOWAS Watch

Regional workshop on violence against women opens in Abuja

A regional workshop to develop a framework for combating violence against women in West Africa opened on Monday, 27th March 2006 at the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat.

Delegates from Member States are attending the three-day workshop, which will develop a strategic plan of action for dealing with gender-based violence, which occurs mostly at the levels of the family, state and the community.

Article:

news.ecowas.int/en/presseshow.php?nb=34&lang=en&annee=2006

Gender parity: At least 30% of the membership of the delegation of the renewed Parliament should be women

The Council of Ministers held its extraordinary session on 23 March 2006 at Abuja, to consider the proposals on the restructuring of three Community Institutions, namely the Executive Secretariat, Community Parliament.

15. Council welcomed the Decision of the Authority of Heads of State and Government in January 2006 which defined the modalities for the implementation of the Protocol on the Parliament. The meeting viewed this development as well as the ongoing restructuring exercise as veritable tools for enhancing the powers of Parliament. Council however encouraged the Executive Secretariat to carry on with the process that would eventually assist in the creation of an enabling environment for Parliamentary elections through direct universal suffrage and the enhancement of the powers of the Parliament from advisory to co-decision making and subsequently a law-making role in areas to be defined.

16. Council recommended that the transition period before the election of Parliamentarians through direct universal suffrage should be four years.

44. The composition should also reflect the diversity of political sensibilities represented in National Assemblies. It also recommended that each Country's delegation should have women constituting at least 30% of the membership of the delegation.

Read the full report:

news.ecowas.int/en/presseshow.php?nb=28&lang=en&annee=2006

NETWORK NEWS

News of our networks talking of the sub regional workshop on the approval of the « Good governance and women participation in seven West African countries » project and the organisation of the workshop on the implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights relating to women's rights in Africa, in Guinea.

Sub regional office: From 16 to 17 February 2006, the sub-regional workshop on the approval of the « Good governance and women participation in seven West African countries » project was organised by the WILDAF/FeDDAF sub-regional Office for West Africa in Lome. The workshop planned within the scope of the implementation of the project enabled beneficiary national networks of the project to take ownership of the project, finalise the activities implementation strategies according to the context specific to each country and to validate the overall plan of action of the project.

About twenty participants attended the workshop including the project monitoring team and at least two representatives of the following seven beneficiary countries of the project: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo.

In addition to having a better knowledge of the project which was launched on this occasion, representatives from various beneficiary countries shared on-going experiences in their respective countries concerning the planning, programming and budgeting processes at national and decentralised levels, as well as the existence or not of similar projects in their country in order to identify gateways for a better involvement of women in the management of public affairs.

Participants and guests invited to the project launching ceremony unanimously welcomed the initiative of this new project that paves the way for more effectiveness in the implementation of the commitments made by our States in respect of the implementation of women rights.

In the countries: National networks circulated the information and number of lessons learnt during their participation in the workshop on the approval of the sub-regional project « Good governance and women participation in seven West African countries (UE3) » project. Scheduled for the seven countries from March to May, this activity has already been organised in Senegal and Togo.

Senegal: the national network on Saturday, 1st of April 2006, organised the workshop for the presentation of the approval workshop in the USE conference hall. The meeting was attended by about thirty civil society organisations based in Dakar and three regional capitals of the country (Thiès, Kaolack and Diourbel). After this detailed presentation of the project which was made by the chairperson of the network, particular emphasis was put on some strategic aspects that required serious discussions in order to create favourable conditions for the expected impact of the project. These mainly concern the project monitoring through a monitoring committee to be set up, the sound choice of the project implementation strategies, particularly concerning decentralised areas in which the project should be implemented at the local level and people whose capacities need to be built for the implementation of future lobbying actions.

It was decided to widely disseminate information concerning the project to all concerned. Before going, participants also held discussions concerning the efficient means of communication to be used for adequate visibility of the project, dissemination of vital information that is worth knowing and sharing. The decision was also been taken to make use of

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“Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships”

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to sectoral budget support, to date most experience in sector-wide approaches has been in health and education. Some studies of SWAPs in health and education have been critical of the degree to which these have mainstreamed gender, with gender priorities still often added at the margins, not made part of institutional change strategies. Moreover, despite evidence over many years from gender analyses that women are profoundly affected by spending patterns in other sectors — such as justice and law enforcement, public safety, rural and urban infrastructure, transport, etc. — there have been few efforts to track how spending in these areas affects different groups, including women. There is a risk that the alignment of aid with budgeted priorities may exacerbate spending deficits in areas that can have an impact on gender equality — areas that may otherwise have benefited from external financing.

Alignment also entails the identification of priority sectors in the national development plans for technical and institutional capacity building. The lynchpin of most direct budget support agreements is coordinated donor support to public sector reform — in effect, capacity building in good public sector governance, in order to produce what the Paris Declaration calls ‘reliable country systems’ in financial management and procurement.

This offers an unprecedented opportunity to ensure that efforts to improve the efficiency of the public sector and to tackle corruption, also build incentives to make public sector actors more responsive to women, and to build in performance monitoring and standards that measure and reward efforts to address women’s needs.

There are not many examples of public sector reform or good governance efforts that fully integrate a gender equality perspective. Capacity building efforts in this regard tend to be limited to affirmative action measures to hire more women public servants, or gender training for staff in National Women’s Machineries and gender focal points in other.

Departments. However, there are some emerging examples of better practice in this regard. For instance, in 2004 the UNDP in Mozambique provided technical support on gender mainstreaming to the Public Sector Reform Unit. It backed up the Gender Coordination Group in providing gender mainstreaming advice during the government/donor Joint Review of the Public Sector Reform Programme. Similarly, partnerships between UNIFEM and Ministries of Finance in countries like India, Morocco, Senegal, Ecuador and Nepal around

gender-responsive budgeting also mark a qualitative shift to effectively mainstream gender in public sector budgeting processes.

Capacity-building needs to take a new form in two respects if it is to serve the purpose of promoting gender equality along with efficiency and probity:

1. Public sector reform efforts must build gender sensitivity into revised incentive systems, performance measures and monitoring systems.
2. Capacity-building for bureaucracies dedicated to advancing gender equality (such as National Women’s Machineries) must attract significantly greater resources than it has to date, with a focus on skills-building in gender sensitive macroeconomic analysis, so that these entities are in a better position to influence national planning processes.

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NETWORK NEWS

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the experiences of partner organisations who have worked in the area of access of women to the decision-making and/or good governance authorities.

Togo: The main hall of CESAL at Tokoin in Lome, served as the venue for WILDAF-Togo on 31st of March 2006, to present the conclusions of the sub-regional approval workshop of the UE3 project. 34 representatives of organisations and other members of the network participated in the meeting and declared their preparedness to mobilise themselves for the implementation of the project.

Guinea: Concerning this country, it organised a workshop on the implementation of the African Charter to the Human and Peoples Rights relating to Women’s Rights in Africa on 3-4 February 2006 in Conakry. 32 persons replied to the invitation of WILDAF Guinea, the focal point monitoring the committee of the protocol in this country. The meeting was held in the conference hall of Hôtel Camayenne. It was presided over by the Minister of Social Welfare and Advancement of Women. It adopted strategies to ensure, inter alia, that the protocol be widely disseminated among communities, legislative reforms will be instituted in order to conform national legislations to the provisions of the protocol, legal and paralegal stakeholders will be trained and sensitised for an effective implementation of the provisions, and that NGOs will be given the necessary capacities to monitor the implementation of the protocol. Finally, the strategies adopted laid serious emphasis on resource mobilisation for the implementation of actions set in the plan of action.

Two Women Judges elected to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Sudan

The Executive Council of the African Union meeting in Khartoum, Sudan, elected 11 Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights on 21 January 2006. Two of the judges are women (from Ghana and Lesotho). The newly elected judges are: Mr. Fatsah Ouguerouz (Algeria), Mr. Jean Emile Somda (Burkina Faso), Mr. Gerard Niyungeko (Burundi), **Ms Sophia Akuffo (Ghana)**, **Mrs. Kelello Justina Masafa-Guni (Lesotho)**, Mr. Hamdi Faraj Fanoush (Libya), Mr. Modibo Tounty Guindo (Mali), Mr. Jean Mutsinzi (Rwanda), Mr. El Hadji Guisse (Sénégal), Mr. Bernard Ngoepe (South Africa), Mr. G Kanyiehamba (Uganda). The election of the judges means that Africa now has a Court with the jurisdiction to hear cases of human rights violations.

Source: femnet.or.ke/news.asp?ProgrammID=3

Where is gender parity in the nominations of the Judges at the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights?

The nominations don't reflect what is meant in the treaty which clearly states in two articles that gender parity should be respected. We can read at article 12.2 on candidates that: «Due consideration shall be given to adequate gender representation in the nomination process. Although there was a campaign from African women's rights organisations to make sure each State Parties would submit at least one woman as asked by the AU, many countries did not respect this recommendation. If this last article was not respected, for sure the article 14.3 was not also. It reads like this: «In the election of the judges, the Assembly shall ensure that there is adequate gender representation.»

You can read the 2005 campaign for the election of women as judges: wildaf-ao.org/eng/article.php3?id_article=630

Follow-up on the Protocol to the treaty establishing the African Economic Community relating to the Pan-African Parliament

No change (46 ratifications) since the inauguration of the Parliament on 18 March 2004. It is in force since December 14th 2003.

Follow-up on the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council

No change (40 ratifications). 50 State are signatories. It is in force since December 26th 2003.

Follow up of the Protocol related to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

Tanzania ratified February 10th, 2006 for a total of 23 States which have deposited their instrument. 47 countries are signatories. It is into force since 25 January 2004.

Follow up of the Protocol on the Court of Justice of the African Union

Tanzania ratified February 10th 2006. Only 10 out of 53 States ratified it yet and 38 countries signed it.

African Union: africa-union.org

Schedule of meetings of the AU from March to June 2006: africa-union.org/News_Events/Calendar_of_%20Events/DRAFT%20CALENDAR%20F%20MEETING.doc

Project of a Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance

Note: africa-union.org/root/au/conferences/past/2006/april/pa/apr7/meeting_fr.htm



Inaugural Meeting of the African Union Women's Committee (AUWC)

On 28-29 April 2006 was launched the AU Women's Committee in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Read the programme: africa-union.org/root/au/Conferences/Past/2006/April/WG/AUWC/Programme.doc

FOLLOW-UP on NEPAD

Ghana Undergoes Landmark Peer Review

Ghana is the first African country to successfully complete the five stages of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), after African leaders assessed the country's performance and heard its feedback and action programme.

Article:

uneca.org/mdgs/Story13November05.asp

The APRM MONITOR, a periodic newsletter about the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)

In this first issue:

- a description of the APRM, its structure and composition
- news of a civil society workshop on the APRM held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- the civil society workshop declaration
- news about the Ghana APRM report presented to the APRM Forum at the African Union summit in Khartoum
- media coverage of the APRM
- reference materials on the APRM and governance

Newsletter:

pacweb.org/e/images/stories/documents/aprm%20bulletin%201%20english-final-colorv3.pdf

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Women in Politics: 60 years in retrospect

IPU's annual analysis of progress and setbacks of women in the elections of the previous year (2005).

Download the report: ipu.org/PDF/publications/wmninfokit06_en.pdf

UNIFEM organized a round table discussion during the CSW titled "From Numbers to Influence: Women in Politics Making Economic Change."

"From Numbers to Influence: Women in Politics Making Economic Change." Is the theme of the round table organised by UNIFEM during which these few interesting quotes were made.

"Gradually, we are also talking of gendering plans, of gender budgeting or looking at gender not just as an issue under the women and child department, but across all sectors. We are bringing about women-friendly legislation. We have reserved 33 per cent seats in our Panchayats for women. In many states the figure is much higher. This alone means one million empowered women. In Uttaranchal, in Kerala, in Karnataka, women Panchayat members have emerged as agents of change. From preventing the setting up of liquor shops to creating new avenues of employment and saving the environment, they have done it all." —*Syeda*

Hameed, Member, Planning Commission, India.

"Indeed economics is about political choice, a power play, and in this our success would depend on our capacity to have political backing for our choices of economic policy. Thus the idea put forward by UNIFEM that there needs to be a conference or a club of women ministers with economic portfolios is most appropriate. They need that collectivity, both to strengthen themselves through exchange of knowledge, but also to pull their collective weight to reach that outcome, or make that difference." —*Devaki Jain*, author and activist, India.

"Let us join in saying that enough is enough: women's development requires investment, and adequate funding must be made available to make this happen. We need protection of women's property rights. We need market access for women. We need equal pay for equal work. We need labour rights in export zones. We need the chance to register businesses and qualify for loans and for legal protections on the contracts into which we enter. Let us work together to ensure that by 2008 we will see adequate financing for women's development, so that by 2015 we will meet the third Millennium Development Goal: gender equality and women's empowerment. Let us join in a global coalition to ask: Where is the money for women's development? And let us ensure that we find it, and that it is significantly greater than what we have today." —*Noeleen Heyzer*, executive director, UNIFEM

Urgent Action

Promoting Change, Well-being and Human Dignity International Zero Tolerance to FGM Day: Make Female Genital Mutilation History!

The Foundation for Women's Health, Research and Development (FORWARD) urges the international community and African governments to Make FGM History! In February 2003, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) adopted a "Declaration of Zero Tolerance to FGM on the African Continent". On International Zero Tolerance to FGM Day, FORWARD renews its position on FGM and demands that African governments issue, review and implement laws and policies to protect African girls' and women's sexual and reproductive rights, in accordance with The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which explicitly prohibits FGM.

FORWARD urges all stakeholders including governments, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and community based organisations to scale up the campaign to end FGM which violates the fundamental human rights of girls and women, including their right to life. On December 6th 2005 a four year old Sudanese girl, Enaam Abdelwahab, lost her life to FGM. In light of this tragic event FORWARD launched a campaign to urge the government of Sudan to ban all forms of FGM and called for increased mobilisation to eliminate FGM in Sudan. FORWARD appeals to human rights activists worldwide to join this campaign by signing the online petition to the Government of Sudan at: new.petitiononline.com/dec62005/petition.html.

Between today, Zero Tolerance to FGM Day, and International Women's Day on March 8th FORWARD aims to collect 6000 signatures, one for each girl in the world that WHO estimates is subjected to FGM every day. The petition will be presented to the Sudanese Ministry of Justice. Help send a clear and united message to the Government of Sudan that FGM and the abuse of girls' and women's rights will not be tolerated in any form!

If you would like any more information about FGM please contact:

Foundation for Women's Health, Research & Development

Unit 4 765-767 Harrow Road London NW10 5NY Tel: 020 8960 4000 Fax: 020 8960 4014

Website: www.forwarduk.org.uk

Source: AWID Resource Net Announcements Issue 302

LIBRARY

Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers. A New Edition

This new and updated edition of *Women in Parliament: Beyond Numbers Handbook* covers the ground of women's access to the legislature in three steps: It looks into the obstacles women confront when entering Parliament – be they political, socio-economic or ideological and psychological. It presents solutions to overcome these obstacles, such as changing electoral systems and introducing quotas, and it details strategies for women to influence politics once they are elected to parliament.

Quotas in Francophone Africa: Modest Beginnings:

idea.int/publications/wip/upload/CS_Quota_s-Diop.pdf

Recruiting Women for the Legislative Elections in Burkina Faso:

idea.int/publications/wip/upload/CS-Burkina-compaore.pdf

Burkina Faso: Obstacles to Women's Participation in the Legislature:

idea.int/publications/wip/upload/CS-Burkina-Kaboret.pdf

Full report: idea.int/publications/wip/fr.cfm

Education for All data available

Extensive data on Education for All is now easily accessible with the new search tool on the Global Monitoring Report website. This tool, developed by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in partnership with the EFA Global Monitoring Report team, is based on the data contained in the 2006 statistical annex tables. It enables you to search by table, theme, indicator, country and region, and to export results into an Excel or Word format.

Statistical tool: gmr.uis.unesco.org

Source: Pambazuka News 242 February 16 2006

Global: The world's women 2005 - progress in statistics

This report presents national sex disaggregated statistics in such areas as demographics, health, education, work, violence against women, poverty, human rights and decision-making. The report reviews and analyses the current availability of data and assesses progress made in the provision of national statistics, as opposed to internationally prepared estimates, relevant to gender concerns during the past 30 years. It proposes a set of strategies to strengthen national capacity to collect and report statistics and also for improved mainstreaming of gender concerns.

For the moment, available only in English and some parts in Spanish.

Report:

unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/indw/m/wwwpub.htm

Source: Pambazuka News 241 February 9 2006

African Governance Report 2005

A new ECA report concludes that overall governance is improving in Africa but stresses that major challenges still remain. The African Governance Report (AGR), launched this week, is the culmination of a three-year survey of experts and households in 27 African countries aimed at gauging citizens' perception of the state of governance in each country. Although there have been some significant political events since the data were collected between 2001 and 2004, there have been no major changes in the perception of governance trends, especially at the household level.

Report: uneca.org/agr2005/

EVENTS

39th ORDINARY SESSION of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

11 to 25 May 2006 at Kairaba Beach Hotel, Banjul, Gambia

More information:

achpr.org/francais/_info/news_fr.html

FINANCING

TrustAfrica



TrustAfrica seeks to strengthen African initiatives that address the most difficult challenges confronting the continent. We currently focus on three critical areas:

- Resolving conflicts and securing peace;
- Promoting inclusive policies on citizenship and identity; and
- Advancing economic integration.

The organization works in the following fields: peace and security, regional integration and citizenship and identity. We host dialogues, make grants, and provide technical assistance so that African institutions can work together for a safe, free, and prosperous future.

More information: trustafrica.org

Silver Rose Nominations 2006

Solidar is now seeking **nominations for the Silver Rose Awards for 2006**. Launched in 2000, the Silver Rose Awards celebrate the achievements of individuals and organizations throughout the world who have made an outstanding contribution to social justice. Awards are presented in two categories – one for an organisation or individual working within the 25 European Union Member States and one for an organisation or individual working in any country outside the European Union. The Silver Rose Awards will be presented at a prestigious award ceremony dinner on **Tuesday 7th November 2006**, held in the European Parliament and hosted by Glenys Kinnock MEP.

The deadline for sending applications is **31 May 2006**.

If you have any questions or need any further information you can contact **Gayle Cairncross-Gow**, Coordinator Silver Rose 2006, silverrose@solidar.org

Tel. + 32 2500 1020; Mobile: +32 495265726

Source: AWID Carrefour vol. 5 no 11

“Promoting Gender Equality in New Aid Modalities and Partnerships”

(continued from page 8)

Harmonization

The principle of harmonization commits donors to agree on common approaches for aid management and eliminating competing conditionalities. Considering the transaction costs that the diversity of donor approaches and reporting demands places on developing countries, harmonization is welcome. But for gender equality to survive as a central element of harmonized approaches, commitments to gender mainstreaming amongst donors must be robust. A number of recent evaluations of bilateral and multilateral agency performance in this arena suggest this is not the case. These evaluations list a range of problems, from an uneven grasp by agency staff of what ‘gender mainstreaming’ means for their work, to ‘policy evaporation’, where commitments on paper are never implemented, partly because of inadequate financing for gender equality work. There is, in short, a danger that harmonization may further marginalize action on gender equality unless more rigorous accountability tools and measures of agency performance are applied to donors’ own record on promoting gender equality. Donor harmonization requires an unprecedented level of consensus between a variety of stakeholders in the development arena. Where commitment to an issue like gender equality is faltering or uneven, or where the issue arouses resistance, there is a risk that it will be sidelined in the interest of consensus. If donor harmonization is not to further marginalize action on gender equality, it is incumbent on donors at this time to renew and reassert their commitments to gender equality, and to do this not least through substantial funding commitments. [...].

Excerpts from Promoting Gender Equality in new Aid Modalities and Partnerships UNIFEM Discussion Paper- March 2006. Anne Marie GOETZ and Nisreen ALAMI

Read the full text: wildaf-ao.org/eng/article.php3?id_article=751

NEWS - NEWS

Liberia: Truth Commission up and running



On February 20, Liberia's new president, Elen Johnson Sirleaf, announced the start of the truth and reconciliation commission established by the Liberian parliament last year.

The seven-member commission has a mandate to investigate crimes committed between 1979, which saw the deadly repression of riots and the ensuing bloody coup d'état by chief sergeant Samuel Doe, and 2003, which marked the end of the civil war started in 1989 by Charles Taylor, who has been indicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and is currently taking refuge in Nigeria. According to AP, the commission has received only \$500,000 from the United Nations and \$350,000 from the Liberian government for its budget thus far.

Article: justicetribune.com/?page=v2_article&id=3358

Source: [reseau-cpi] SOMMAIRE - IJT 41 27 February 2006

Africa: UNICEF hails progress toward ending female genital cutting

UNICEF today applauded the women and men who are working together to end the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and to respect the right of girls to grow to womanhood without harm to their bodies.

Throughout sub-Saharan Africa and in Egypt and Sudan a social movement is unfolding to end FGM/C, one of the most persistent, pervasive and silently endured human rights violations.

Declaration: unicef-icdc.org/bulletin/documents/f_10.pdf

Source: genreenaction.net/article.php3?id_article=4014

WILDAF WEST AFRICA

Newsletter

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EVENTS

Follow-up of CEDAW

The Committee will hold its 36th session in New York from 7 to 25 August 2006. Cape Verde and Ghana will be under exam.

See: un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/36sess.htm

Committee on Migrant Workers

Mali ratified this convention June 5th 2003. Its first periodic report will be examined 25 April 2006 at the 4th session of the committee.

Read the documents of the session and Mali's report: ohchr.org/english/bodies/cmw/cmws04.htm

Read the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families: ohchr.org/english/law/cmw.htm