Women’s agenda in the UN: to Beijing and beyond
WOMEN’S AGENDA IN THE UN:
TO BEIJING & BEYOND

Compiled for Shirkat Gah by

Farida Shaheed
&
Insha Hamdani

March 2004
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Shirkat Gah
Women’s Resource Centre
P O Box No. 5192
Lahore-Pakistan
E-mail: sgah@lhr.comsats.net.pk
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<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Asia Pacific</td>
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<td>APDC</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Development Centre</td>
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<td>APWLD</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Forum on Women Law &amp; Development</td>
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<td>APWW</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Women’s Watch</td>
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<td>AWID</td>
<td>Association for Women’s Rights in Development</td>
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<td>AWORC</td>
<td>Asian Women’s Resource Exchange</td>
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<td>B+5</td>
<td>Beijing Plus Five</td>
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<td>B+10</td>
<td>Beijing Plus Ten</td>
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<tr>
<td>BFU</td>
<td>Beijing Follow-up Unit</td>
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<td>BPFA</td>
<td>Beijing Platform for Action</td>
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<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organisation</td>
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<td>CCA</td>
<td>Common Country Assessment</td>
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<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
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<td>CONGO</td>
<td>Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations</td>
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<td>CSW</td>
<td>Commission on the Status of Women</td>
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<td>DAW</td>
<td>Division for the Advancement of Women</td>
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<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>Economic and Social Council</td>
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<td>ESCAP</td>
<td>Economic &amp; Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>FWCW</td>
<td>Fourth World Conference on Women</td>
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<td>GA</td>
<td>General Assembly</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communication Technology</td>
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<td>ICPD</td>
<td>International Conference on Population &amp; Development</td>
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<td>IMF</td>
<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<td>INGAD</td>
<td>Inter Agency Gender &amp; Development Group</td>
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<td>IWY</td>
<td>International Women’s Year</td>
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<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
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</table>
MFU  Multi-Donor Facilitation Unit
MoWD  Ministry of Women Development
NFLS  Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies
NGLS  Non-Governmental Liaison Service
NGO  Non Governmental Organisation
NPA  National Plan of Action
Prep Com  Preparatory Committee
SAARC  South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAWW  South Asia Women’s Watch
SG  Shirkat Gah
UNDP  United Nations Development Programme
UN  United Nations
UNGASS  United Nations General Assembly Special Session
VAW  Violence Against Women
WB  World Bank
WDD  Women Development Department
WHRNet  Women’s Human Rights Network
WTO  World Trade Organisation
FOREWORD

This information kit has been put together by Shirkat Gah-Women’s Resource Centre as a means of facilitating Pakistani women and NGOs interested in participating in the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action review process that culminates in 2005.

In 1999, Shirkat Gah initiated an NGO review process in Pakistan for the Beijing+5 review, bringing together over a hundred organizations, experts, interested women and men, and numerous government officials. At the conclusion of the Beijing +5 process, Shirkat Gah indicated that it would not be able to lead this type of process beyond 2000. On the other hand, Shirkat Gah believes that women outside the official circle have an important role to play in ensuring that their concerns, priorities and suggestions are considered and incorporated into the UN’s agenda for women.

It is to facilitate this input that Shirkat Gah has put together this information kit, Women’s Agenda in the UN: To Beijing & Beyond that provides information on the existing processes and how NGOs can intervene/participate in the review – whether they choose to stay at home, participate in the UN processes, or engage exclusively in the NGO events and forums.

Women’s Agenda in the UN: To Beijing & Beyond has some basic information on the UN system; the four conferences on women from 1975-1995, and NGO participation in the UN based on Shirkat Gah’s experience of leading the Beijing+5 review process in Pakistan supplemented by information culled from various UN and NGO sources. The kit lists past and future events for the Beijing+10 Review Process, and key websites that provide further information.

Farida Shaheed
March 31st, 2004
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Section I:

THE BASICS

United Nations System: Dedicated Years, Decades & Conferences

‘Dedicating’ a year, decade or conference to a specific topic or issue in the United Nations system helps to:

• focus world attention
• develop a common understanding on the topic/issue
• evolve international consensus on a common vision/goal
• commit member states to achieving this vision/goal by chalking out strategies and actions

A tangible outcome of conferences is official documents (usually ‘declarations’ and ‘action plans’) that are negotiated by official country representatives through various preparatory processes at the regional and international levels, the latter coordinated by UN Regional Commissions. At the international level negotiations
are conducted in ‘country groupings’ or negotiating blocs of governments who believe they share a common interest and gain more by working together.

The three main negotiating blocs are: EU, JUSCANNZ and G77 (Box 1). However groups change and evolve over time and/or depending on the issue. Countries need not be part of any bloc and can also independently state their positions. In the UN plenary sections, the country group Chairperson speaks on behalf of the represented countries. The text is read through and when agreed upon by all the negotiating groups declared a cleared paragraph by the Chair

**NGO Role in UN Conferences**

The NGO role in UN Conferences has evolved and grown over time. NGO positions on a topic often differ from that adopted by their country representations. By participating in the UN processes NGOs hope to ensure that:

- Their voices and concerns are heard at the official level, and
- Their concerns are incorporated in Conference documents

For this NGOs:

- Participate in and/or monitor conference preparatory meetings and proceedings
- Prepare alternative reports on the same topic
- Organize parallel NGO Forums

To be effective NGOs must:

- Familiarize themselves with the UN system and the UN negotiating country blocs
- Work with CONGO, an association of not-for-profit NGOs in consultative status with the UN
- Identify actors to lobby with
- Lobby with official delegations at national, regional, and/or international meetings/events
- Attend preparatory committee meetings to influence the agenda
Box 1

UN Negotiating Blocs

The three main negotiating blocs:

**G77 (+China):** Group of 77 - regarded as the developing country bloc - comprises 133 Asian, African & Latin American developing countries including Pakistan. The largest voting bloc, it is often the most difficult to predict and tends to take the longest to negotiate.

**European Union (EU):** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden & UK

**JUSCANNZ:** Japan, USA, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, Norway and New Zealand

Outside these three blocs are:
31 countries including Russia, East Europe & Central Asian States

Other Groupings that may come into play:

- **APEC:** Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
- **OIC:** Organization of The Islamic Conference,
- **ASEAN:** Association of Southeast Asian Nations,
- **OAU:** Organization of African Unity, and the Commonwealth

Notes:

* The Vatican represented as the Holy See has permanent ‘observer’ status at the UN. In negotiations it links up with specific countries across negotiating blocs and is very active in the proceeding.

* As UN Member States Australia, Japan, New Zealand ally themselves with the developed countries’ bloc i.e. JUSCANNZ. However, for regional meetings UN categorizes them as part of the Asia Pacific region. NGOs of these countries work within the Asia Pacific Caucus and therefore at times country and/or group positions conflict with the NGO positions

* The two smallest negotiating blocs—the EU and JUSCANNZ, with 22 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, G 77 pays only 7.9% of the UN budget, which, on occasion, deprives them of economically based influence.
SECTION 1: THE BASICS

- Influence the text of documents by preparing alternative language for bracketed texts
- Organize specific-interest caucuses and network with like-minded NGOs on common issues
- Prepare NGO statements/papers

**NGOs as part of official country delegations**

Individuals from NGOs may also become part of official delegations. It should be noted, however, that once on the delegation, they function as individuals and not as representatives of organizations. While they may-and do-influence the government’s agenda and positions, they are bound by the parameters set by the official country position.

**How can NGOs attend UN Preparatory Meetings & Special Sessions?**

**Conferences and General Assembly Special Sessions**

Only UN Member States participate as voting delegates in formal UN meetings where the text of documents is negotiated and adopted (Conferences, General Assembly Special Sessions, PrepCom meetings). NGOs in consultative status with the UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) are informed of upcoming events and are invited to attend as ‘observers’.

**Intergovernmental Regional Meetings**

- NGO participation is restricted to those having consultative status with ECOSOC
- NGOs cannot make direct interventions during intergovernmental meetings. However, at the discretion of the official chairperson, NGOs may be allowed to present ‘statements’
- Inputs into documents under discussion must be made through official delegates. This makes lobbying vital

**What is ECOSOC?**

Under the UN Charter, the Economic and Social Council’s purview extends to over 70 per cent of the human and financial resources of the entire UN system. ECOSOC is responsible for promoting:

- higher standards of living
• full employment
• economic and social progress
• identifying solutions to international economic, social and health problems
• facilitating international cultural and educational cooperation
• encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms

To achieve the above, ECOSOC:
• coordinates the work of 14 UN specialized agencies, 10 functional commissions and five regional commissions;
• receives reports from 11 UN funds and programmes;
• issues policy recommendations to the UN system and to Member States;
• consults with academics, business sector representatives and more than 2,100 registered NGOs.

On how to register with ECOSOC visit website
www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/faq

Box 2

ECOSOC Regional Commissions

ESCAP       Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*
ECA         Economic Commission for Africa
ESCWA       Economic & Social Commission for West Asia
ECE         Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC       Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

* Pakistan is part of ESCAP
How to link up with other NGOs

**CONGO:** The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations is an independent, international, not-for-profit membership association of NGOs. Its major objective is to ensure NGO participation at the UN when governments discuss issues of global concern and that NGO voices are heard throughout the UN system.

For details and registration visit [www.ngocongo.org](http://www.ngocongo.org)

**NGLS:** The Non-Governmental Liaison Service was established in 1975 to strengthen UN-NGO dialogue and cooperation in the fields of development, education, information and policy advocacy on global sustainable development issues. NGLS is an inter agency programme with offices in Geneva and New York that:

- Provides NGOs with advice, expertise and support services on development initiatives and activities of the UN system
- Works with NGOs engaged in development and related issues as part of the UN effort to strengthen dialogue and win public support for economic and social development
- Makes available information, advice, guidance and various forms of support to the UN system and to NGOs wishing to be more involved with the UN system’s deliberations

For details visit NGLS website [www.un.org/partners/civilsociety/ngo/ngo-ngls](http://www.un.org/partners/civilsociety/ngo/ngo-ngls)

**Parallel NGO forums**
Parallel NGO forums to the official conference and its preparatory process:

- Facilitate preparation of ‘Alternative Reports’
- Raise potentially contentious issues
- Provide alternative analyses, visions, strategies and actions

There is no fixed group that organizes these and committees form for each specific process. Information on organizing groups is usually available with CONGO or NGLS.

More details on NGO participation in Section 5
Human Rights in the United Nations System

**Security Council**

**General Assembly**

- Meeting of Chairpersons of Treaty Bodies
- Committee Against Torture (CAT)
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Special Committee to investigate Israel Practices Affecting the Human Rights of Palestinian People

**Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

- Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission
- Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

- Human Rights Committee (CCPR)
- Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
- Commission on Human Settlements

Various Other Commissions

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*High Commissioner for Human Rights*

*Tasked with coordinating human rights throughout the UN system.*
Monitoring progress / implementation: Five yearly reviews

For all UN World Conferences held during the 1990's, UN member states agreed to hold 5-year periodic reviews - primarily in the form of Special Sessions of the UN General Assembly - to assess progress of implementation and to identify impediments and best practices. By focusing the attention of General Assembly delegates on a specific issue, Special Sessions allow for a substantive decision to be made to overcome obstacles in the successful implementation of major policy documents'.

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1 February 1999 issue of Preview 2000 (an occasional bulletin of the International Women's Tribune Center (IWTC - web site: www.womenink.org)
Major UN Conferences, Documents and 5-year Reviews

| CONFERENCE                                      | DOCUMENTS                                                      | REVIEWS                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|                                                               |                                              |
| 1990 World Summit for Children                   | World Declaration & Plan of Action                             | 1995                                        |
|                                                 |                                                               | 2001                                        |
|                                                 |                                                               | RIO+10 World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002 |
| 1993 UN Conference on Human Rights               | Vienna Declaration & Programme of Action                      | Vienna +5, 1998                             |
| 1994 International Conference on Population and Development | Programme of Action of the UN ICPD                         | ICPD+5, 1999                                |
|                                                 |                                                               | ICPD+10, 2004                               |
| 1995 Social World Summit                         | Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development & Programme of Action | Social World Summit+5, 2000                |
|                                                 |                                                               | Beijing +10, 2005                           |
Section II:

UN CONFERENCES ON WOMEN

From Mexico 1975 to Beijing 1995

In early 1972, the United Nations General Assembly declared the year 1975 as International Women’s Year and organized the first World Conference on women in Mexico City in 1975. The objective was to:

- expand and accelerate measures to promote equality between men and women
- ensure women’s full participation in development
- increase women’s contribution towards the establishment of world peace

These decisions had momentous consequences.

The International Women’s Year gave the UN a framework to promote women’s needs and views. It proved an excellent tool for accelerating the advancement of women leading to a series of conferences focused on negotiating global policy documents for women with the theme Equality, Development and Peace. This

**1975 World Conference on Women:** The first ever global inter-governmental conference organized to address women’s issues from women’s perspectives adopted the World Action Plan crystallizing past and current long-term objectives of the women’s movement under the theme Equality, Development and Peace. The UN General Assembly endorsed the Plan, proclaimed the years 1976 -1985 as the United Nations Decade for Women and scheduled a mid-decade conference to assess achievements and to specify objectives for the next 5 years.

**1980 World Conference on Women:** The second Conference adopted the Programme of Action plan for the second half of the Decade and defined equality not only in the sense of legal equality, but also as equality of rights, responsibilities and opportunities for participation in development, both as beneficiaries and as active contributors.

**1985 World Conference on Women:** The third conference thoroughly assessed and evaluated the experiences gained, obstacles encountered, and the results achieved during the UN Decade for Women. While not all the objectives set forth in Mexico City (1975) had been achieved, there were significant results. A major achievement was the “mapping out” of the situation of the world’s women. An enormous wealth of information on the lives and conditions of women was collected and shared. Another pivotal step was re-visiting the very concept of ‘development’ from women’s perspectives.

The UN General Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (NFLS) and decided that world surveys on the role of women in development be carried out every five years.
# UN World Conferences on Women 1975 – 1995

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<th>CONFERENCE</th>
<th>POLICY DOCUMENT</th>
<th>KEY ACHIEVEMENTS</th>
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| 1975 | **World Action Plan** | • First global inter-governmental conference on women’s issues from women’s perspectives  
• 1976-1985 declared Decade for Women |
| 1980 | **Programme of Action** | • Redefined ‘equality’ |
| 1985 | **Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies** | • Global ‘mapping of’ women’s situations  
• ‘Development’ revisited from women’s perspective  
• 5 year surveys on women’s role in development started |
| 1995 | **Beijing Platform for Action** | • Previous conferences decisions consolidated  
• Governments reaffirmed commitment to holistic mainstreaming of a gender perspective  
• Governments commit to making national action plans for women  
• UN commits to implementing all Platform policies and programmes |
The NFLS in many ways marks a turning point in the history of women at the UN. The policy document recognizes women as “intellectuals, policy makers, decision makers, planners and contributors and beneficiaries of development” and obligates both Member States and the UN system to take this into consideration in policy and practice.

In 1990, the UN reviewed implementation; ECOSOC and CSW recommended a second review in 1995.

**1995 Fourth World Conference on Women:** The Beijing Conference (FWCW) was the most successful both in terms of participation and results. The official conference was attended by 189 government delegations - more than any other previous UN conference - and the most consistently followed up in terms of action by UN Member States.

The FWCW reviewed progress on the NFLS and adopted the Beijing Platform for Action for Equality, Development and Peace (Beijing Platform) that clearly states, “it is an agenda for women’s empowerment”. This official document has become the most important guideline document - a blueprint for empowering women the world over.

The Beijing Platform consolidates all the decisions made by the preceding world conferences on women. The document introduces and assesses the global situation of women from a women’s perspective, and emphasizes the principle of “main-streaming a gender perspective.” For each of the 12 critical areas of concern addressed, it outlines strategic objectives and proposed actions for achieving the goals.
Box 3

**Beijing Platform for Action: 12 Areas of Concern**

A. Women and Poverty  
B. Education and Training of Women  
C. Women and Health  
D. Violence Against Women  
E. Women and Armed Conflict  
F. Women and the Economy  
G. Women in Power and Decision Making  
H. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women  
I. Human Rights of Women  
J. Women and the Media  
K. Women and the Environment  
L. The Girl – Child  

For strategic objectives of the Platform see Appendix I

In adopting the Beijing Platform, governments committed themselves to:

- effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective throughout their operations, policies, planning and decision-making.  
- gender impact assessments of government bills or political decisions on women and men respectively,  
- developing national plans of action for empowering women.  

The entire UN system affirmed its commitment to implementing the Beijing Platform in all its policies and programmes.
Pakistan added a 13th area in its National Report for Beijing, ‘Women with Disabilities’. Consequently Pakistan’s National Plan of Action for Women – A Twenty Year Perspective to implement the Beijing Platform also has 13 areas.

NGO Participation at the World Conferences on Women

Parallel NGO fora were held with each major UN conference on women attended mainly by women’s organizations, researchers and activists of the women’s movement. From the start these parallel events took on proportions never previously seen in NGO activities around UN Conferences, reaching a staggering 50,000 persons in the Panaket Huairou NGO Forum in 1995.

The 1975 Conference saw 4,000 NGO participants, while the official conference had 1200 delegates; the 1980 NGO Forum in Copenhagen brought together 7,000 NGO participants; the 1985 Nairobi Forum broke previous records by bringing together 16,000 people. In 1995 NGO participants in the parallel Huairou NGO Forum at the Beijing FWCW reached an amazing 50,000.

NGO fora were not only about a ‘coming together’ of women from across the world. They proved to be a watershed in terms of NGO influence on UN documents and lobbying with governments. Women organized themselves: met with their governments, brought up issues governments were hesitant to pick up, undertook collaborative initiatives and strategies at the local level and across borders to communicate their concerns. In addition, NGOs were present at the conferences to monitor official proceedings and to lobby with government delegates over language and issues to be included in the official documents.

These parallel NGO events/forums were conceptualized and organized by NGOs themselves through regional and/or international ‘planning committees’. Events included seminars, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, demonstrations, processions, theatre, concerts and other artistic performances.
Women’s NGO fora were notable for the sheer enthusiasm of participants and organizers both. Participants shared and exchanged information, experiences and strategies about women’s lives from around the world. Enthusiasm bubbled into a plethora of unplanned gatherings, discussions and group meetings. Groups were created and networks coalesced in the lawns, hotel lobbies, dormitories, cafeterias–no one knows the full extent of activities and outcomes.

**Pakistani NGOs & The Beijing Process**

Pakistani NGOs actively participated in the Beijing activities. In the lead up to the Conference, NGOs built civil society awareness on various issues and organised pre-Beijing meetings. More than 200 NGO representatives participated in the parallel NGO Forum contributing to various workshops as panelists and organising members. This strong NGO contingent was the largest group ever from Pakistan to have participated in a world conference.

In 1995 the 25 member official Pakistan delegation to the FWCW included a large number of NGO people - facilitating interaction between the official delegation and other participating Pakistani NGOs.

The lead up to the FWCW saw strengthened networking and collaboration among government, NGOs and donors thanks to:

- An ‘open door’ policy of the incumbent Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Women’s Development & Youth Affairs (MoWD) (1994-1996);
- The setting up of the Multi-Donor Facilitation Unit (MFU) during the 1994/1995 period;¹
- Numerous awareness raising and preparatory meetings organized by NGOs.

Interactions and coordination led to the first joint government/NGO Pakistan National Report 1995 presented at the FWCW at Beijing. Continued networking and collaboration post FWCW led to:

¹ Nine donors, namely CIDA, DANIDA, NORAD, ODA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNICEF and Royal Netherlands Embassy, pooled their resources to support both government and NGO pre and post Beijing activities
• The establishment of national mechanisms bringing together government and NGOs to monitor Beijing Platform implementation.
• The formulation of the National Plan of Action launched in 1998

Women Development Departments (WDD) were established in 1996 as the ‘provincial arms’ of the Ministry of Women Development (MoWD). Beijing Follow-Up Units were set up within the MoWD & WDDs (supported by the MFU), followed by National and Provincial Core groups to monitor Beijing Platform implementation that comprised government and NGO representatives.

The Beijing +5 process created national awareness on the Beijing Platform, the 12 UN identified areas of concern, Pakistan’s 13th area of concern (Women with Disabilities), the Pakistan National Report 1995 and the National Plan of Action for Women (NPA) 1998. The process also brought diverse NGOs, individuals and experts on to a common platform on issues concerning women.
Section III:

THE BEIJING +5 REVIEW & PAKISTANI NGOs

The UN Review Process

The UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) in June 2000 titled: *Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century* completed the review and assessment process of the implementation of NFLS and Beijing Platform (popularity known as Beijing Plus Five or B+5). The Special Session was addressed by 178 member states (including Pakistan), 3 non-member states, 16 observers, 4 heads of UN and specialized agencies, the CEDAW Committee Chair and 5 NGO representatives. It concluded with the formal adoption of the:

1) **Political Declaration** (a resolution reaffirming commitments to the Beijing Platform)

2) **Outcome Document** (a document on Beijing Platform implementation officially titled: ‘Further Actions and Initiatives to Implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action’)
The UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (Box 4) assisted by the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) was responsible for the review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform 12 areas of concern.

**Box 4**

**UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

CSW is the main UN body that recommends policies on the status of women to Member States. A functional commission of ECOSOC, CSW is mandated to monitor the Beijing Platform implementation, facilitated through its Secretariat: the Division for the Advancement of Women. The Commission meets annually between March-April.

**CSW:**

- prepares recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields;
- makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights;
- promotes implementation of the principle that men and women shall have equal right.

The Beijing +5 review was based on:

- Responses to a questionnaire sent to all UN Member States in November 1998,
- Regional reports from scheduled UN regional meetings,
- Reports on gender concerns emerging from other five-year review processes,
- Recommendations from two expert group meetings in 1999,
- Reviews, reports and updates on national action plans that governments were to have submitted within one year after Beijing, and

CSW/DAW encouraged NGOs to initiate consultations with government agencies responsible for the review and to prepare alternative NGO reports.
The CSW/DAW Questionnaire circulated to Member States in November 1998 (response deadline August 1999) had three main parts.

Part One

elicited an overview of trends in achieving gender equality and women’s advancement – major achievements, breakthroughs in concrete terms towards national plan implementation/policies and programs for gender equality and advancement of women.

Part Two

focused on the financial and institutional measures taken-structures and mechanisms put in place to institutionalize Beijing Platform implementation; arrangements made to coordinate follow-up efforts to global conferences; and NGOs’ role in planning and shaping follow-up activities.

Part Three

assessed implementation for each of the Beijing Platform 12 areas of concern in terms of:
• Best practices (successful policies, programmes and projects)
• obstacles encountered/ lessons learned
• New and emerging trends
• Further action / new initiatives
• Gaps and persistent issues

A matrix for Part Three facilitated providing and presenting the information.

The Review Process suggested possible focus areas and cross-cutting themes (Box 5) but asked countries to identify their own priority areas and critical cross-cutting themes.
Box 5

DAW-suggested Focus Areas and Cross-cutting Themes

Five Focus Areas:

- Political will and commitment to create an enabling environment for Beijing Platform implementation
- Capacity building for advancement of women and gender mainstreaming
- Accountability for and assessment of Beijing Platform implementation strategies and actions
- Cooperation and partnership for Beijing Platform implementation
- Assistance to women and girls currently subject to discrimination and disadvantage

Four Cross-cutting Themes:

- Globalisation and the economic empowerment of women, especially poor women
- Women, Science and Technology and the new information age
- Women’s leadership
- Human security and social protection

CSW organized 3 Preparatory Committee Sessions (Prep Com) and 5 Regional reviews.

In the first and second Prep Com meetings, governmental representatives/missions at the UN discussed the proposed review process and procedures for NGO participation to B+5 in addition to the Draft of the Outcome Document to be adopted at the Special Session.

At subsequent meetings, governments negotiated the text of draft documents in plenary sessions through their country grouping or ‘negotiating bloc’ facilitated by the Chairperson of the Working Group/s. (Box 1). Each ‘negotiating bloc’ first reviewed the draft Political Declaration and Outcome Document separately, building consensus on the issues and language. Once agreed upon, this language/position became that group’s official position. However, at times, countries within a bloc stated different and independent positions.
Box 6

Preparatory Committee Sessions (Prep Com)

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<td>First Prep Com</td>
<td>2 - 13</td>
<td>March 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Prep Com</td>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>March 1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Prep Com</td>
<td>7 - 17</td>
<td>March 2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Reviews

- ESCAP: Bangkok, 26-29 October 1999  
  *(Pakistan is part of the Asia Pacific region)*
- ECA: Addis Ababa, 22-26 November 1999
- ESCWA: Beirut, 12–15 December 1999
- ECLAC: Lima, 8-10 February 2000

Country blocs then negotiated the Outcome Document text in UN plenary sessions, with the Chairperson of the country group speaking on behalf of all the countries represented. Each paragraph was read through and discussed. Only when all the negotiating groups agreed on the text, did the Chair declare the paragraph cleared.

The process was slow and reaching consensus on a single term sentence or paragraph sometimes took days. Negotiations would be suspended to allow country groups to reach consensus among themselves. New negotiation blocs emerged during Beijing +5. These were:

- **SLAC:** Latin American Countries
- **CARICOM:** Caribbean Community
- **SADC:** Southern African Development Community

It took five and a half weeks of deliberations and three nearly all-night negotiating sessions before government delegates finally reached consensus on the Outcome Document at 5:59 am on 10th June 2000 that was presented and officially adopted at the UNGASS later the same day.
NGOs in the Beijing +5 Process

1\textsuperscript{st} Prep Com March 1998

900 women from NGOs were present for this 1\textsuperscript{st} Prep Com that reviewed progress on 4 of the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform.\textsuperscript{1} It also adopted eight resolutions\textsuperscript{2}. Concerned that there were more deliberations on the language of the Platform than on implementation, NGOs demanded that the review focus on:

- the need to ‘implement’ the Beijing platform
- a review of ‘real’ progress made or setbacks encountered in implementation
- governments sharing concrete experiences in Beijing platform implementation rather than reopening dialogue on the language/discussion on the Platform

2\textsuperscript{nd} Prep Com March 1999

NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status received invitations from NGLS to attend the Prep Com. NGOs from all regions of the world participated in the Prep Com with the aim of influencing the:

- Proposed review process
- Draft of the Outcome Document to be adopted at the Special Session
- Procedures for NGO participation to B+5

NGOs continued to be concerned about the limited scope of the original proposed review that did not include space for identifying ‘emerging issues/trends’ and the inclination of some governments to re-open the text of the Beijing Platform for re-negotiation. NGOs lobbied with government representatives during coffee breaks, in corridors and in ‘dialogues’ at lunch and in the evenings, and voiced their concerns in panels/meetings organized by CSW. Successful lobbying led to:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Four areas reviewed ending in ‘agreed conclusions’ were: Violence Against Women, Human Rights, Women in Armed Conflict and the Girl Child
  \item Land rights, Women and Girls in Afghanistan, Women and Children Hostages in Armed Conflict, Women Migrant Workers, Older Women, UN plan for Advancement of Women, 50\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Palestinian Women
\end{itemize}
• The inclusion of ‘new and emerging trends’ in the review for each of the 12 critical areas

• The decision that the text of the Beijing documents would not be re-opened for negotiation and that governments officially reaffirm their commitments to the document

3rd Prep Com March 2000

At the 3rd Prep Com, NGOs worked through NGO members on official delegations (including those on the Pakistan delegation) to ensure incorporation of proposed issues and text in the final version of official documents. In addition NGO national alternative reports - including Pakistan’s - were circulated and submitted to CONGO for assimilation into a Global NGO Alternative Report and to DAW for its website.

UNGASS June 2000

Initially, NGO participation was restricted to those having ECOSOC status, and/or accreditation to the Beijing conference with a maximum of 3 persons allowed per organization. Following NGO lobbying, the UN opened accreditation for other NGOs to UNGASS on 15 March 2000. The maximum of three persons per organization was maintained. 2,043 representatives from 1,036 NGOs participated.

As ‘observers’, NGOs could not directly intervene, but they continued lobbying activities on the Declaration and Outcome Document. Parallel NGO activities were also held at the designated NGO center. However the venue of the NGO forum was at a fair distance and participants had to chose whether to focus on the UN process or on the NGO forum.

The Global NGO Alternative Report was launched at the same time that the official Outcome Document was released.
Pakistan & the Asia Pacific NGO Process

Pakistani NGOs actively participated in the Asia Pacific regional NGO Review Process from start to finish. Participation ensured incorporation of the issues, concerns and voice of Pakistani NGOs in regional and global forums, reports and official documents.

Asia Pacific Caucus at the 2nd Prep Com (March 1999)

The Asia Pacific Caucus held daily meetings attended by NGOs from the region to:

- Share information and feedback on B+5 preparations
- Propose sub-regional/regional activities (with tentative schedules)
- Assign responsibilities for undertaking the above (such as South East Asia Watch, Asia Pacific Watch, Beyond Beijing Committee (South Asia) and Pan Pacific South East Asia Women’s Association)
- Form sub-regional/regional committees

Asia Pacific NGO Planning Meeting, Penang 11-12 June 1999 (organized by APDC3)

The 27 women from NGOs4, regional networks, and monitoring bodies of Asia Pacific:

- Agreed to hold a Regional NGO Symposium of about 500 persons to prepare NGO input at the UN ESCAP & B+5 meeting
- Constituted a 13 member Steering Committee and thematic committees for the Symposium
- Allocated tasks for planning/logistical arrangements of the same

3 An autonomous intergovernmental regional institution for development research, training and information dissemination; provide practical responses to developmental needs of countries; and assist in formulating appropriate policies, strategies and programmes

4 Including Shirkat Gah Women’s Resource Centre from Pakistan
• Scheduled sub-regional meetings to prepare sub-regional reports for presentation and subsequent collation into the Asia Pacific report to input in the UN ESCAP report

Pakistan and The B+5 Review Process

The B+5 review process started late in Pakistan, with no national level activity initiated at governmental or non-governmental level until June 1999. At the time Shirkat Gah (SG) was uniquely positioned being the only Pakistani NGO at the second B+5 Prep Com in March and the subsequent Asia Pacific NGO planning meeting in June. Aware of the activities in the official UN process as well as the NGO initiatives, SG knew that to become part of the global NGO review process, Pakistani NGOs had to be present at the sub-regional meeting in early August 1999. With this in mind, and in record time, SG prepared a proposal, presented it to INGAD\(^5\) and mobilized funds to support a national review process\(^6\).

Dedicating two persons each from its Karachi and Lahore offices and associating an expert advisor, SG initiated a national NGO review process that:

• Mobilized a broad-based national NGO forum to review progress on the Beijing Platform for Action and Pakistan’s National Plan Action for Women

• Linked national processes and perspectives with all levels of the international review process

• Ensured the inclusion of Pakistani women’s concerns and issues in the B+5 Global NGO Alternate Report through effective participation in all sub-regional, regional and global activities

• Prepared a National NGO B+5 Review Report

Bringing together diverse NGOs, individuals and experts on to a common platform, the process simultaneously created nation-wide awareness on the Beijing Platform, the 12 areas of concern, Pakistan’s 13\(^{th}\) area of concern: Women with Disabilities, the Pakistan National Report of 1995 and the National Plan of Action for Women 1998 (NPA).

\(^5\) Interagency Gender and Development Group

\(^6\) Supported by: CIDA, DFID, NORAD, SDC, UNIFEM through new grants. Additional support came from SG’s WLS programme supported by NORAD, NOVIB and HBF
Steps taken in the review process

To ensure compatibility with the sub-regional, regional and global NGO process, the Pakistan NGO review was based on the UN CSW/DAW questionnaire circulated to governments (see Appendix III) assessing Best Practices, Obstacles; Emerging Trends; Future Actions and Persistent Issues/Gaps for each of the 12 Areas of Concern and for Pakistan’s 13th area: Women with Disabilities.

On-going coordination included

- Disseminating information nationally through NGO networks, Core Groups and Beijing Follow-up Units
- Maintaining two-way communication with sub-regional (Nepal) and regional (Thailand) focal points
- Identifying focal/coordination points for provincial meetings/information dissemination
- Facilitating participation of Pakistani NGOs in sub-regional/regional and international events

Provincial consultations

Between 28 July and 2 August 1999, four provincial consultative meetings brought together 220 persons including representatives of 83 NGOs, CBOs, networks and representation from government departments (e.g. Women’s Development Department and Beijing Follow-Up Units). Following a briefing on the B+5 review process, the consultations:

- Reviewed Beijing Platform implementation in the province
- Prepared provincial reports for collation into the National Report

First national consultation

10-person provincial delegations and individual experts synthesized provincial reviews into a draft national report titled ‘Preliminary Synthesis of Initial Consultations at Provincial and National Level’. The national consultation identified the following as cross-cutting concerns and priority areas:

Cross-cutting themes

- Globalization and its impact
• Disabling environment characterized by increasing violence and fragmentation in society
• Lack of priority accorded to women’s human rights and the action taken against NGOs & especially those with a human rights agenda or working for women’s empowerment
• Rise of conservative religious groups
• Absence of political will and good governance

Priority issues

• Violence against women, emerging in the framework of a disabling environment marked by the rise of intolerance, backlash against women and women’s groups, and the erosion of institutions;
• Globalisation and the resultant increase in poverty, concentration of wealth, and consumerism;
• Lack of women's participation in the political process and power and decision-making.

Box 7

Pakistan NGO Review Report: Beijing +5

The final Pakistan NGO Report was adopted at the 2nd National Consultation, 14th February, 2000, at Islamabad. The draft document was posted on the website www.undp.org/gender. Comments received by February 19th 2000 were reviewed by the 9-member editorial committee and incorporated. SG integrated, edited, formatted and printed the final report in time for circulation at the March 2000, Prep Com, New York. 395 copies were distributed national and 390 internationally. SG translated the Report into Urdu and further disseminated to some 750 local groups/individuals.

The Report was

* Submitted to CONGO for collation into the Alternate Global NGO Report
* Selected as an ‘exemplary report’ by the Asia Pacific Development Center-(APDC).
Sub-regional South Asia Meeting, Katmandu (Nepal)
11-14 August 1999

Participants presented their respective country reports and three priority areas of concern. These were assimilated in the South Asia sub-regional report (that was subsequently incorporated in the Asia Pacific Regional report). SG facilitated the participation of a 15-person delegation.

The South Asia Women’s Watch (SAWW) was formed as ‘the voice of the region.’ Objectives and role were later finalized at the Asia Pacific Regional NGO Symposium.

At the meeting:
- Two persons from Pakistan joined the South Asia Report drafting group
- Pakistani NGOs became co-convener of SAWW
- Pakistani delegates agreed to organise a South Asia panel on "Women's Political Participation" at the Regional NGO Symposium

Asia Pacific Regional NGO Symposium, Thailand
August/September 1999

385 persons from 28 countries of the region participated at this exceptionally successful meeting. The Symposium had plenary sessions, meetings on each of the Beijing Platform 12 areas of concern, and parallel events on current and emerging issues. The Symposium developed ‘consensus building’ skills as it became apparent that national and even sub-regional priorities do not necessarily become regional priorities without active lobbying. At the Symposium groups lobbied with each other to include text, wording and issues in the Asia Pacific NGO report. Of great importance is that women worked together across national boundaries and ethnic and cultural differences on issues of mutual concern and evolved solutions to the problems.

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7 Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan & Sri Lanka
8 The delegation ensured representation from all provinces; balances between rural/urban representation; involvement in pre and post Beijing activities; part of the national consultative meeting and recommended from provinces to the national meeting; and possessing drafting skills
The Symposium resulted in:

- The Asia Pacific Regional NGO report – incorporating the sub-regional reports
- Formation of a regional Steering Committee for ‘B+5 and beyond’

Just two weeks after the SAWW Sub-Regional Meeting, SG facilitated a 21 person NGO group to attend the Regional Symposium where the group:

- Finalized the South Asia report
- Chaired and spoke at the plenary session on the “Women’s Movement in the Future”
- Organised the parallel event "Women in South Asia - Transformative Politics”
- Helped draft the Declaration of the Asia Pacific NGO Symposium
- Ensured that Pakistan NGO concerns were incorporated in the Asia Pacific NGO Symposium Declaration and Report

A great achievement was the incorporation of Pakistan’s three priority issues in the Asia Pacific NGO Beijing +5 Report.

UN ESCAP Intergovernmental Meeting, Bangkok
26 - 29 October 1999

One day prior to the ESCAP meeting, the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) ran a training on lobbying techniques for NGOs.

At the ESCAP high-level intergovernmental regional B+5 preparatory meeting NGOs:

- Formed issue-based lobbying teams based on ESCAP review document themes
- Held daily briefings to review interventions made
- Ensured the incorporation of issues and language proposed by the region’s NGOs in the Intergovernmental Regional Report using the Asia Pacific Regional Report as a lobbying tool
Launched the Asia Pacific Women’s Watch (APWW) with all sub-regions duly represented.\(^9\)

For details contact [http://ap-ngo-forum.isiswomen.org](http://ap-ngo-forum.isiswomen.org)

Pakistani NGOs consisted of a representative of SG, another organization registered under SG’s umbrella, and a representative of Disabled People International (who was directly invited). Pakistan sent no official delegation to the ESCAP meeting.\(^10\) However an embassy official attended the Opening Session and SG provided input into the statement read out by him.

A statement prepared by SG - as Chair NGO Working Group ‘Strategies for the Empowerment of Women’ - was formally presented at an official plenary session.

**2\(^{nd}\) National Consultation-Islamabad, 14 February 2000**

The NGO Review Report was finalised and adopted at the consultation attended by 151 persons.

The consultation shared information on:

- Sub-regional/regional meetings
- Procedural details for Prep Com registration/participation
- NGO/UN website addresses/contacts
- B+5 Political Declaration and Outcome Document drafts

Further, the consultation provided an opportunity for re-establishing a meaningful dialogue between NGOs and government encouraging further interaction and the inclusion of people from NGOs on the official delegation to the final Prep Com. At the consultation, the newly appointed Federal Minister for Women Development (MoWD) indicated the government’s intention of taking up the issues of:

- so-called honour killings

\(^9\) India and Pakistan, Convenor and Co convenor respectively for the SAWW, came onto the Steering Committee for a three year term with a third rotating slot to be shared between Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

\(^{10}\) Because the meeting was soon after the coup d’etat of General Pervaiz Musharraf in October 1999
• women’s proposal for a permanent Commission on the Status of Women
• implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry
  Report of 1997

The Additional Secretary MoWD shared the government's response to the
CSW/DAW B+5 questionnaire.

**APWW Lobbying Training Workshop, Kathmandu**
**28-29 January 2000**

Further training in lobbying run by APWW for 40 persons prepared an effective
and well trained Asia Pacific lobbying team for participation at the final Prep
Com by providing:

• working knowledge of the Political Declaration & Outcome Document
  under negotiation
• skills in drafting alternative language for UN documents
• strategies for effective participation and lobbying

The exercise culminated in an Asia Pacific lobbying document ‘Voices 2000 &
Beyond’ based on issues prioritized by sub regions including so-called honour
killings and globalisation - prioritized by Pakistan.

**Third & Final Prep Com, New York**
**28 February - 17 March 2000**

At the third and final Prep Com, the Asia Pacific NGO Group worked through
NGO members on official delegations (including the Pakistan delegation) to
ensure incorporation of the NGO proposed issues and text in the final version of
these documents.

Using *Voices 2000 & Beyond*, **APWW lobbied** on the following priority issues:

• **negative effects of globalisation**, World Trade Organisation policies, and
  the burden of debt on women of the region

• **continuing human rights abuses of women & girls**-addressing violence
  against women, rape, trafficking, forced prostitution, ‘honor’ killings, the
  marginalisation of minority groups and denial of land rights and
  reproductive rights
women in armed conflict—increase in militarisation and involvement of women in situations of conflict across the region

infrared mechanisms to promote equality for women with a stronger focus on strategies such as gender mainstreaming, educational reform to ensure access and equity for women to enable their mainstream participation, and

continued low participation of women in politics and decision-making

Pakistani NGOs at the final Prep Com

Only NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status and/or accredited to the FWCW could attend. Few Pakistani NGOs were eligible and of those eligible, only SG was willing to register others under its name. In the end, four persons from other organizations along with 2 SG persons attended under the SG banner. The group shared a common perspective, possessed good lobbying and drafting skills, and had knowledge of the UN review process.

The group participated in all parallel APWW meetings/caucuses and used the Pakistan NGO Review, Voices 2000 & Beyond and the Asia Pacific NGO Symposium Report as reference documents for lobbying and suggesting alternate language for the Outcome Document.

NGOs also participated in other concurrently held activities/workshops, panel discussions, forums, films on women’s issues and March 8 special programmes.

Pakistan Government Delegation & NGOs

Of the four-member Pakistan official delegation led by the Additional Secretary, MoWD, 3 were from NGOs. This greatly facilitated interaction between the official delegation and Pakistani NGOs.* The official delegation and NGO participants met daily prior to working group sessions to discuss/receive feedback on paragraphs under negotiation. These proved vital for lobbying.

* SG had facilitated all NGO representatives included in the official delegation to attend sub-regional meeting and the Regional Symposium as well as the previous Prep Com.
At the Prep Com negotiations the Pakistan NGOs observed:

- Positive interaction between official and NGO delegation
- North /South divide on issues and in perspectives
- Shifts in country alliances on specific issues (outside negotiating blocs)
- The predominance of Northern NGOs and official delegations and the intensity of opposition to language proposed by G-77

**UNGASS, New York**  
**5-9 June 2000**

The APWW lobby was particularly strong and effective with the active participation of NGOs (including Pakistanis). APWW held daily meetings that became the hub of activity and discussion.

Regional NGOs reached out to their respective country groupings to lobby on language adopted by Asia Pacific (for instance, Australian, New Zealand and Japanese NGOs lobbied with JUSCANNZ).

APWW was one of the five NGO networks to make a statement at the UNGASS. The statement focused on the issue of globalisation, the Asian financial crisis, poverty, intensification of armed conflict, increasing violence, trafficking and so-called honour killings.

SG facilitated participation of two people from SG and one from another NGO. SG persons worked to finalise the paragraph on girls and women with disabilities.

Pakistan’s large official delegation headed by the Minister for Women’s Development, comprised ministry officials, provincial ministers and four NGO persons. The Federal Minister herself had been part of the NGO delegation to the regional meetings; some of the NGO persons in the official delegation had also been part of the NGO process.

**3rd National Consultation, Islamabad**  
**19-20 September 2000**

Concluding the national B+5 review process the 3rd National Consultation shared:

- The role and dynamics of NGO participation during the B+5 UN processes,
- The achievements of Pakistan NGOs - nationally/internationally, and
• An analysis of the Political Declaration & Outcome Document.

An NGO Coordinating Committee was formed to suggest/plan how to undertake the B+10 review process. A participating NGO volunteered to coordinate the committee’s first meeting.

## B+5 Achievements – An NGO perspective

B+5 reaffirmed the Beijing Platform without either a re-opening/negotiation of the document or a roll back on commitments made at the time. Summing up NGO observations, the Linkage Caucus stated:

> We regret there was not enough political will on the part of some governments and the UN system to agree on a stronger document with more concrete benchmarks, numerical goals, time-bound targets, indicators and resources aimed at implementing the Beijing Platform.

Nevertheless the Outcome Document acknowledged and addressed some crucial issues:

- ‘Honour’ killing and forced marriages
- Gender Budgeting
- Negative impact of globalisation on women
- Women’s unequal access to social protection and participation in macro-economic decision-making, and
- Women’s right to housing, inheritance and property

The B+5 process created a strong NGO network at the sub-regional, regional and global level.
Section IV:

WHERE WE ARE NOW
BEIJING +10 & ALTERNATIVES

The UN Process

The UN Beijing +10 Review is part of a UN General Assembly (GA) process reviewing the “integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow up to the outcomes of the major UN conferences and Summits in the economic and social fields.” For the review, the GA Resolution 57/270 affirmed that:

- While each conference has its thematic unity, major UN conferences and summits should be reviewed as interlinked and contributing to an integrated framework for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000
- Individual conference outcomes will not be renegotiated in the follow-up phase

The UN Beijing +10 Review Process got off to a slow start, one reason being the redirected focus and financial support of the UN and its Member States on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (Box 8)

The Beijing +10 review will be held at CSW’s scheduled 49th Session in 2005. Taking into account the 1995 – 2005 time period, the Review will be based on:
• DAW questionnaire responses by governments, UN agencies, Funds and Programmes
• Appraisal reports of the UN Regional Commissions that will also identify further actions and initiatives

Box 8

Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, 156 Heads of State or Government gathered at the Millennium Summit and issued a Millennium Declaration that was a “statement of values, principles and objectives for the international agenda for the 21st Century” affirming human rights.

The Declaration has 8 Goals with specific ‘targets’ to be achieved by 2015:

• Halve extreme poverty and hunger
• Achieve universal primary education
• Empower women and promote equality between women and men
• Reduce under-five mortality by two thirds
• Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters
• Reverse the spread of diseases, especially HIV/AIDS and malaria
• Ensure environmental sustainability
• Create a global partnership for development, with targets for aid, trade and debt relief

Details in Appendix II

NGO Concerns Regarding MDGs

The 8 Millennium Development Goals have become the UN’s new focus for the millennium. In one way, the emergence of the MDGs marks the success of global women’s movements and broader civil society, which had made the creation of time-bound targets and indicators a key demand for measuring progress on development and rights commitments. The frustration for many is a concern that MDGs may have met the letter of civil society demands for accountability, but
not the spirit. That is, they seek to solve critical problems with measurable targets without adequately addressing the roots of these problems.

Though the goals are desirable, NGO are concerned that the ambitious goals:¹

- have a narrow focus on eliminating gender disparities that ignores systemic and structural inequalities confronting women
- fail to reflect the advances achieved for women’s empowerment in previous UN Conferences and action agendas, especially the Beijing Platform
- divert attention from the Beijing Platform both in terms of funds for actions and in terms of an understanding of the myriad interlinked issues facing half the world’s population
- are devoid of a political analysis
- represent an incomplete agenda

Another concern is that countries of the North are not required to report on MDGs, suggesting that gender inequality is limited to the South.

**NGOs and the Beijing +10 process**

NGOs discussed whether it would be better to have a B+10 review or a 5th World Conference at both the APWW Networking for B+10 meeting (Changmai, 20-24 February 2003) and the CSW 47th Session (New York, 3-14 March 2003).

**Reasons for holding a 5th World Conference were**

- to keep up the momentum
- to inspire a new generation of women activists and bring them into the global arena
- to provide a critical place where women can demand accountability from their governments

**Reasons for not holding a women’s conference**

- conference fatigue

¹ As expressed at the CSW 47th session and other formal and informal forums regarding
• lack of implementation resources
• geo-political climate and backlash
• danger of losing ground on issues
• lack of necessary lead-time to prepare for a global UN conference in 2005
• moratorium by the General Assembly while awaiting proposals from the ad hoc Working Group
• the integration of conference review processes given the limited implementation of existing recommendations adopted at Beijing

**Consensus was reached on**

A **Fifth World Conference on Women** be held before 2010 but not in 2005

- Its timing and form be considered in the light of:
  - Beijing +10 assessment in 2005
  - results of the ad hoc Working Group
  - experiences of other review processes like ICPD+10
  - general political climate

The **CSW Beijing +10 assessment** be done at the CSW regular session in 2005

- Focus be on women’s access to media/information/communication technologies, women’s human rights and elimination of all forms of VAW
- Regional reviews in 2004 to focus on Beijing Platform implementation **without any text negotiations**

On the **Millennium Development Goals**, NGOs at the CSW 2003 urged that reports on implementation of MDGs pay attention to:

- Impact on both women and men
- Women’s critical role in achieving all of the goals
- Focus on women and girls to expedite achievement of their goals
- Assist in gathering key information for these reports
Sub-Regional Consultation Towards Beijing +10,Dhaka 6-7 February 2004

At this South Asia meeting, participants from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka presented reports on the national review process. The meeting finalized activities towards the regional and global Beijing +10 review process and assigned responsibilities.

Suggested Activities/Strategies for B+10 NGO Review by NGOs

- Use the DAW questionnaire as the review framework and prepare alternative reports
- Draw upon CEDAW and other Human Rights Treaties as these are legally binding
- Engage SAARC governments in a collective NGO-Government ‘dialogue’ as a sub-regional platform for collective review and analysis
- Use the ‘New Perspective’ /Proposed Feminist Strategy (presented below)

The South Asia process would be linked to the general review as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National process to be completed by</td>
<td>Mid May, 2004</td>
<td>Country level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia sub-regional Consultation</td>
<td>May 27-31, 2004</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia Pacific NGO Forum</td>
<td>July 1-3, 2004</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN ESCAP High Level Intergovernmental Meeting</td>
<td>September 6-9, 2004</td>
<td>Bangkok</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-regional South Asian meeting</td>
<td>January 2005</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSW session</td>
<td>March 2005</td>
<td>New York</td>
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</table>

Shirkat Gah presented a ‘New Perspective’ or Proposed Feminist Strategy to review progress – both achievements and obstacles – in the light of developments since 1995, including the post September 11th scenario. This new perspective emerged out of a consultation process on the future of women’s human rights sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) at the Rutgers

**Proposed alternatives/strategies**

NGOs have been proposing new strategies for the review/appraisal of the B+10 since 1995. Alternative strategies were discussed at the CSW held in March 2003. One NGO suggestion was to convene a women's conference on the state of the world to which governments would be invited. NGOs were clear that such alternative events should not undermine the UN process and instead should supplement its efforts.

**Concerns about the women’s movement working with the UN**

NGOs emphasize women’s notable success in influencing the international agenda by bringing their concerns and ideas to the UN, including the empowerment this has offered women vis a vis their national governments. On the other hand, NGOs were concerned that the UN falls short of expectations and provides a smoke screen for inaction at the country level. There is therefore a need for:

- Activities at the national and local levels
- Direct engagements with international institutions such as the IMF, WB and WTO
- Transforming international institutions, including the UN, to be more responsive to equality demands, and
- Advocating a strategy that would maintain pressure both at national and international levels
A Suggested Framework and Feminist Strategy for Beijing +10 and Beyond

Note: This proposal developed out of a consultation sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership in November 2003. Shirkat Gah presented the basic framework to SAWW in February 2004. Further discussions in several places by different people culminated in the Feminist Strategy working paper presented below that was circulated at the CSW meeting in March 2004, and to the APWW Women Steer List.


Why does it matter?

The occasion of the UN 10 year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action and the UN review of the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals (MDGs) in 2005 provides an opportunity for feminists to link the MDGs and the women’s agenda more strongly, and to work pro-actively to bring women’s perspectives back into the forefront of dialogue in national and global arenas.

Much is at stake for women in terms of the political shifts and decisions being made globally in the post September 11th world, including at the United Nations, which is an important contested space where key issues get debated. Feminists cannot afford to have our views left out of these critical discussions on globalization, governance, poverty, peace, security and human rights, which in turn shape women’s lives. We need to ensure that the relationship between these discussions and the issues of the Beijing Platform is made clear.

The women’s movement has won important space within the UN system and its processes, which we should utilize for this purpose. To not be engaged in 2005 would be to lose some of this ground. The future of work on women at the global level will be affected by both the Beijing and the MDG reviews as well as by other forces. Nevertheless, in these processes, it is vital to continue to advance our perspectives and not just be defending past gains or tied down by UN documents. Therefore we seek new forms of engagement
to be engaged in critical conversations at many levels.

- The big issue is what kind of world will we live in and how will it be “governed,” including what the role of the UN will be. This includes questions of how the various forces that affect people’s lives at multiple levels will be held accountable and what will be the role of the nation state in relation to global forces. Therefore we propose below a matrix that identifies how to look at the way that major global forces affect women’s lives.

- Women need to find ways to be more pro-actively engaged with the UN in this process and in other multilateral spaces like the World Trade Organization, where these discussions are happening. The task is to continue to be involved in these contested spaces, but to do so in some different ways as well – to redefine the rules of our engagement in order to re-assert a political agenda driven by the women’s movement.

**How to be engaged?**

In 2004-05, rather than focusing primarily on lowest common denominator negotiations over UN documents or just defending what women gained in the 1990’s, we need to use this time to have diversified discussions on where women are on the UN and other global agendas and what we really want at all levels – local to global. Thus, B+10 can be seen as a political moment that women can use to focus attention on our concerns and to build momentum for change.

We are opposed to any re-drafting of the Platform or negotiated text at the global level in the review process. Rather, the emphasis should be on serious examination of progress on and obstacles to women’s rights in the context of the larger global forces, and on looking at the resources needed for progress.

We are proposing that NGOs use the matrix of interlocking forces outlined in this paper below (Fundamentalisms, Neo-liberal Globalization, Militarism, and Patriarchy) as a critical framework for analysis of progress and obstacles to implementing the Beijing Platform. In addition, we cannot be confined in our discussions to only the issues in the Platform as the world has changed since 1995. This framework can also be expanded upon and used for discussion of issues that are not adequately covered in the Platform such as HIV/AIDS, racism, genocide, sexual rights, disability, aging, etc.
priorities and different activities for utilizing the public space provided by the B+10 Review, according to what is happening in their areas including with the regional meetings in 2004. While women will be engaged in diverse actions, the effort to be pro-active and have publicly visible discussion of these issues within a feminist framework is aimed at infusing new creative energy in the process and will hopefully result in a sense of being part of a common endeavor, as the Beijing process did. As women take up this discussion in various venues, it is anticipated that more overarching messages, questions, and/or slogans like those suggested below will emerge to maximize the impact of our separate efforts and guide the global activities in 2005.

- The overall message(s) of a variety of 2004-05 activities need to be assertive with feminists taking back the discourse, celebrating that women are still moving forward while identifying the problems and obstacles we face, and demanding accountability from governments and other actors, with some clear questions/points

- While not being limited to the Questionnaire that the Division for Advancement on Women sent to all governments on their progress in implementing the Platform, it can be utilized nationally by NGOS through producing shadow reports, holding discussions on what has been done, meeting with national governments, etc. Government and NGO shadow reports presented to the CEDAW Committee on implementing the women’s convention and/or to other human rights bodies can also be helpful in this effort

- Some groups may want to focus on the 30th anniversary of the first International Women’s Year Conference in Mexico City in 1975, thus giving a wider scope to the review and discussions of where women have been and where we are going

- Discussion of B+10 should be linked with the other major global agendas like the MDGs, development, IFIs, Security, Peace, Human Rights, Environment etc. Women can hold meetings discussing this and/or work with other social movement actors in outlining these connections and how they should be addressed nationally and globally in the 2004-05 review process

- In all of these efforts, the critical framework below could be utilized leading to debates locally and at the regional meetings, workshops that further elaborate on it, and perhaps primers that show how the forces
intersect in different contexts

- All these efforts are based on the idea that women would use the B+10 review process in 2004-05 to re-politicize our agenda, have some global focus that brings women back into the picture and energizes our movement, but also link this process to the issues and concerns that we have in our ongoing work so that the effort is not seen as diverting energy from the urgent issues at hand.

**A critical framework for engagement**

In order to move forward, feminists need to take back the initiative, re-insert patriarchy in the equation, and address the over-arching challenges posed by neo-liberal globalization, militarism, and fundamentalisms that threaten the gains made for women’s rights. The framework below is intended to be a tool for analysis and strategies that assess progress and identify obstacles to implementing the Beijing Platform for Action as well as for looking beyond Beijing +10:

- Progress on the Platform can be reviewed on the basis of these four cross-cutting forces or roadblocks and how they impact women. Analysis of these obstacles to implementation of the platform need to take account of how they overlap and intersect as well as occasionally contradict each other as well. The Alternatives or countervailing forces are to remind us that we seek to promote a positive vision of change and not simply to make a critique. They can also be analyzed in terms of what it will take to realize them in each area of the Platform and beyond.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roadblocks / Obstacles</th>
<th>Alternatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Globalization and Neoliberalism</td>
<td>Economic and Social Justice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundamentalisms/Extremism</td>
<td>Open Secular and Spiritual Spaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Militarism and Imperialism</td>
<td>Peace and Democracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriarchy and All Forms of Discrimination</td>
<td>Women’s Rights and Equality for All</td>
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well as guiding the critiques of the roadblocks. Below are some of the questions one might build around that can be asked at various levels. For example, a question like “where is the money?” can be addressed to governments in terms of delivery on promises made in the platform. It can also link Beijing +10 to the MDGs—which are about where development money will go. It is also a way to raise issues about where the money is now going—such as to wars and corporate profits, and where it is not going, like to address human needs, to end violence against women, etc

**Our Critique:**
Where is the money?
Where is the justice?
Where are the women?

**Our Agenda:**
What have we achieved?
What’s our vision?
How is another world possible?

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*Note: The ideas of the alternative feminist strategy working paper above, were shared by NGO participants at the expert group meeting for UN ESCAP preparation for the Beijing Platform review.*

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**Recommendations for a conceptual and organizational framework for the High-level intergovernmental meeting to review regional implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly**

*Adopted on 24 March 2004*

The recommendations that follow are drawn from the discussions and are adopted by the expert group meeting on 22-24 March 2004. They are intended to provide guidance to the process of the regional review of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly, culminating in the High-level intergovernmental meeting in September 2004.

The Meeting recommends that:

1. ESCAP prepare an overall regional review report, based on the responses of the questionnaire to Governments and to United Nation agencies, Funds and Programmes, that was sent out by the United
Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with the United Nations regional commissions, as well as the national, subregional and regional action plans and reports designed to implement and monitor the Platform for Action, reports and publication of UN agencies, Funds and Programmes, reports submitted since 1995 by States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, information generated since 1995 during the review by the Commission on the Status of Women of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, statements submitted since 1995 to UNESCAP’s Commission sessions and relevant Committee sessions, the outcome of relevant UNESCAP’s expert group meetings and other meetings and workshops, and other activities at regional level.

2. Regional implementation of the twelve critical areas of concern will be reviewed and analyzed with the perspectives of a) a rights-based approach and b) inter-sectionality in the context of the following three themes: Globalization, Peace and Security, and Discriminatory Socio-Cultural Norms and Structures. In this review and appraisal exercise, various roadblocks in implementation will be highlighted in relation to the different actors responsible for implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, such as donor and international agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other relevant civil society organizations.

3. Based on lessons learned and new approaches and strategies identified, the report will conclude with a section on ways forward which include mainstreaming gender and human rights, building democracy and human security, working with men and boys. In doing this, special attention should be paid to multi-sectoral collaboration, multi-generational representation and MDG linkages with BPfA.

4. Within the review and appraisal, the report shall highlight various subregional specificities to the extent possible.

5. As an annex to the report, collection of good practices will be analyzed and documented with particular attention to dynamics, outputs, outcomes, in-depth context analysis, new approaches, and specific components necessary to be regarded as good practices. Also, statistics and data will be compiled as an annex where available.
6. The structure of the Regional Review Report will be:
   I. Achievements/Gains
   II. Gaps and challenges in implementation
   III. Emerging and persistent issues
   IV. The way forward, new approaches and strategies

Annexure: Good practices
Statistics

7. The high-level intergovernmental meeting will be as inclusive and interactive as possible in order to reflect the diverse views of various stakeholders. To this extent, the organizational framework of the HLM shall have the following components:
   a) plenary review
   b) panel discussions
   c) capacity building workshops to be organized with the objective of expanding the issues discussed in the panel discussions
   d) side events

8. The themes for the panel discussions and workshops shall be identified following the completion of the regional review report, taking into consideration the conceptual framework and new strategies identified.

9. While the regional review report will serve as the background document to HLM, a number of technical papers will be prepared to facilitate the panel discussions and workshops.
Section V:

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN
THE B+10 REVIEW

There are a number of ways you can become involved in the Beijing +10 review. These range from working at the national level to participating at the sub-regional, regional and international levels.

Participate in NGO processes

The Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on the Beijing Platform for Action-B+10

“Celebrating women’s gains...Confronting emerging gender issues”

30 June-3 July 2004 / Bangkok, Thailand

UNESCAP will be holding a High Level Intergovernmental Meeting to review ten years of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) on September 6-9, 2004 in Bangkok. A comprehensive regional paper based on reports emerging from UNESCAP member countries’
response to the questionnaire by the UN will be prepared. The outputs from this regional government meeting will input into the Extended Meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women for the Review and Appraisal of Implementation of the BPFA and the Outcome Document, to be held in March 2005.

Informal meetings of NGOs held in Manila and in Bangkok revealed that there is a consensus among NGOs that this meeting cannot be ignored, despite concerns that holding such a meeting might open up negotiations of the text of the BPFA. To reaffirm our commitment to the BPFA, the women’s movement must continue to participate in international agenda setting and policy making. We must continue to engage governments and other actors, at all levels, in order to ensure advancement of women’s human rights especially in these critical times with the re-emergence of patriarchal challenges.

The NGOs from Asia-Pacific are convening an “Asia-Pacific NGO Forum” from 30 June- July 3 in Bangkok. The Asia-Pacific NGO Forum is a logical and important follow through by the women’s movement of what, by far, has been an effective civil society engagement with official UN sponsored policy-making processes. The objective of this regional NGO forum will be to set in motion a process for the women NGOs and other civil society groups to prepare, consolidate and advocate their findings and recommendations at the Asia-Pacific level and to conduct follow up at the CSW 2005 and other international fora.

**Specific objectives will include**

1. To consolidate the outputs of NGO monitoring of BPFA implementation, including other UN conventions and conferences as feedback to governments, the UN, international development agencies and the civil society, on the gains achieved and remaining gaps;

2. To articulate the position of women in Asia-Pacific on recent developments in the economy, geo-politics, technology and the environment regarding their impact on society, particularly the new gender issues (or new dimensions to old issues) that have emerged as a result;

3. To catalogue innovative interventions and successful projects with particular focus on the role of NGOs and civil society, and partnerships with government;
4. To establish a mechanism for women’s NGOs and other civil society groups to influence the official UN review and appraisal process.

**The outputs of the NGO forum will include**

1. “The Purple Book” containing:
   a. NGO Evaluation of the impact of the BPFA on women’s lives, and an appraisal of remaining major obstacles to achieving target outcomes under each of the 12 critical areas of concern;
   b. NGO Analysis of emerging gender issues, or new dimensions to existing concerns, that require concerted action by development actors;
   c. NGO Recommendations to governments, inter-governmental bodies, international development agencies and other actors;
   d. NGO Plan of Action that they themselves will implement, whether in the area of monitoring, advocacy, networking or actual interventions or services addressing gaps and new/emerging issues.

2. Catalogue of Participating NGO Projects in the *Gender and Development Marketplace* showcasing successful interventions across the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPFA, as well as on CEDAW.

The outputs of this Forum are expected to feed into the Intergovernmental Meeting from 6-9 September 2004 and CSW 2005.

We urge you to take part in this important process. You can:

- Monitor your country’s implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
- Support inter-country or regional assessment of progress of women in any of the twelve critical areas of concern
- Recommend successful NGO projects for the Gender and Development Market Place
- Bring your reports, projects and insights to the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on any of the special sessions
The NGO forum welcomes individuals and organizations from various sectors—civil society, parliament, inter-governmental bodies, donors and business. The main criteria is an understanding of gender related issues and full commitment without reservation, to the provisions, objectives and proposed action plan in the BPFA and the CEDAW.

For more information you could write to Annie Serrano at apngoforum@mc.edu.ph or visit http://ap-ngo-forum.isiswomen.org

Venue of the forum—Mahidol University, Salaya Campus, Thailand

**Participate without leaving home**

A great deal of important work can be done without being physically present at a Prep Com or a UN meeting. In fact, it could be said that the work at the international level counts for little without corresponding and complementary work at the national and local levels. Here are some ideas on what can be done at the national level:

- Identify the government ministries and staff preparing your government's position. Suggest consultations as they prepare their reports, responses and recommendations
- Find out who will be on your national delegation to the regional and international preparatory meetings and the Special Session. Establish contact with them. Set up meetings with government representatives before they attend Prep Coms and reviews in order to have input into the policy-formulation process and national reports
- Provide your own reports or position papers
- Prepare information on the upcoming conference in order to mobilize awareness among your country's citizens. Try to convince the local and national press to cover stories about the meeting, its importance, and your government's participation
- Encourage gender balance and participation of NGOs on the delegation
- Inquire about and seek input into the government's responses to the questionnaires sent by the Secretariat to solicit governments' views.
National responses are usually coordinated domestically by the foreign or relevant ministry

- Link up with other organizations to achieve greater influence
- Work with parliamentarians who can monitor government preparations and provide information on issues being debated. Where feasible, arrange for parliamentary discussions on your government's policies
- Ask for copies of your government's UN statements. These are public documents and are available from foreign ministries and UN Missions

Planning your participation

If you plan to participate in a regional meeting, Prep Com, or the CSW review Session, here are some ideas to help you prepare your on-site strategy in advance. It is useful to consider the following:

- Define what you want to achieve at the meeting
- Be aware that many aspects important to you may not be explicitly on the UN agenda
- Be well-informed about the agenda and the issues of Beijing
- Think strategically about who should attend and how many representatives your organization might send. Who in your organization has relevant experience and is interested in attending these types of meetings? Who will be best at lobbying, participating in caucuses and coalitions, and representing your organization's interests? Remember that many of the decisions will be made at the final Prep Com (March 2000) rather than at the Special Session itself
- Collect the meeting documentation that is available in advance. Use UN and NGO materials as a way of researching the international dimensions of the issues. Check key websites such as Women Watch (particularly for UN documentation), Women Action 2000, Women’s Human Rights Network (WHRNet), as well as regional sites such as Asian Women's Resource Exchange (AWORC). Most of the meeting documentation is available on these electronic communication networks. Have your name placed on the mailing list of the conference Secretariat as well as with other organizations that regularly provide conference information
- Explore working with NGOs within your country to prepare alternative reports about implementation of the PFA
• Contact other NGOs working nationally, regionally, and internationally about their priorities and preparations. Regional collaborative preparations by NGOs often help to generate political momentum, add impact to your statements, and avoid unnecessary duplication of work. Are other organizations from your area sending representatives with whom you can work? Can a number of organizations work together to raise funds for one person to attend and represent all? Are you participating in any national, regional or global networks that are also engaged in monitoring the review? Are these networks trying to establish common positions and lobbying points?

• Cooperate with NGOs that are working on the same issues but will not be able to travel to the Special Session or preparatory meetings. Being physically present at an inter-governmental meeting is not the only effective way to influence the process. Much of the national-level work can be carried out very effectively through networking and information sharing

• Prepare position papers. These are very useful conference tools. Keep them short—from 2-5 pages if possible. Each paper should clearly state your proposals for action to be taken by governments and the UN system

• Send your position papers and reports to the relevant government departments and other/NGOs, both in your region and elsewhere, and to the Conference Secretariat. NGOs are increasingly using electronic communication networks to disseminate their reports

• Work with the media to help mobilize public support for your views and encourage governments to accept them. Media activities (press releases, contact with journalists, etc.) should be integrated into your preparation

• If attending a Special Session, plan to stay at least 24 hours beyond the official end of the meeting as they frequently run late

• Bring a portable office to the meeting. While limited on-site facilities and computer access are sometimes available to NGOs, it is likely that you will need additional capacity

**Important:** To ensure that you satisfy the accreditation procedures when you register, bring a copy of the letter sent by your organization to the conference Secretariat identifying you as their official representative, as well as a passport or some other photo identification to be used for the issuing of a UN grounds pass.
Other Essentials

Working with government delegates

At all UN meetings - whether international or regional - influencing the outcomes depends upon the ability of NGOs to identify government delegates who are sympathetic to their views and willing to work collaboratively. It is also important to identify and interact with delegates who have views very different from your own. In working with delegates, it is important to keep the following in mind:

- Some delegates are highly qualified experts in their field or skilled negotiators from a country's diplomatic service, while others might be attending an international meeting for the first time. Some delegates are used to working closely with NGOs, while others have little or no experience of doing so.

- The beginning and end of daily sessions are good times to interact with delegates. Delegates can be identified by noting the country sign at their seat. Some social functions, receptions, lunches, coffee breaks, etc. can provide a good opportunity to talk to delegates informally.

- Delegates are often willing to use NGO proposals if these are presented in UN style. If delegates include your concerns or take up your suggested amendments in their positions, do not forget to express your appreciation.

- Government delegates can also be invited to speak at caucus meetings and other NGO events to elaborate their national, regional or negotiating group priorities and positions.

Working with other NGOs

Working with other NGOs, especially with women’s NGOs and caucuses, is one of the most important strategies for influencing an international or regional UN meeting. Even NGOs that disagree about certain approaches and priorities may find areas of common interest and be able to work together to include their concerns on the agenda. As an NGO representative at an international or regional meeting, you could consider the following:

- There is frequently an NGO meeting room. Find out where this is and visit frequently to obtain up-to-date information.
• Meet regularly with NGOs to exchange information. By working with others, you can cover multiple simultaneous meetings, help each other monitor government positions, and coordinate lobbying efforts

• Find NGOs from your country and organize together to hold a meeting with your government delegation. You can also arrange briefings open to all NGOs to attend

• Share official conference documents, which are frequently in short supply or less readily available to NGOs

• Circulate useful NGO statements and materials widely to the conference Secretariat, Member State delegations, and other NGOs

• Organize with NGOs from your region into regional caucuses or organize around specific issues or thematic areas. You can develop common strategies, prepare statements, and suggest amendments to government negotiating texts

• At UN world conferences and preparatory meetings, NGOs often organize to produce a daily newspaper. This is usually an excellent source of information and opinions. You might contribute an article to it or have your position paper printed

**Working through a caucus**

At many UN meetings, NGOs form caucuses or groups of organizations and individuals interested in similar issues. Caucuses meet regularly (often daily) to exchange information, hold briefings, and formulate positions or statements relevant to the proceedings. A caucus can also meet with policy-makers who will be responsible for implementing the program of action produced by the Special Session. In addition, caucuses are often formed around a wide range of issues covered by a given meeting’s agenda and on a regional basis

**Working with the secretariat**

The Secretariat plays an important role in the review process: it prepares the background documents for a review, drafts programs, and may be involved in implementing the results of the review. The Secretariat also handles accreditation, registration, and space for activities during the Prep Com and the Special Session. In addition, the Secretariat usually assigns at least one officer to work with NGOs. This person will answer enquiries from NGOs and keep them informed about recent developments.
Working with the Secretariat can include the following:

- Establishing contact with the Secretariat staff responsible for information dissemination and liaison with NGOs
- Identifying Secretariat staff who are writing reports on substantive issues, and enquiring about how to submit useful and relevant information

**Making statements**

NGOs accredited to participate in the Special Session have some limited opportunities for making statements by requesting a place on the speakers' list, which is handled by the Secretariat. If you are going to make a statement:

- Keep it brief and to the point. Be polite, but make your points clearly. If the meeting has interpretation, speak slowly enough for the interpreters to keep up with you. If there is a time limit for statements, keep within it
- Avoid general statements. Be relevant to the agenda item. Aim for concrete proposals for action
- Have written copies of your statement available for delegates, interpreters, and the Secretariat
- Think about the pros and cons of making a statement. You can often approach delegates individually

NGOs often present joint statements at meetings or circulate joint position papers. These can have an influence on the negotiations and are a way for NGOs to express their solidarity.

When presenting any statement, joint or otherwise, do not say that you are speaking on behalf of all the NGOs at the meeting unless you are sure that every NGO at the meeting supports your statement.

**Working with the media**

Journalists from nationally and internationally circulated newspapers, television, and radio, as well as representatives from the alternative media, attend major UN meetings. Media work (press releases, contacts with journalists) could be integrated into your organization's overall strategy for attending the review and mobilizing public support for your position.
What you need to know

In order to participate effectively in the process of global diplomacy, it is critical to have all the background information about the process. Crucial background information includes: key documents that establish the context for the Special Session, as well as the documents being drafted; an understanding of the process, including the outcomes of national and regional meetings as well as previous Prep Com sessions; and a grasp of the negotiating process and the procedures by which consensus is reached. Most of the documents listed below can be found on official websites:

- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PFA)
- The Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (NFLS)
- National Plans of Action
- Government responses to questionnaires
- Regional Reports
- Relevant General Assembly resolutions
- CSW reports/resolutions
- Government speeches
- The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- ECOSOC outcomes on gender mainstreaming
- World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

Reaching consensus: negotiating the documents

Documents that represent the outcome of a Special Session are negotiated. Giving form and detail to the official documents is a process of negotiation and decision-making within and among Member States. These decisions are made in a variety of sessions including general debates, plenaries, panels, and closed working and informal groups. Often, these entail protracted negotiations and compromises in order to reach decisions and resolutions that will be contained in a report to be adopted at the conclusion of the meeting. The aim of the negotiations is to develop a text that all Member States will adopt by consensus.
Finding a way to influence what is included in these documents is a particular challenge. The following is a rough description of the different phases of a typical negotiating process that applies to Prep Coms, Special Sessions, and other UN intergovernmental meetings:

- Delegates to the meeting select a chairperson, vice chairpersons, and rapporteur, and formally adopt the agenda. The plenary session often begins with a general debate, which contains statements from governments and UN agencies. Government statements articulate their national position and priorities and serve to place official policy on the record. NGOs also have some limited opportunities to make statements.

- Sometimes a group or coalition of governments makes a joint statement. Draft texts are prepared and sponsored by governments or groupings of governments.

- The draft text becomes the focus of discussion and reaction, usually in ‘informal’ sessions (a session closed to the press - and often to NGOs-and for which there is no official record).

- Working groups of Member States are formed to undertake negotiations that include specific amendments proposed by government delegates. If all the negotiators do not agree to the amendments, the text is placed in brackets, meaning that further discussion is required.

- Once negotiations have taken place and consensus has been reached among Member States, the brackets are removed and the text can no longer be changed. Future work is concentrated on the bracketed text upon which consensus has not yet been reached.

- On particularly controversial issues, the chairperson might ask a smaller number of governments that disagree on particular language to caucus, settle their differences, and come back to the meeting with agreed-upon language. At various stages during this process, different techniques and types of papers are used to facilitate negotiations among governments. These include the chairperson’s summaries, ‘non-papers’ (unofficial drafts), conference-room papers and other papers.

- As the pace of negotiations picks up, new draft paragraphs can be issued on an almost hourly basis. They are identified by date/time only, and are generally available only in English. While negotiations take place in the meeting, delegates frequently and regularly consult with their relevant national ministry in their country's capital city. The ministry will send...
instructions on how to respond - whether to adjust the policy and write the changes into its plans, whether to accept proposed formulations or offer alternative suggestions - and when and how much to compromise

- Generally, as the meeting nears conclusion, the group meetings of delegates become smaller. Chairpersons or conveners of negotiating groups may hold informal discussions in small conference rooms, their offices, in the corridor, or ‘over coffee’. Such meetings are not listed in the UN Journal, which announces daily meetings.

- Text will be issued with all the newly agreed-upon language incorporated into the text, including any remaining brackets. Negotiations will continue until consensus is reached or a vote is taken on the resolution or decision. In the final stages of a meeting, negotiations frequently continue late into the night. A text is rarely "defeated" by vote, as the sponsors will usually withdraw the text if they are not sure of a majority. Rarely, if ever, will a major program of action be put to a vote. Consensus is the rule.

- Finally, the text will be adopted.

**Participating at the UN review process**

To be able to participate in UN reviews or official preparatory meetings, NGOs need to be accredited. For the Beijing +10 process, accreditation will be limited to:

- NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC
- NGOs that were accredited to the official Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing

Once accredited and registered, NGOs receive:

- a grounds pass to enter the buildings where the UN Special Session is being held
- access to documents
- access to the main conference rooms where governments meet
- the possibility to deliver oral and written statements
- the opportunity to discuss issues and positions with relevant delegates, other NGOs, and staff
If you decide to Lead the National Review Process\(^1\) in addition to the above:

- Dedicate persons as focal points for the entire national to international process
- Raise funds by preparing proposals with estimated budgets of all activities
- Put on the back burner your prior commitments/plans
- Disseminate information on the global review process and its linkage with the national and vice versa
- Mobilize support amongst like minded NGOs, CBOs and networks
- Identify Management and Drafting committees
- Identify provincial focal points with institutional strength to provide support for provincial activities such as provincial consultations and information dissemination
- Draft an alternative report
- Facilitate participation at the scheduled sub-regional, regional and international meetings
- Consider the political climate during the process for NGO – Government collaboration
- Define/clarify your ‘role’ as leading the national review process to avoid misperceptions/ expectations of local groups/individuals

\(^1\) The given points have been derived from SG’s own experience of leading the B+5 review process
Appendix I

Beijing Platform for Action - Strategic Objectives of the 12 Areas of Concern

A Women and Poverty
A1 Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty
A2 Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources
A3 Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions
A4 Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty

B Education and Training of Women
B1 Ensure equal access to education
B2 Eradicate illiteracy among women
B3 Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education
B4 Develop non-discriminatory education and training
B5 Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms
B6 Promote life-long education and training for girls and women

C Women and Health
C1 Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services
APPENDICES

C2 Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health

C3 Undertake gender-sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues

C4 Promote research and disseminate information on women's health

C5 Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health

D Violence Against Women

D1 Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women

D2 Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures

D3 Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

E Women and Armed Conflict

E1 Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation

E2 Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments

E3 Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations

E4 Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace

E5 Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women

E6 Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories
**F**  **Women and the Economy**

**F1**  Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources

**F2**  Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade

**F3**  Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women

**F4**  Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks

**F5**  Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination

**F6**  Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men

**G**  **Women in Power and Decision Making**

**G1**  Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making

**G2**  Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership

**H**  **Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women**

**H1**  Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies

**H2**  Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects

**H3**  Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation
I  **Human Rights of Women**

I1 Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

I2 Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice

I3 Achieve legal literacy

J  **Women and the Media**

J1 Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication

J2 Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media

K  **Women and the Environment**

K1 Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels

K2 Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development

K3 Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

L  **The Girl Child**

L1 Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child

L2 Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls

L3 Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential

L4 Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training

L5 Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition
L6 Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work

L7 Eradicate violence against the girl child

L8 Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life

L9 Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child
Appendix II

Millennium Development Goals & Targets (2000)

Goal 1  Eradicate Extreme Poverty & Hunger
Target 1  Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
Target 2  Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2  Achieve Universal Primary Education
Target 3  Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3  Promote Gender Equality And Empower Women
Target 4  Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4  Reduce Child Mortality
Target 5  Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under five mortality rate

Goal 5  Improve Maternal Health
Target 6  Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6  Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria And Other Diseases
Target 7  Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
Target 8  Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7  Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Target 9  Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
Target 10  Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Target 11  By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

**Goal 8**  Develop A Global Partnership For Development

Target 12  Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system

Target 13  Address the special needs of the least developed countries

Target 14  Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)

Target 15  Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term

Target 16  In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth

Target 17  In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries

Target 18  In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications
Appendix III


Review and appraisal in the commission on the status of women in 2005

A review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), is mandated in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women for its forty-ninth session in March 2005. The Commission will consider two themes:

‘Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly’; and ‘Current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls’.

The review and appraisal by the Commission will identify achievements, gaps and challenges and provide an indication of areas where actions and initiatives, within the framework of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the special session (Beijing +5), are most urgent to further implementation.

To prepare for the review and appraisal, the United Nations Secretariat will draw on a variety of sources of information and statistics. These include the national action plans designed to implement the Platform for Action (and submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women in 1998 and 1999); reports submitted since 1995 by States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and information generated since 1995 during the review by the Commission on the Status of Women of the 12 critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action, including through expert group meetings organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women.
Other sources of information which will be utilized include Common Country Assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, (CCA/UNDAFs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, (PRSPs), national Human Development Reports and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) reports. National reports on other areas, such as social development and sustainable development, will also be utilized.

Official statistics available from the United Nations Statistics Division, the Population Division, the regional commissions and other entities in the United Nations system (ILO, UNESCO, WHO, etc.) will also be used. Coordination will be established with United Nations entities responsible for follow-up to other global conferences in order to exchange pertinent country information, in particular with UNFPA on follow-up to the 1994 Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, and its review in 2002, as well as the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 and its review in 2005.

Review and appraisal will also be carried out at regional level. In addition to the documents mentioned above, the regional processes will utilize regional action plans, national reports to regional bodies and the outcomes of expert group meetings and other activities at regional level.

**Methodological note**

The information being sought through the questionnaire is more qualitative than quantitative in nature. Emphasis is placed on implementation, and reporting States are urged, as far as possible, to provide information on impacts of initiatives and activities described. Outputs and actions should be differentiated from achievements and impacts on the situation of women and promotion of gender equality. Reporting States are, however, also encouraged to provide quantitative data, disaggregated by sex and age, or to indicate where such data has already been submitted in other contexts. Countries wishing to provide information on indicators used at the national level to monitor activities for gender equality and empowerment of women may do so. Reporting States are also urged to provide information on the specific time periods for initiatives and actions taken.

Since many Member States reported in the context of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000, information contained in these reports does not need to be repeated. A list of reports submitted by Member States to the
United Nations Secretariat prior to the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) and prior to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000), as well as National Actions Plans and the most recent reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, can be found on the website of the Division for the Advancement of Women http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw.

Examples of issues and questions which can be covered under each part of the questionnaire are provided in italics for guidance. Reporting States are not required to cover each of these issues but to select those which are most relevant in their national context. Additional issues, over and above those provided as guidance, can also be raised in the responses.

**QUESTIONNARIE**

**Part One**

*Overview of achievements and challenges in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment*

Give a brief analytical overview (in no more than three pages) of the major achievements in implementing the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +5). Indicate two to three priority areas focused on since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Identify areas where gender perspectives and the concerns of women have been taken into account in major legislative change, policy reforms, budget decisions or national development debates, including, for example, in the context of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (Appendix II). Indicate the outcomes of monitoring of the national action plan adopted after the Fourth World Conference on Women. Specify the extent to which specific targets identified in the Millennium Development Goals, the Platform for Action or the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly have been met. Identify the remaining major gaps and challenges to achieving these targets.*

* Appendix II lists specific targets on women’s empowerment and gender equality
Guiding questions

The response could, for example, address the following issues and questions:

a) Has a policy on gender equality and the empowerment of women been adopted and at what level? Was a plan of action developed to support its implementation? What mechanisms were established for monitoring and how are different actors held accountable for its implementation? Is there a national coordination mechanism at the highest level to ensure that the policy is implemented in all sector areas?

b) What is the status of the national action plan developed after the Fourth World Conference on Women? Is the plan in use or has a new plan been drawn up? How is implementation being monitored? What constraints exist to utilizing the plan as an effective instrument for the promotion of gender equality?

c) To what extent are the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Declaration Goals (MDGs) utilized as the national framework for development? What attention is given to Goal 3 on gender equality? Are gender perspectives and the concerns of women considered in all other MDG goals? Are links made to the Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as well as to the national action plan developed to implement the Platform for Action?

d) To what extent have the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the concluding comments of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on States parties reports, affected national legislation and implementation?

e) What are the main legislative and policy-making achievements in the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment over the past decade? Please provide details.

f) To what extent have gender perspectives and the concerns of women been taken into account in preparation of budgets at national, regional and local levels? Describe efforts to monitor budgetary allocations related to achieving gender equality and empowerment of women.
g) Provide information on major government policy discussions and/or parliamentary debates where gender perspectives and the concerns of women have been taken systematically into account. What recent major reforms have taken place in the country where these perspectives were taken into account, and what major problems are being debated in the country where these perspectives are considered as part of the overall debate?

h) In countries emerging from armed conflict, to what extent were women involved, and gender perspectives and women’s concerns included, in peace negotiations and in planning of reconstruction efforts? Please give concrete examples.

i) How has globalization (for example, the use of ICT, market liberalization, changes in trading patterns, etc) affected the empowerment of women and girls and the promotion of gender equality?

j) In which sector areas have specific policies, strategies and/or action plans for promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment been developed? Describe progress in implementation. To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women routinely taken into account in legislation and policy making and programme development in other sectors?

k) What important partnerships have been established with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, as well as the private sector and other stakeholders, in support of gender equality and empowerment of women?

l) What efforts have been made to actively engage men and boys in the promotion of gender equality? What successes have been achieved and what constraints have been identified?

Part Two

Progress in implementation of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action and the further initiatives and actions identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

Provide (in no more than 10 pages) information on successful actions taken, achievements and impacts, and identify remaining obstacles, gaps and challenges
for the critical areas of concern from the Platform for Action (with the exception of H: Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women which is covered in Part Three) and the other key issues identified, including through the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +5). Additional issues over and above the critical areas of concern from the Platform for Action could include, for example, ICT, HIV/AIDS, financing for development, migration, trafficking, older women and indigenous women. Report on actions taken by the national machinery as well as work done by line ministries. Provide at least one example for each area outlining how line ministries have worked to give greater attention to gender perspectives and the concerns of women. Give examples of successful policies and programmes and include information on targets, strategies, impacts achieved and lessons learned. Provide information on gaps and challenges in the implementation of the gender mainstreaming strategy.

Guiding questions

The response could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

a) Examples of successful policies, legislative change and programmes and projects

- In relation to the critical areas of concern in the Platform for Action and other key issues, what successful actions (such as legal measures, policy reforms, media campaigns, and pilot programmes or projects) have been taken by the Government or other actors (NGOs, civil society, the private sector) to achieve these objectives

- To what extent have specific commitments made by the Government at the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the National Action Plan, or in other contexts, been met?

- To what extent are gender perspectives and the concerns of women given attention in the follow-up to other global conferences, such as the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993), the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS (New York, 2001); the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban, 2001), the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), the Second World Assembly on Ageing (Madrid, 2002), and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002)?
b) Examples of obstacles encountered and remaining gaps and challenges
   - Describe the obstacles and gaps and challenges encountered in implementation in each critical area of concern and other key issues identified.

c) Lessons learned
   - Provide information on the main lessons learned in implementation in relation to each of the critical areas of concern and other key issues identified.

**Part Three**

*Institutional Development*

Provide information (in no more than four pages) on any institutional mechanisms and arrangements put in place to support the follow-up and implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +5). Address gaps and challenges as well as progress. Provide at least one good example of achievement and impact. (Information already provided in Parts One or Two should not be repeated here).

**Guiding questions**

The response could address, but does not need to be limited to, the issues outlined below:

a) What national mechanisms exist for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women—for example, ministry, national commission, parliamentary committee or commission? What mandates and resources does each body have and how do they work together? Describe the location of the national mechanisms and the access to decision-making processes. What are the main partners of the national mechanisms? What networks have been established and how effective are these networks? What resources do the national mechanisms have in terms of staff and financial support? What percentage of financial resources comes from international or bilateral donors?

b) Have focal points for gender equality and empowerment of women been established within line ministries, and in which ministries? What support is provided from within the ministries? What support (training, advice
APPENDICES

etc.) is provided by the national machinery? How effective are these focal points?

c) What monitoring mechanisms have been established to measure progress in implementation? How is accountability for promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women established across all ministries? How is coordination achieved? What role does the highest level of Government play?

d) What levels of capacity for promoting gender mainstreaming have been achieved? Through which mechanisms? What are the remaining challenges in the area of capacity building?

e) Has a core set of indicators been established and where is responsibility for monitoring located? What gaps and challenges remain in relation to data and statistics? In which areas is lack of sex-desegregation still a problem? In which areas do new types of data need to be collected? To what extent are the national statistical office and the statistical units in line ministries aware, committed and capable of providing the required data? In which sectors, and to what extent, is sex-disaggregated data being used effectively to inform policy-making and planning?

f) Provide information on the roles of different stakeholders. For example, what role does Parliament play in the promotion and monitoring of gender equality and women’s empowerment? How could this role be strengthened? Describe the role of NGOs in planning and implementing the follow-up activities. Do NGOs participate formally in the mechanisms established to follow up the Fourth World Conference on Women?

Part Four

Main challenges and actions to address them

Provide (in no more than three pages) information on areas requiring future action. List any further actions and initiatives which the Government intends to take to fully implement the Platform for Action and outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (Beijing +5) beyond 2005. Describe the priority areas – including in the area of institutional development – that have been identified for improving implementation in the next five years. Give examples of measures (with targets and timeframes), which will be taken in each of these areas. What new commitments will be made to further implementation?
Appendix IV

KEY WEBSITES

APWW: http://isiswomen.org/apww

AWORC: www.jca.apc.org/aworc

CONGO: www.ngocongo.org

DAW: www.un.org/daw

ECOSOC: www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/faq

ESCAP: www.unescap.org/wid

IWTC: www.womenink.org

NGLS: www.un.org/partners/civil_society/ngo/ngo-nxls
    www.ngls.tad.ch

UN: www.un.org

UN Member States: www.un.org/members

UN Publications: www.un.org/pubs/sales.htm

UNIFEM: www.undp.org/unifem

Women Action (NGO): www.womenaction.org

Women Watch (UN): www.un.org/womenwatch

WHRNet: www.whrnet.org
APPENDICES

LIST OF REFERENCES

❖ Asia Pacific NGO Symposium Report
❖ NGLS Roundup issue 56 July 2000
❖ Preview 2000-Issues 1 to 4 - International Women’s Tribune Center, New York
❖ Primer-The Beijing +5 Review- Isis International Manila
❖ Pakistan NGO Review Report
❖ Gender on the Agenda: A guide to participating in Beijing +5- UNIFEM/NGLS
❖ Voices 2000 & Beyond- APWW
❖ Engendering the Global Agenda- NGLS
❖ CSW 2000 Book of Days- IWTC
❖ Shirkat Gah internal/donor/meeting reports