

# WIDE Plus Newsletter

ISSUE 2

JUNE—OCTOBER 2012

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This WIDE Plus newsletter includes news about the current activities of WIDE Plus and of its members. In particular highlighted are: the Aid and Development Effectiveness process, Rio+20, the post MDG developments and CEDAW. This newsletter will also offer news about past and upcoming events, new publications and other. For more information about WIDE Plus, please visit the new website: [wideplusnetwork.wordpress.com](http://wideplusnetwork.wordpress.com).

## Development Effectiveness process – what is next for feminists in Europe and worldwide?

**In July 2012 two representatives from WIDE Plus participated in the International Women's Organizations and Networks Consultation on the *CSO partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)* held in Nairobi, Kenya. The CPDE is a new structure for civil society organization's (CSO's) joint efforts in the Aid and Development Effectiveness agenda which will replace the two structures *BetterAid* and *Open Forum* in order to channel CSO's official participation in the implementation of the Busan agreement. Feminist and women's rights organisations were meeting in Nairobi mainly to provide input into the CPDE proposal, and select focal organizations for international and regional coordination. Katarzyna Staszewska WIDE Plus coordinator on the Aid and Development process reports.**

### Setting the ground

WIDE's Plus participation in the Nairobi meeting was an outcome of the long-standing critical engagement of WIDE in the Aid and Development process. Particularly it resulted from the joint work of WIDE with other regional and global networks (AWID, FEMNET, APWLD, Coordinadora de la Mujer) to advance a feminist approach to the development effectiveness agenda. Till the end of 2011, WIDE was an active member of the BetterAid Coordination Group (BACG) where, together with the 4 above mentioned organizations, we strived to ensure that feminist voices and perspectives are represented.

BetterAid is a full member of the OECD Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and it has remained engaged in the negotiations on the post-Busan monitoring framework and new development architecture. It proved to be a

strong ally in pushing for gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights as essential to a people centered development. With the changing Aid and Development Effectiveness process, the BACG is currently reviewing its structure, terms of reference and the means for inter-active communication. Since the early 2012, BetterAid and Open Forum have been working together to develop a new structure for CSO's joint official engagement in the aid and development effectiveness process. The proposal for a new structured engagement has been drafted as the *CSO partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE)*.

Feminist input, discussion and endorsement of the CPDE proposal were the Nairobi meeting rationale. It was imperative for us - feminist and women's rights groups - to hold a consultation under the auspices of BetterAid, on how to sustain the gains we have made over the years in this agenda; how to organise ourselves to effectively engage in the process and ensure representation and leadership of women's rights organisations in a new CSO formation.

### What is CPDE?

The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) aims to be an open platform that brings together CSOs from all over the world. The CPDE envisions the realization of human rights, social justice, equality (especially gender equality) and sustainability in development. The platform will work on the application of principles, strategies and initiatives that promote development effectiveness, especially in development cooperation. Any CSO that endorses its vision, believes in its objectives and adheres to its principles will be able to join and actively participate. Such CSOs will be able to engage through international and regional levels or through sectoral formations (women, rural, labour, faith groups, IN-

GOs). Representatives that are democratically selected by their own constituencies in these aforementioned levels and processes will govern the platform. The CPDE has an ambition to be country focused. At the global level it will aim to critically engage with the Post Busan Interim Group – and later secretariat of the Global Partnership – to participate, monitor and hold accountable all signatories of the Busan agreement.

As for the moment, CPDE presents a very complex structure with a global governance body to be called the Global Council (GC), a smaller Coordination Committee to oversee day-to day work at global level, and similar regional and sub-regional (where relevant) coordination bodies. The challenge is to ensure that all regional, sub-regional and sectoral groups are equally represented at all levels of the governance structure.

### What happened in Nairobi?

During the Nairobi meeting the draft proposal for the CPDE structure was critically reviewed from a feminist and women's rights perspective. The review was part of the larger process of review simultaneously conducted by all regional and sectoral groups that have been BetterAid members to date. The point was to endorse (or not) the proposal and bring critical remarks to finalize its approval.

Generally speaking, women participating in the Nairobi meeting welcomed the CPDE proposal with a great scepticism. We missed a more radical, straight-forward and political language clarifying our critical position towards a neo-liberal model of development. We were extremely overwhelmed with the level of bureaucracy behind the proposal. And were very concerned about the efforts of some regional and sectoral groups to dilute and/or delete feminist language and quota for feminist representation. At the same time all participants agreed that leaving the new structure would mean giving up the work done so far and consent for feminist groups to work in vain.

The outcome of the meeting was that we have agreed to endorse the CPDE proposal but with the following amendments:

- **Vision:** the CPDE vision should reflect our feminist aims and acknowledge that development is both a condition for, and contingent on women's rights enjoyment.
- **Unique recognition of women's rights:** every sector and every region as a part of CPDE must integrate a feminist perspective to empower women as agents of development and recognize their centrality.
- **Quota for feminist representation:** we reserve a minimum quotas of 20% representation at all levels for women's and feminist organizations to ensure the CPDE is guided by a feminist perspective at its core. In addition, the CPDE should aim to have 50% representation of women as representatives throughout the structure.
- **Co-chairs:** we propose having at least 1 co-chair as a feminist organization that will be accountable to this constituency, provide feminist leadership and content analysis derived from the broader membership.
- **Accountabilities:** we need specific mechanisms to ensure all representatives have some level of accountability to their constituencies and to the CSOs in the CPDE at large. In addition, participants of the Nairobi meeting elected their own regional representatives to the CPDE governance structure (all but Europe), and requested AWID to continue representing women's and feminist groups at the global level.

### What about Europe?

With regard to the current capacity of WIDE Plus, we have not taken up the role to coordinate mobilization and engagement process of women's and feminist organizations at European level within the women's group sector of CPDE. There was also no other volunteers to

do so, although space in the CPDE governance structure is provided.

Disappointingly, women's groups have hardly been reached out to by the European coordination body, which is CONCORD. Furthermore, European region is the strongest advocate to delete the feminist approach and quotas for feminist organizations from the CPDE proposal. This points to the critical gap of the structured and regular feminist engagement in the development debates at European and Brussels level.

### What next?

Outcomes of the Nairobi discussions, concrete suggestions and language proposals were taken by one of the feminist groups representatives to the BetterAid meeting held in mid August in Madrid. Although some negotiations were successful, there are still some issues that require further consideration and decision (for example, negotiations with the European region on the feminist perspective). The final draft of the CPDE proposal should be released in early October and officially approved at the end of the month during the face-to-face meeting of BetterAid and Open Forum in Latin America.

### Insider's reflection

As a person actively engaged in the Aid and Development Effectiveness process since Accra in 2008, I am very concerned about the direction the civil society engagement is taking. As civil society united in the BetterAid platform we are today a party to the Busan Partnership for Development Effectiveness which, although 'nicer' and more 'gender friendly' than previous agreements, reinforces the neo-liberal model of development we are rejecting. Secondly, by focusing on a heavy bureaucratic model structuring the CSO en-

gagement we risk diluting our radical feminist positions and directing our attention to organizing between CSOs rather than watching over the international institutions and state actors doing harm. Last but not least, being a party to Global Partnership uniting states, multilateral institutions, private sector and others position us as a partner from the inside, rather than – in my opinion – an independent actor from the outside.

In Nairobi, women's organizations made a choice. The decision was taken to endorse and engage with the CPDE, otherwise we work in vain. Nevertheless there were some initial ideas to create a Feminist Partnership for Development Effectiveness, which may be further elaborated in the future. Personally, I understand this decision, I think it is a right one, yet – referring to the arguments mentioned above - it is difficult for me to enjoy it.

As for Europe, it became clear that there is a big challenge and a lot of work to do in order to ensure support or even consent for feminist engagement with our colleagues. It seems to me that as WIDE Plus and as individual platforms of WIDE we should further clarify our approach and relations with such crucial actors like CONCORD. Also in this context it is evident how WIDE and feminist voices are missing at the EU level.

***Katarzyna Staszewska, WIDE Plus member.***

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## A new structure, CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness and its feminist approach in Europe

**A new civil society structure has been set up that will advocate and work around the Aid Effectiveness agenda. In this new structure, feminism, women's rights and gender equality play a role. The feminist approach was also part of the discussion among European CSOs when discussing the new structure. A report of the recent developments from Joanna Szabunko at KARAT, a WIDE PLUS platform member.**

After the High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness in Busan from 29 November to 1 December 2011, civil society organizations (CSOs) have continued their engagement for development effectiveness. Two main platforms involved in this process, the [Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) (OF) and the [BetterAid](#) coalition (BA) decided to merge, and established the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). The new structure and its strategy are being developed through the regional and sectoral consultations.

The European consultations for the CPDE took place in Belgrade on 3 and 4 July 2012. 34 participants from 23 European countries (EU and non-EU) and from regional and global organizations participated. The main objectives of the consultations were: seeking consensus on European CSOs' priorities on the development effectiveness agenda; providing input to the set up of the CPD; selecting the European focal persons, and deciding on the sub-regional divisions in the European structure and on the roles and responsibilities of the European CSOs.

The basis for the discussions was the draft of the paper that established the CPDE: "[Towards a CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness \(CPDE\)](#)" prepared by a working

Group of 13 members in April 2012 in Amsterdam. This document is composed with three main parts: 1. WHO WE ARE – explaining the history and planned membership of the new structure, 2. WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE – presenting the goals, outcomes and strategies, 3. THE WAY WE WORK – describing the structures and governance of the CPDE.

The commitment to gender equality and women's rights is stressed throughout this document. The CPDE envisions the realization of human rights, social justice, equality (especially gender equality) and sustainability in development. It also promotes: "*human rights-based, bottom up, consensus-based and feminists (meaning in this context challenging to power relations) approaches and decision-making*". Gender equality, women's rights and a feminist approach are also mentioned in the context of the structure and governance of CPDE. The representatives of governing bodies are to be appointed by regions, sub-regions and sectors, one of which are 'women'.

The document recognizes that: "*Gender equality is a crosscutting issue that goes to the heart of social justice and equality. As such, beyond the recognition of the major role of women as a sector, all of our work is contingent on the advancement of women's rights and gender equality. The feminist approach, focusing specifically on women's rights and gender equality, must be represented to a just extent to contribute to all working groups (including other sectors and thematic groups), governance bodies and coordination bodies. Therefore, a quota of 20% of representatives is to be assured at all levels*".

This provision along with the references to the 'feminist approach' throughout the whole document was problematic for the majority of the participants of the European consultations. The majority of participants agreed that



gender equality and women's rights are vital, but definitely opposed the language of feminist approach, suggesting to maintain the values and language used so far by the Open Forum and its documents. As a result of the discussions it was stated in the "[Feedback of The European Group to the CPDE Document](#)" that: *"The feminist approach is not appreciated by the European group. We would rather speak of gender equality and equity and women and girls rights as well as rights for all minority and suppressed groups, keeping consistency with other external documents, such as in the Istanbul Principles"*.

Only few women's organizations and supporters of a feminist approach were present at the European consultations. The voice of feminists, especially those previously involved in the Open Forum and BetterAid, was not strong enough. The absence of WIDE was visible. The reactions of the participants to the wording of the document and its proposed mechanisms proved that the real dialogue on how to effectively ensure gender equality and women's rights (already supported in previous OF and BA documents) in the CPDE work and in the activities of its members is still necessary. On the other hand, even if the proposals for mainstreaming a feminist approach and representation of feminists in the governing bodies of CPDE is approved, there will be a little chance to implement them without greater engagement of feminist organizations at European level as well as on national levels in Europe.

Besides the issues directly related to gender equality, women's rights and a feminist approach, the participants proposed a number of

improvements to the draft of the CPDE paper, re-defining the structure, strategy and ways of work of the new body. It was agreed that the document should be shorter and less bureaucratic to make it clearer for large constituencies. It was stressed that there must be a better balance between the advocacy work of CPDE and the emphasis on the CSOs development effectiveness. The participants also agreed that the members of the future CPDE must agree with the [Istanbul Principles](#) including the Principle 2: Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls' rights. They should also support the [Key Asks](#) agreed by the CSO Open Forum and Better Aid. For its own structure, the European group proposed to have 3 sub-regions. And at the end of consultations, the group selected Justin Kilcullen, director of Trocaire and former president of Concord, as CPDE representative of the European region.

The process of establishing CPDE continues. The feedback from the regional and sectoral consultations was given to the Group of 13 drafting the document. Further discussions were planned for the coming months, in which further consultations on CPDE will take place in sub-regional groups.

**Written by Joanna Szabunko, KARAT.**

*Further information: [Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness](#) and [BetterAid](#).*

## The Future WE Want: Occupy development

**The current crises underscore the need for an alternative development model that in a major way shifts away from the dominant growth paradigm, even in its greened up form. It is an opportunity for feminists to connect three debates of recent date: 1) the care economy, 2) commons and commoning, and 3) a critique of neoliberal globalisation, and its production and consumption patterns. These three concepts are inherently linked by their own rationales that countervail the logic of ever lasting market-growth and the preference given to accumulation of capital and material goods. An analysis by Christa Wichterich.**

The analysis of the multidimensional and interlocking crises as a systemic crisis has reloaded the discourse about the globalised development model which is driven by the logic of GDP-growth, efficiency and profit maximisation. This is actually the third wave of growth critique: in 1972 the Club of Rome published "The Limits to Growth", and in the 1990es ecological economists and ecofeminists developed a critique of unsustainable and imperialistic patterns of overproduction and overconsumption, with as alternative model a stable state and sufficiency economy (Herman Daly, Wolfgang Sachs) and a subsistence perspective (Maria Mies, Vandana Shiva, Veronika Bennholdt-Thomsen).

The prevailing or proposed remedies to manage the conglomerate of crises are failing. The efforts to decouple growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) and material wealth from resource use and emissions with the help of technology, increase of efficiency as well as of commodification of natural resources and environmental services are not successful at the end of the day. In some sectors, increase of efficiency even caused a rebound effect which offset the environmental benefits made by e.g. new technology, and

lead to even more consumption. At the same time, there is no automatic link between GDP growth and on the other hand jobs and employment, redistributive policies, inclusive prosperity and the public good. On the contrary, social disparities between countries and regions and within individual societies increased as GDP grew in the wake of globalisation; the crises of social reproduction intensified.

One reason for persisting socially adverse effects is the systemic mechanism to cut and externalise social and environmental costs which grow alongside with quantitative economic growth and resource exploitation. Externalisation means that costs as well as risks are downloaded from the market and from big market players such as corporations to the private households, to local communities, and to the biosphere. Internalisation of costs is, however, not a simple solution to the problem. If, for example, prices would include ecological costs, they would increase drastically: many goods would become unaffordable for the poor, but it would not make much difference to the rich. Although the internalisation of costs would lead to prices that were more just ecologically speaking, it would result in a new dilemma of justice in the absence of a simultaneous transformation of social structures of injustice.

The proposal of Green Economics in the context of the forthcoming Rio+20-conference sticks to a similar set of technical and monetary principles solutions and shapes a green washing of growth. Shifting investments and jobs from "brown" to green sectors, from fossil fuel-driven to renewable energy sources in order to re-energize growth and profitability of global capital without giving priority to social, gender and environmental justice constitutes a greener variety of capitalism but not a veritable paradigm shift.

Nuclear power and the fall outs in Tschernobyl and Fukushima have become then

and now a metaphor for the recklessness and carelessness of unfettered growth strategies. There are no easy solutions or techno fixes to repair this life-threatening technology and mode of development. A change of paradigm is inevitable which dismantles quantitative growth as key lever for development and is based on different economic relations and human-nature-relations in societies.

In this context feminists take up the key principles of the “Women’s Action Agenda 21” which was phrased as a position paper prior to the UNCED-conference 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. This “women’s” manifesto argues for a new ethics of economic activity and of the relationship with nature based on “sustained livelihood.” Women linked the concept of securing survival, whose starting point is the everyday practice of provisioning, care and social reproduction on the local level, with resource justice, for they need property rights as well as powers to control and make decisions. They demanded a remoralization of politics and the economy in light of the environmental and development crises, and equal participation rights in the process of influencing policy. Those claims are still current today and influence feminist thinking and envisioning other paths of development once again.

Presently, Spain, France and Germany are kind of reflection hubs about “de-growth”. At the same time in the whole of Europe on the grassroots level, alternative projects and practices are revitalised or re-invented. They explore and set up new ways of social reproduction and commoning at the margins or outside of the capitalist market economy: food coops and guerrilla gardening, for-free shops and free book cupboards in public parks, co-operative housing, user co-operatives and transition town projects are mushrooming. These initiatives are a kind of practical critique of the corporate-driven globalisation with its transnational value chains of production, trade and consumption. The alternative projects reclaim local livelihoods and regional circles of cooperation instead of the reckless global competition, they reconstruct a resource-preserving and -recycling

respectful relation with nature instead of the care-less resource extractivism and emission increase of the growth economy.

When it comes to everyday rationality of social reproduction and alternative practices women constitute a majority. However, the discourses about development paths are again dominated by male experts who tend to forget about the gendered structure of labour, economic institutions and societies’ relation to nature.

Nonetheless, many women get involved in the debates on buen-vivir-concepts, on new prosperity- and happiness indices, and on questions like: ‘Which kind of growth do we want?’, ‘How can we liberate human and social growth as well as prosperity from the tyranny of GDP-growth?’, ‘Which entry points can be identified to shape another development paradigm?’

The growth/de-growth debate is an opportunity for feminists to connect three debates on which they focused in the recent past: 1) the care economy, 2) commons and commoning, and 3) a critique of neoliberal globalisation, and its production and consumption patterns. These three concepts are inherently linked by their own rationales that countervail the logic of ever lasting market-growth and the preference given to accumulation of capital and material goods.

1) Feminist economists highlighted the rationale of the **care economy**, based on mainly women’s unpaid work, - social reproduction, provisioning, protection, precaution, nursing, subsistence, cooperation and reciprocity - as opposite to the growth and efficiency dogma of the markets. A crucial assumption of the neoclassical economy is that only paid labour is productive, creates value and development. Presently, the care economy constantly cushions and subsidises the market economy, secondly care work is increasingly integrated into paid labour, and subjected to efficiency standards, and thirdly it is devalued and underpaid in hierarchical labour regimes.



Care work is key to giving preference to provision and need satisfaction over profit maximisation as the ultimate goal of economic activities. For this, a **redefinition of labour** including all labour outside the market, remuneration and profitability is necessary. This would break up the gender hierarchical division of labour as well as the prevailing roles and norms of femininity and masculinity.

In highly industrialised and highly productive economies less and less people are needed to produce and trade goods. Full time jobs are turned into part-time, flexible and precarious employment while - due to the crisis, austerity and neoliberal policies - social security and public services are cut down. The need for care work, which reproduces life, provides social security nets, responds to the growing needs of the elderly and the environment, is in many places on an increase. To rebalance this in future, a **redistribution** of labour, unpaid and paid, care and market labour is necessary. Based on the above mentioned redefinition of labour this has to go hand in hand with a **revalidation** of labour which overcomes traditional gender stereotypes as well as the prevailing wage gaps and income inequalities, and the devaluation of care work.

2) In the context of privatisation and financialisation of natural resources and public services, a whole movement emerged around **commons**. This follows Elinor Ostrom's findings about the advantages of community-driven use of resources over market- and state-controlled resource use. "**Commoning**" means that communities define and administrate commons from forests to care for kids, from health facilities to digital soft ware, from food sovereignty to public transport. Sharing of commons benefits more people if equal access for all social classes, women and men, is ensured, and use is **regulated democratically**. Local public goods and commons can be a good prerequisite for everyone being able to realize their global social rights. On the other hand commons and public goods must be protected

from commercialisation and speculation; otherwise private capital owners and the rules of the market would decide about the common good and the enforcement of human rights and global social rights. Commons and commoning break with the logic of private property as root cause of individual greed for prosperity and accumulation, and open up space for more democratic decision making, economic activity in solidarity and **redistributive justice**, including gender justice.

3) Following the critique of corporate-driven, resource- and energy-intensive globalisation which does not sustain its living foundations but depletes and destroys them, a **reversal** of the obsessive industrial drive towards expansion and growth is inevitable. This should start with a **downsizing** of resource-, energy- and emission-intensive superfluous **production** in the North, e.g. the automotive and the weapon industry, and its conversion into resource-sparing and recycling industries. Trade and investment liberalisation, the global race for raw materials and financialisation of resources have to be dismantled while production has to turn from export orientation to domestic markets based on local and regional economic cycles. At the same time, giving preference to caring, sustenance and good life means that investments and labour has to be directed into the care sector, social infrastructure and environmental restoration.

Shrinking of growth structures in production has to be accompanied by a **change of consciousness** and individual behaviour which now are geared at ever more **consumption** and an **imperialistic life style** based on the exploitation of human and natural resources. This refers most to global middle classes who lost a sense of sufficiency and measurement what is enough. The North has to pioneer this move because of its historical debt with regard to emissions of green house gas and exploitation of resources in the global South.

Those three cornerstones of **another development paradigm** – **care, commons and sufficiency in production and consump-**

tion – could break up the hegemonic logic of unfettered growth and quick returns on investment. Putting the economy back from its profit - and speculative-driven head on its caring feet would also imply a reversion of the monetary system to its function of change and credit.

“Occupy development” means to identify along the rationale of care and sustenance development paths that are socially and environmentally just. It further means to explore transition and transformation strategies on a conceptual and practical level in a democratic,

inclusive, and gender-just way. Feminists should repoliticize development issues as citizens, and stress the emancipatory potential of the caring economy, of commons and the principle of not living at the cost of others and the nature.

***Christa Wichterich, independent journalist and researcher and WIDE Plus member.***

## Rio+20: Do We Want this Future?

**From 20 to 22 June this year in Rio, state leaders from the world had the chance to make real progress on the sustainability agenda. Instead Rio+20 proved disappointing. Eva Lachkovics, from WIDE Austria, a WIDE plus platform, reports from the perspective of women’s rights.**

At the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, women’s organizations put down their vision of a sustainable development in the “Women’s Action Agenda 21“. They heavily criticized the concept of the free market economy including pointed to the constraints to the economic growth idea. Instead, they called for an economy that respects biological as well as cultural diversity, justice between North and South, access to resources as well as to democratic and reproductive rights for women. Twenty years later their demands remain unacknowledged. The follow-up conference Rio+20 confirms that nothing has been learned.

The current crises demonstrate the failure of the prevailing capitalist-neoliberal economic

system. Yet this system is not questioned by the “Green Economy“ concept propagated at Rio+20. The ideology of profit maximization and constant economic growth remains untouched. Yet again new technologies are presented as solutions to hunger and climate change ignoring negative experiences of the past and potential risks in the future.

Putting a stop to the commodification of nature – biologic diversity, seeds, soil etc. – is not taken into consideration despite well known adverse effects caused by such private appropriations of common property. Thus indigenous peoples and traditional communities, among them women in particular, will continue to lose more and more access to, and control over, natural resources.

“Green Economy“ as put forward at Rio+20 does not include the balance of the three pillars of ecologic, economic and social sustainability. Its “one size fits all“ approach ignores the principle of common but differentiated responsibility of the original Rio-Declaration, thereby disregarding the economic differences between the various countries of the North and the South. The result may lead to further exploitation of the South and further marginalization of women.

The outcome of Rio+20 even undercuts the absolutely inadequate aims of the suggested concept of “Green Economy” (a mere greening of capitalism) not to speak of the demands of the “Women’s Action Agenda 21” of 1992. Women, to a great extent excluded from the current economic system, are indispensable for an effective sustainable development. The empowerment of women is central to any sustainable economic system, so are human rights in general and women’s rights in particular as well as the rights of indigenous peoples and of the marginalized. They go hand in hand with the adherence to, and recognition of, the limits of nature’s ability to regenerate.

Therefore, the cornerstones of women’s demands for „the future we want“ include:

- Access to resources and political participation for women, i.e. empowerment of women.
- Upgrading of the “care economy“, smallholder and ecologic agri-culture, biodiversity, local food production and regional economic cycles as well as the role of women.
- Rejection of the economic growth constraints.

**Eva Lachkovics, WIDE Austria.**

Further information: [read the WIDE Austria position paper on Rio+20](#)

Read [the statement of 200 civil society women’s organizations](#) that concluded that *the governments have failed both women and future generations.*

## Women’s Rights and the Post-2015 agenda: the time is NOW!

**In 2015 a new development framework that succeeds the Millennium Development Goals will be adopted. WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform calls for the women’s rights movement to revitalise the energy surrounding the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) to get gender equality and women’s rights in this new framework. Joni van de Sand, Policy officer at WO=MEN, a WIDE Plus platform member, outlines what strategies are discussed in the Netherlands for the women’s movement.**

In 2015 it will be 20 years after the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was adopted. Reading through it today, I am touched by its contemporary relevance. It reads almost as a sacred text: full of inspiring philosophy, with 12 “commandments”, and breathing the strong, organized power of the women’s movement behind the commitments that were made.

That was 1995. Today it is 2012. The last Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN ended without Agreed Conclusions. Rio+20 on Sustainable Development is considered a failure. The deadline of the MDG’s is nearing. No wonder that the women’s movement is left to wonder: **what’s next?!** Reading about the world conferences in the 90s, I feel that what we need is a new momentum. Well lucky us: there is one! 2015 is an important year for various reasons, and it is approaching fast. The women’s movement can, and has to, do it again. This is a call for action - **The Time Is NOW!**

### The “stand-alone” track: Beijing+20

WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform has organized strategizing discussions in The Netherlands. On 21 June over 40 representatives of development NGOs, women’s organizations and individual activists came together. We reflected on the opportunities and risks of a Fifth UN World Conference on Women in 2015, which was proposed by

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during the last CSW. We agreed that there is a need for **new élan** for women's rights and gender equality, in The Netherlands but also internationally. There is also a need for clearer insights in the level of **implementation** of Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA), and attention for "**emerging issues**" (a.o. changing North-South relations; consequences of the economic and financial crises; HIV/AIDS; UN Security Council Resolution 1325). We formulated [recommendations](#) to the Dutch government: a new conference may be an opportunity, but should only take place under the condition that the BPfA is **non-negotiable**.

We shared our recommendations with the **Dutch government**. They sympathize with the momentum of Beijing+20, but they are wary about a 5WCW. There is a realistic risk of conservative countries hijacking the agenda, financial costs will be high, and civil society is likely to be excluded. Thus, WO=MEN worked out an [alternative model](#) to generate attention for women's rights: a combination of stock-taking through (shadow) reporting; a worldwide mobilizing campaign; regional conferences in the five UN-regions; and a High Level Thematic Debate in 2015 during the 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. At all levels, organizations, local groups, women from marginalized groups, younger women, and boys and men working towards gender equality must be involved.

### **"Mainstreaming" the women's rights agenda**

On 31 July Ban Ki-moon announced the members of a **High-level Panel** to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015. The Panel held its first meeting at the end of September, in the margins of the annual high-level debate of the UN General Assembly. It is expected to submit its findings in the first half of 2013, which will inform the UN Secretary-

General's report to Member States. This means that by the end of next summer, a new framework for global cooperation will be well on its way. And it is by no means guaranteed that gender equality and women's rights will be part of that agenda.

In November WO=MEN together with other networks in The Netherlands aims to organize another strategic session. As civil society we want to make our own **agenda** for the future of gender quality and women's rights concrete, and set-out a **strategy** for how to get that message across to decision makers. Influencing the High-level Panel will be an important goal. BPfA, CEDAW, UNSCR 1325, and other international agreements will be important input for the agenda. But probably most of all, it is central that we strategize and work out the agenda **together**, as a global movement.

This is a strategic call for action to cooperate between civil society from all. You can organize national-level consultations in your own country, share outcomes, and link with regional and worldwide partners, to influence those decision makers that you can have contact with and revitalize the women's rights agenda!

**Joni van de Sand, Policy officer WO=MEN**  
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*WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform is committed to international gender justice: a world in which all men and women have equal rights and opportunities, and everyone is free to make his or her own choices. WO=MEN is a network consisting of 130 organizations, entrepreneurs, knowledge institutes and individuals. Together we lobby, exchange and develop knowledge, and raise awareness.*



## Women's Rights Now! CEDAW Shadow Report Austria

**Forming part of the Austrian NGO forum „Women's Rights Now!”, WIDE Austria has contributed to a shadow report on the weaknesses in the implementation of women's human rights in Austria. The report that was sent to the UN CEDAW Committee in June 2012 - covers a range of topics, structured along the Articles 2-16 of the Convention. Claudia Thallmayer from WIDE Austria reports.**

The range of topics covered in the shadow report vary from migrant women's rights, domestic violence; women, peace and security; gender budgeting; gender stereotypes in media and education; sex work; gender pay gap; lesbian, bisexual and trans - women; rights of women with disabilities.

From the perspective of development cooperation and policies and with regard to CEDAW Articles 3 and 14, WIDE focussed on the one hand on the lack of policy coherence and the negative impact on women in developing countries, affected by Austrian and EU policies e.g. in the fields of carbon hydrate emissions and climate change; agro fuels policies; EU trade agreements; promotion of export; banking and financial market policies.

Regarding development policies as such, WIDE Austria criticized the low funding for development cooperation in general – Austria by far did not reach the EU goal of 0,51% ODA in 2010 (the latest data are

now 0,27% in 2011). The low budget for development cooperation has a direct impact on the possibilities of support of programs for women's empowerment.

WIDE also pointed out that, although CEDAW Article 14 requires that women be enabled to participate in the elaboration and implementation process of development plans on all levels, the official Three Year Programs on Austrian Development Policy are developed without any involvement of women's organizations. Thus, it was decided to abandon the support for former focal countries in Central America and Africa and to establish instead a new focus on countries of the Black Sea region. This new focus of Austria's development cooperation shows a clear orientation towards economic interests and was agreed on without any consultation of (women's and other) NGOs - a trend that WIDE observes with a lot of concern.

***Claudia Thallmayer, WIDE Austria.***

*The Austrian CEDAW Shadow Report is available (in English) at: <http://www.wide-netzwerk.at/images/publikationen/2012/cedaw-shadow-report-austria-2012.pdf>*



## UN Special Rapporteur on Femicide and Violence against women in Italy

**The Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women reported on femicide worldwide and gender violence in Italy during the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council, in June. WIDE PLUS was presented through different organizations during the session, for which this event is one step in an ongoing process to realise gender equality in Italy. Claudia Signoretti from Fondazione Pangea onlus reports.**

During the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council, on 25 June 2012, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, introduced the session with her report on gender violence in Italy and the thematic report on femicide.

It was the first time that a thematic report on the gender-related killings was submitted to all the countries delegates, gathered at the UN in Geneva for the Human Rights Council. In this report the Special Rapporteur Manjoo stated *“Rather than a new form of violence, gender-related killings are the extreme manifestation of existing forms of violence against women. Such killings are not isolated incidents which arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but are the ultimate act of violence which is experienced in a continuum of violence.*

The report also points to the role states lack to fulfil properly: *“femicide is a State crime tolerated by public institutions and officials - due to the inability to prevent, protect and guarantee the lives of women, who have consequently experienced multiple forms of discrimination and violence throughout their lifetime”.* The report argues that *“these manifestations are culturally and socially embedded, and continue to be accepted, tolerated or justified - with impunity as the norm. States’ re-*

*sponsibility to act with due diligence in the promotion and protection of women’s rights, is largely lacking as regards the killing of women”.*

However international human rights instruments clearly condemn such crimes: *“Violence against women has been affirmed in human rights instruments and by human rights bodies, as a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women. The killing of women constitutes a violation of amongst others the right to life, equality, dignity, non-discrimination, and the right not to be subjected to torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment”.*

After the thematic report, Manjoo briefly presented an overview of the main findings from the country mission conducted in Italy from 15 to 26 January 2012. During this mission, the Special Rapporteur looked at the issue of domestic violence, femicide, violence against women who face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including Roma, Sinti and other migrant women, detained women, women with disabilities and transgendered people. The civil society organizations, many belonging to the Italian WIDE – CEDAW platform, managed to organize many meetings, in addition to the official visits. These meetings taking place in Rome, Milan, Bologna and Naples brought together organizations and individuals from the civil society - doctors, lawyers, psychologists, academics and so on - as well as survivors of violence. The Rapporteur had the opportunity to visit anti-violence shelters for women, an authorized camp for the Roma and Sinti community, prisons and detention facilities for women and children, an immigration detention centre for irregular migrants and an university.

In her report Manjoo highlighted that: *“violence against women remains a significant problem in Italy despite efforts to combat such*

*violence, and there is an urgent need to address the underlying structural causes of inequality and discrimination". After having pointed out the increasing numbers of victims of femicide by partners or former partners, she expressed her concern that: "most of the violence is underreported in the context of a patriarchal society where domestic violence is not always perceived as a crime; where victims are largely economically dependent on the perpetrators of violence; and perceptions persist that the state responses will not be appropriate or helpful".*

The Special Rapporteur concluded that the problem lies mostly with the implementation of the laws, not the laws themselves: *"although the Italian legal framework largely provides for sufficient protection for violence against women, it is characterized by fragmentation, inadequate punishment of perpetrators and lack of effective redress for women victims of violence".* In this regard she stressed that the weak political will and the lack of funds for activities in the area of women rights: *"affects the responsibility of the Central Government to fulfil, with due diligence, its international and national obligations to effectively address violence against women".*

The report calls for holistic and coordinated efforts in addressing the individual needs of women, including Roma and Sinti women, migrant women and women with disabilities. It encourages: *"practical and innovative use of limited resources to address the social, economic and cultural barriers underlying such violence including through law and policy reforms, societal changes and awareness-raising initiatives, capacity building of support services, and statistics collection".* Finally, Manjoo appreciated the vast amount of experience and expertise in the legal, social, psychological and economic assistance provided to the victims by both state and non-state actors and she emphasized not to lose it in spite of the current difficult economic situation.

### **The engagement of the civil society along the road to gender equality**

Pangea Foundation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Italian Shelters' Network Against Violence (D.I.R.E) on behalf of the Italian WIDE - CEDAW platform were in Geneva to actively participate in the session. Three written statements and two oral statements were submitted for the session by the platform.

Moreover, the same day a parallel event, titled "Italy - violence against women - femicide - UNSC resolution 1325" was organized by the Italian WIDE - CEDAW platform to discuss experiences and challenges to prevent and contrast violence against women in Italy. International and national panellists took part in the event to assess to what extent existing efforts and experiences address the issues related to the gender violence and which are the main commitments the Institutions are required to fulfil.

The Panel, moderated by Simona Lanzoni, from the Pangea Foundation, centered on the importance of improving and strengthening the institutional efforts, in accordance with the international provisions, since Italy has the obligation to prevent, investigate and punish all cases of violence against women, as well as to provide redress to surviving victims and their families. After the opening statement sent by the Special Rapporteur Rashida Manjoo, the interventions were as follows: Patricia Schulz, from the CEDAW Committee, recalled the 2011 CEDAW recommendations to Italy; Hilary Fisher, from WAVE (Women Against Violence Europe), outlined the commitments included in the Council of Europe Convention on Combating Violence Against Women; Barbara Spinelli, International Association for Democratic Lawyers, gave an overview on Femicide in Italy and Europe; Titti Carrano, D.I.R.E network, pointed out strengths and weaknesses of the Italy National Action Plan on Violence Against Women; Claudia Signor-

etti, Pangea Foundation, talked about the Italian National Action Plan of UN SC Resolution 1325; Lois A. Herman, from WUNRN (Women's UN Report Network), showed a PowerPoint on VAW in Italy.

The events in Geneva represented one of the several steps of the path that the civil society is taking towards women's empowerment and gender equality in Italy. The process started with the elaboration of the CEDAW shadow report by the Italian WIDE - CEDAW platform to analyze and raise attention to all the critical aspects of the Italian protection system against gender discriminations and gender violence. This report was presented at the UN in New York during the 49th CEDAW session (July 2011) and to the Italian parliament (January 2012). The recommendations formulated in 2011 by the CEDAW Committee after the evaluation session - which identified the fight against gender stereotypes and violence against women as the major priorities for the Italian government - and those formulated by Rashida Manjoo in 2012 represent the essential instrument of this process, especially with a view to the forthcoming follow-up in 2013, when the Italian state is required to provide information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations.

The grassroots continuous activism of the Italian WIDE - CEDAW platform, of the Italian network D.I.RE and of all the feminist and

women organizations, played a crucial role. They gave a valuable contribution in elaborating policy briefings and political statements to the UN and the Italian institutions. They made it possible to get punctual and specific UN recommendations UN regarding the policies and measures to be adopted, thus to guarantee an effective progress in the promotion and protection of women rights, freedoms and dignity. They contributed to identify the critical issues and the guiding principles to build a long-term strategy and elaborated the next National Action Plan on Violence Against Women, encouraging an effective and close collaboration between governmental and non governmental actors. Thereby the Italian WIDE - CEDAW platform goes on acting as a watchdog of the international provisions and recommendations, it holds the government accountable, and makes sure that women rights are respected and that no more violations are tolerated.

***Claudia Signoretti, Fondazione Pangea onlus.***

***For more information:*** about the Italian WIDE-Cedaw activities, you can [read more here](#) or contact Claudia Signoretti: [30YEAR-SCEDAW\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:30YEAR-SCEDAW(at)gmail.com).

***Or about the meeting:*** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsMedia.aspx>

## Women's access to justice is not only about the law

**Access to justice is critical to a full enjoyment of women's human rights and to an effective struggle with discrimination that they experience in all spheres of life. However the scale of violations that women suffer worldwide gives an idea of the limitations of the justice systems' mechanisms, including those provide under UN treaties such as Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OP CEDAW), and of how much yet has to be done in this area. Aleksandra Solik, KARAT Coalition, a WIDE Plus platform, reports.**

The CEDAW Committee, during its 48<sup>th</sup> session that was held in February 2011, decided to develop a general recommendation (GR) on access to justice. The document will provide the State Parties with comprehensive guidelines on how to fulfil their international obligation and ensure that women have the capacity to use the justice system to protect and claim the rights that are guaranteed under the CEDAW convention.

Currently, the Optional Protocol to CEDAW provides two procedures allowing the CEDAW Committee to review specific cases of discrimination against women: the communication procedure - designed for individual complaints, and inquiry procedure for addressing the grave and systematic violations of the rights protected under CEDAW in the state-parties which recognized the Committee's competence to do so upon ratifying the treaty.

For the past 5 years KARAT has focused on the promotion of Optional Protocol to CEDAW (OP CEDAW) in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia recognizing the great potential of this mechanism for advancing gender equality. At the same time we have been aware of its limitations when it comes to applying it in practice.

While working together with our partner organizations we learned a lot about the reality of women's access to justice in the region and how it affects their ability to benefit from international justice system mechanisms, including OP CEDAW. Access to these mechanisms is limited by certain criteria. Among these criteria is the requirement to exhaust the domestic legal remedies. Although OP CEDAW allows for some exceptions from this rule, it is necessary for potential applicants to at least try to seek justice at the national level. Unfortunately women suffering from severe rights violations (often extremely common in the region) in fact never do this. The form of violations they are suffering from are usually deeply rooted in everyday life, strongly intertwined with so called traditional and religious values and seldom approached from a human rights perspective. Hence women who decide to question the widely accepted values in order to claim their rights have to consider the risk of social ostracism, and losing family support, livelihood, custody of children, etc. No wonder that the fear of such consequences often prevents them from addressing law enforcement institutions and/or taking further legal steps.

In 2011-2012 KARAT together with its partner organisations conducted a pilot study in Azerbaijan, Kirgizstan, Poland, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The study focused on specific types of women's rights violations: domestic violence in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan, bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan, denial of lawful abortion in Poland, and discrimination against women-victims of trafficking in Uzbekistan. It explored women's real ability to use laws and procedures within domestic justice system. It improved our knowledge about the obstacles that hamper women's access to justice and about measures that should be taken to remove them. Thus, it allowed us to define women's needs in this area.

The study proved that in all five countries the problems with women's access to jus-



tice go far beyond the legislative frameworks. In general, despite the constitutional guarantees of gender equality, the justice systems fail when it comes to addressing the most common, gender-specific violations of women's human rights. Even though some reasons for that are of legal nature, the majority are related to the roles that tradition and religion attribute to women. The gender-biased approach, so common in the society, is further perpetuated by the law enforcement officers who ignore their testimonies, openly discourage them from bringing cases and let the perpetrators remain unprosecuted. In Poland, where barriers to lawful abortion were explored, the medical staff openly ignore the law and deny them the service that they are eligible for.

Though in all studied countries the observance of the rule of law is problematic, women's access to justice will never improve without the political will to modify the sociocultural patterns of gender roles and eliminate prejudices against women and without proactive involvement of the law enforcement insti-

tutions. Therefore we find it so important for the upcoming CEDAW general recommendation to emphasize the need for holistic approach to women's access to justice.

**The large gap between de jure and de facto shall never be bridged if the social, economic and cultural factors preventing women from seeking justice will not be given the same attention as the legislative issues.** Hence it is recommended that the CEDAW Committee in its GR addresses the need for empowering women's rights advocates to be heard and to play an active role in the policymaking processes in their countries. It is also recommended that the realization of the rule of equal access to justice by the State Parties is assessed by the Committee (and the States themselves) through monitoring the number of lawsuits and reported cases of gender-specific rights violations identified by women's NGOs as common practices within their societies.

**Aleksandra Solik, KARAT Coalition, a WIDE Plus platform..**

## Gender, Power, Work: working contexts from a feminist perspective

**Who organises, supplies, enables, impedes, simplifies care work and access to care services, and how does this happen in changing economic, political and social conditions? These questions were at the centre of the conference "GENDER MACHT ARBEIT – Working contexts from a feminist perspective", which WIDE Switzerland organised in May 2012 in Berne. WIDE Plus platform member Lilian Fankhauser from WIDE Switzerland reports.**

The economic crises and its austerity deals and economic stimulus programmes, which are mainly concerned with economizing the social sector, lead to an aggravation of the

care shortage. Under accentuated economic and political preconditions, how do the roles and the positions of acting and defining institutions (households, states, markets, not-for-profit sector) shift? And what happens to the gender-specific allocation of and access to existing resources? Focussing on four different arenas of transformation in the field of work, the conference analysed the shifts between genders: 1) the setting of the private household, 2) the health care sector as a feminized sector, 3) access to welfare and social security of migrant care workers and 4) finally – from a macro- and care economy perspective – the distribution of state finances.



### Care as a commons

The interdependency of paid and unpaid work became apparent once again at the conference. The perspective of the care economy makes it possible to confront the microcosm of the household with meso- and macro economic analyses. When we are concerned with the distribution of care work, not only the household features in the debate, but also working conditions and state services in the tertiary sector. Because financial crises do not only have repercussions on male dominated fields of work, but subsequently concern also feminized sectors. These “second round effects” become particularly apparent in the reduction of state expenditures due to indebtedness. That is why according to Christa Wichterich, women in the old EU can expect what women in Eastern Europe and in the new EU member states have already been faced with during the last years: „a wave of fragmentation of work into part-time, temporary and precarious work“, as well as salary cuts and redundancies through a “slimming of the public sector”. These austerity packages are usually absorbed by women. Because by cutting back on public goods and services, pressures are increasing, particularly for women, through an increase in unpaid care work.

When the private household is supposed to cushion public savings and take on more care responsibilities, the pressure mounts to organ-

ize the household like a business. Time scarcity then dominates care and support, and resource scarcity affects the quality of the provisioning needed and the necessary diligence.

### Context and (De)Construction of the care debate

Concepts like *commons*, *citizenship* and *bargaining household* were mentioned repeatedly in the presentations and discussions of the four arenas of work. They came up as a critical echo of the appropriation of these discourses by mainstream neo-liberalism and efficiency oriented social management, as contentious issues and as parts of the feminist agenda. But we also have to continuously deconstruct and specify the care concept as a feminist thought, action and political model. So, a possible conclusion of the conference is that the observation, calculation and description of the care economy remains central to make visible gendered power relations, to design transformative concepts of society and to make political demands for statehood and democracy.

**Lilian Fankhauser, WIDE Switzerland**

Further information: [www.wide-network.ch](http://www.wide-network.ch)



**Participants to the G20 from a Feminist Perspective, Mexico, June 2012  
(see article page 20-21)**

## Another Economy is Possible: Women building and linking transnational alternatives to the current neoliberal model, Women's Workshop, Chile, January 2013

**During the Summit of Madrid (2010), and thanks to the support of the WIDE network, a space for transnational feminist dialogues between women's organizations in Europe and Latin America was created. With the aim of pursuing this strategic collaboration, the women's group of the Hemispheric Social Alliance invites WIDE Plus to be part of the coordination and organisation of the *Another Economy is Possible Workshop*. An article by Patricia Muñoz Cabrera.**

The workshop will be held during the forthcoming summit of the peoples to be held in Chile, January 26-28. The Peoples Summit runs parallel to the official EU-Latin American Summit of Heads of States.

The main goal of the workshop is to share and discuss current proposals from women's organisations aiming at deconstructing the fundamental tenets of the neoliberal capitalist model - the accumulation of private capital by élites, the depletion of nature's resources for profit-based development, the multiple social hierarchies it (re)produces, and the discriminatory division of labour it perpetuates. In the same way, the women's gathering seeks to identify alternative paradigms being put forward by women from different sectors and core groups.

Our goal is to identify commonalities and differences in the alternative paradigms that we are currently building and promoting. Some of the paradigms we have identified and which we intend to address from a feminist perspective are: feminist solidarity economy, food sovereignty and care economy, el *Buen Vivir*. All these from the distinct standpoints of diverse women (indigenous, obreras, trade union leaders, afro-descendants, women within

LGTB groups, coalitions of women farmers and peasants, etc).

The Women's Group of the Hemispheric Social Alliance (HSA) is at the same time part of the [Bi-regional Europe-Latin America y the Caribbean Enlazando Alternativas Network](#) and supports the [Stop Corporate Power global Campaigning](#).

### Recent developments

A first Meeting was held in Mexico in June 2012: "The G20 from a Feminist Perspective." Main resolutions and commitments from the Mexico Conference were to work and coordinate efforts with European and Latin American's women movements in view of achieving:

1. The shift towards a new financial architecture.
2. Development driven by social justice (economic, environmental, gender justice). This means people-driven development policies that enforce human rights (individual and collective rights). This includes the right to water, housing, public services and the right to health, amongst others. This rights-based framework should aim at achieving the right to Buen Vivir.
3. Create mechanisms for women to exercise their full citizenship: the right to have a say, access to legal justice.
4. Recognise the plurinationality of Latin American societies and promote participatory democracy, enabling the construction of a people-driven socio-economic model that acknowledges the contributions of women.
5. Recognise women's contribution to the care economy. This means promoting labour legislation that ensures gender equity, so that obstacles to the incorporation of women into the labour market on equal terms with men are removed.

6. Enforce legislation so as to ensure stable jobs and decent wages for women, with access to social security and labour rights.
7. Eradicate all forms of discrimination and sexual violence against women.
8. Support Trade Unions, for they are crucial to defend the rights of workers.
9. Demand the promulgation of a General Law of victims and the law to protect human rights defenders.
10. Strengthen the continental articulation of women in Latin America from the women's Committee of the ASC and other networks in the region.
11. Enhance the process towards building a feminist solidarity and popular economy as an alternative to the neoliberal economic model.
12. Contribute to the debates and organisation of the People's Summit of January 2013.

After the successful meeting in Mexico, a few members of the Women's Group of the Hemispheric Social Alliance met in Santiago (September 26). The main objective of the meeting was to discuss preparations for the women's Conference with the Chilean organisations that will host the Summit of the Peoples.

And Paulina Muñoz Samaniego, the Coordinator of the Group, met with Bárbara Figueroa, a well-known leader who was recently elected President of the president of the Chilean Trade Union (CUT). The meeting was also attended by the CUT's Gender Expert. The CUT women leaders expressed their support to the event and intend to take an active role in its preparations. The meeting was also attended by several local women's organizations (professional women's networks, migrant, indigenous and women farmers organisations). Members of the Women's March and ANAMURI (women's branch of Via Campesina) also attended and expressed their political support to the whole event.

Overall, there is growing enthusiasm and interest amongst Chilean and Latin American organisa-

tions. We are waiting for a detailed debriefing from Muñoz Samaniego.

The women's group of the Hemispheric Alliance hopes that WIDE Plus members, as well as other women's organisations based in Europe, can join and take an active role in the preparations of the workshop.

### **Organisations/Networks currently working in the preparations of the Women's Workshop**

**International:** Secretaría Alianza Social Continental, Laura Rangel, based in Colombia, and Comité de Mujeres ASC, Paulina Muñoz Samaniego, based in Ecuador.

#### **In Latin America:**

**Bolivia:** Julieta Paredes, Assembly for community-based feminism.

**El Salvador:** Karen Ivonne Hernández Vides, Red Sinti Techan - y Martha Benavides -EFTF/GCAP.

**Honduras:** Liana Lisset Funes Girón, Centro de Estudios de la Mujer-CEMH (partners of the Central American Women's Network (CAWN, London).

**Guatemala:** María Teresa Calderas Teo, Fundación Guillermo Toriello, y Norma Maldonado the Gender and Food Sovereignty Network.

**Nicaragua:** Martha Beatriz Flores Recinos, Intipachamama.

**Ecuador:** Blanca Chancosa Movimiento Indígena CONAIE y Paulina Muñoz Samaniego, Plataforma por los Derechos de las Mujeres y Ecuador Decide, and Colectivo de Género Acción Política.

**Peru:** Rosario Romero Banda, Forum Solidaridad.

**Mexico:** Leonor Aída Concha, Red Nacional Género y Economía; RMALC, Red Mexicana de Acción Frente al Libre Comercio, Comité de Mujeres ASC Capítulo mexicano, and Frente auténtico

del trabajo, Beatriz Luján.

**Chile:** Comité de Mujeres ASC, Guillermina Astorga; Organización de mujeres Mapuches y Migrantes. ANAMURI

**Colombia:** Red Colombiana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio RECALCA. Tribunal Mujeres y DESC, punto focal de CLADEM; Fundación para la Formación de Líderes Afrocolombianos, and AFROLIDER.

**In Europe:**

**Spain:** Movimiento M15 Pepa García.

**WIDE Plus:** to be confirmed. Contacts have been established via Paty Muñoz Cabrera.

***Patricia Muñoz Cabrera, a WIDE Plus member and gender consultant.***

## From Margin to Center? Consequences of Dutch Parliamentary Elections for Women's Rights

**The national elections were held recently in The Netherlands. Sanne Meijer from WO=MEN, a WIDE Plus platform member, analyses what the recent political shifts say about Dutch policy on women's rights in development.**

The Dutch have spoken again! Last September people in The Netherlands voted for a new House of Representatives (literally translated from Dutch: "Second Chamber") – for the *fifth time* in only *ten years*. Prime Minister Mark Rutte (Liberal Party) handed in his government's resignation in April after the Party for Freedom's (PVV) refusal to continue negotiations on austerity measures. The Liberals and Christian Democrats participated in Rutte's Cabinet, with the PVV as an outside supporter. The question I aim to answer is: what are the political trends regarding women's rights in development policy?

It has to be said that foreign and development policy were not important issues to be debated about by politicians at the big public debates. They never are, but especially right now there is a negative attitude from the

Dutch audience when it comes to government-executed development cooperation. It is a consequence of different factors, such as the backlash from the PVV towards almost everything that is not Dutch, the increasing unemployment rates and the (upcoming) government budget cuts that affect everyone. Furthermore, women's rights was also not a hot topic up for debate. The only exception was the noise surrounding statements on abortion by the leader of the Christian-orthodox oriented party (SGP). He responded to Todd Akin, the republican candidate for the US state Missouri who claimed recently that women victims of what he described as "legitimate rape" very rarely get pregnant from rape. The comment from the SGP leader about this, though in my opinion not in agreement with Akin but merely a factual statement, was not taken too positively by the Dutch audience. The last reason for why women's rights is not a big issue is a mixture of people thinking that women are already emancipated and people not wanting women to emancipate.

During the years of the Rutte Cabinet there has been a lot of debate about development policy. Due to the negative climate towards this subject, budget cuts have taken place. At

the same time, it has to be mentioned that The Netherlands is still leading when it comes to supporting development countries financially. Currently, The Netherlands still spends 0.7% of its Gross National Income (GNI) on development cooperation (in contrast to the 0.8% it used to be). Furthermore, there was an increasing need for efficiency, effectiveness, coherence of policy and entrepreneurship.

In this political environment, the members of WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform tried to navigate to ensure that women's rights would remain on the political agenda. Meetings that members held with MPs and officials proved to be positive: the budget for gender has increased from €37 million in 2010 to €42 million in 2012, and in 2011 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) launched a twin-track gender policy. WO=MEN experienced that a positive and humorous manner of conveying a message works extremely well, as well as showing how effective it is to invest in women (both financially and policy-wise). However, that does not mean everything is well. One example is that out of 20 Ministers and Secretaries of State (from 2010-2012), only 4 were women and the last House of Representatives had a female/male rate of 62/88. After the last elections in the new House of Representatives there are even less women: 59.

The elections have offered WO=MEN opportunities to keep women's rights on the political agenda. One clear example is the election programmes of the political parties: most parties expressed the need for women's empowerment in development countries and the crucial role they play. This is a great basis to work from for the upcoming years. Additionally, in July MPs from a broad array of political parties agreed to continue making efforts

for equal opportunities for women worldwide with the multi-party initiative "*Women: Crucial for Development, Peace and Economic Growth*". At the same time the future remains unclear. Some of the MPs WO=MEN talked to previously, have vanished from the political stage. We need not to assume that the new MPs know about gender and women's rights and this requires new efforts from WO=MEN. Furthermore, it keeps being important to monitor the twin-track gender policy. The importance of gender in many subjects a.k.a. gender mainstreaming is recognized, but we have to pay particular attention to the gender stand-alone policy of the MFA. Without such a policy gender mainstreaming does not work and MPs have to be reminded of this.

Another challenge is the word 'gender' itself. It is still perceived as meaning 'women' instead of a social construct in which femininity and masculinity are defined and redefined. Therefore, making visible that involving men is needed in order to further women's as well as human's rights keeps being a key issue. Last, it is unsure what the future government's composition will be. Currently, the Liberal Party and the Labour Party (who won 41 and 38 seats respectively) are negotiating whether it is possible to form a government. Both parties have a positive attitude towards women's rights but – to say it like the Beach Boys - only God knows what the future looks like.

***Sanne Meijer, Policy Officer WO=MEN***



## KULU at EMHRN Gender Working Group Meeting in Cyprus

**The uprisings in the Arab and North African region (MENA region) has so far not resulted in a strengthening of the rights and positions of women. In the workshop entitled “How to guarantee women’s rights in the political transitions in the Arab world: Developing joint strategies” organized by EMHRN and MIGS, strategies were discussed on how to address secure and strengthen women’s rights. The Danish gender and development network KULU-Women and Development, a WIDE Plus platform member was present with Chafia Alliche.**

With the Arab uprisings, many changes were expected to take place in favour of women’s rights. Since women demonstrated shoulder to shoulder with men during this time of transition to demand the right to democracy, social justice, freedom, dignity and equality.

However, a significant decline and regression of women’s rights are witnessed in the Arab World since the uprisings. Women are still excluded from the transitional structures and decision making processes. This includes their exclusion from drafting new constitutions. And they have even been subjected to high levels of gender-based violence, particularly rape, torture, virginity testing and imprisonment such as in Bahrain, Tunisia and Egypt. Many women’s rights organizations and associations are facing restrictions by the governments and are under constant attacks and threats by the fundamentalists such as Salafi groups, particularly in Tunisia and Egypt.

25 activists representing human rights and women’s rights organizations and associations from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Spain,

France, Great Britain, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, gathered in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 26-28 April 2012. They participated in the workshop entitled “How to guarantee women’s rights in the political transitions in the Arab world: Developing joint strategies” that was co-organized by Euro-the Mediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN) and the Mediterranean Institute for Gender Studies (MIGS) to discuss how to mobilise and join forces to counteract this worrying trend in the MENA region (the region of the Middle East and North Africa). I was happy to see that men were also among the participants and that they were sharing the same concerns regarding women’s current situations in the region.

In the opening ceremony, which took place on 26 April, the Cypriot Foreign Minister Erato Marcoullis Kazakou, the Head of the European Parliament Office in Cyprus Tasos Georgiou and the new Head of European Commission Representation in Cyprus George Markopoulitis made an opening address to the attendees and expressed their commitment to ensure the protection of women’s rights. *“Cyprus, implementing international treaties and EU directives, is proud of its long-standing record of active commitments to ensure the protection of women’s rights, their empowerment and their role in development”*, said the Cypriot Foreign Minister and added: *“comprehensive road maps and national, regional and international action plans should be accelerated for institutionalizing efforts across the world to promote and protect women’s rights, as well as expand women’s empowered participation in politics, economic and social development and of course in making and keeping peace”*. She also said: *“in order for the effort to be successful, the participation of all members of society is essential and both governments worldwide and the civil society should work together towards this end”*.

In the workshop, the participants not only underlined the importance of promulgating gender-sensitive constitutions and legal frameworks in the MENA region, but also of securing and increasing political, social and economic rights of women across the MENA region, and of eliminating gender-based violence as well. Other issues that were debated concerned funding cuts, the role of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) in protecting and promoting gender equality in the Euro-mediterranean region and how to implement international instruments of human rights in the transitional period. Additionally, they agreed unanimously on the need to reevaluate the [Istanbul and Marrakech](#) framework as well as the need to strengthen solidarity between the

international, regional and national NGOs.

The participants concluded that what is needed is defining strategies to secure and strengthen women's rights for each context and to reinforce the solidarity between the international, regional and national NGOs. So that women's efforts in "the revolution" and social change movement should not go in vein as happened in the previous revolutions (i.e. Algeria and Iran).

**Chafia Alliche, KULU-Women and Development.**

## International Forum "Convergences 2015", Paris, September, 2012

**Launched in 2008, [Convergences 2015](#) is the first think tank that aims at building new convergences between public, private, and solidarity-based actors to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Europe. It is based in France. They focus their work on social entrepreneurship and the necessary search for innovative solutions in the fight against poverty at a time where resources available for funding become scarce. They foster dialogue and debate for example through events, but also through other means. They launched a survey on microfinance and a barometer on social entrepreneurship. Irène Serot Almeras participated in a recent conference and reports.**

The launch of the MDGs in 2000 meant the beginning of a new millennium to poverty eradication. It signalled a shift towards a new development paradigm that leads stakeholders into a new participative approach, thus bringing companies and the civil society

into a worldwide partnership to fight poverty. This is not the place for me to list the MDGs. I just want to recall that MDG3 is the goal that is focused on women, with: "promoting gender equality and empowering women".

Progress so far on MDG3, as indicated at the recent forum of Convergences 2015, is that: *"the world has achieved parity between girls and boys in primary education. In spite of this, gender inequality persists. Girls and women continue to be faced with barriers in education, in the economic sphere and in the political sector. Globally, women occupy only 25% of senior management positions, and account for only 20% of parliamentarians."*

There is a general acknowledgement that the MDGs were the occasion to send out an alarm signal on the urgency to do something about poverty. After more than 10 years of mobilization among these so urgent issues, in my opinion, we must question the results now the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals framework has started to be developed. Do the quan-

titative measures announced on each MDG take account of all aspects of that problem that it aims to address? When statements are made for example in Convergences 2015 that: “*the world has achieved parity between girls and boys in primary education*”, isn’t it a little dangerous to conclude from some quantitative results on a few indicators, as we all know that it may not be the real situation facing population on the ground in developing countries?

The result regarding the empowerment of women (including ending violence against women) is that, in the words of UN Women executive director Michele Bachelet: “*we still have a long way to go to achieve real equality*”. This is also a reason to worry. Women are definitely not taken into account as they should be, as half of the sky.

Returning to the 2012’ Convergences 2015 Forum. It was a major event for all professionals interested in exchanging and discussing innovative solutions to alleviate poverty in Europe and around the world. Over 3,000 experts and international policy makers attended, representing institutional bodies, corporate organizations, civil society and charities together with academics, journalists and students. They have reflected on the social and environmental challenges facing the world today, both in the North and in the South. It was a huge work done, congratulations to the organizers. Extreme interesting themes were explored during the three days.

I was among the crowd. Aside from the very interesting workshops in which I learned more about new innovative solutions available for NGOs and other actors involved in the fight against poverty at grassroots level while protecting our environment, I was wondering: what were the spaces in the Forum dedicated to women and/or MDG3? Not much to my opinion. I did not of course attend all workshops.

During the time I have spent listening to the very interesting programme, I had the feeling that women were not given the specific space that they should have. Each conference

nowadays should for example pay attention to give women as much as voices as men in speeches. I do not automatically speak about having workshops or plenaries dedicated to women’ issues if it is not the purpose of the conference, but I think that each conference should pay specific attention to systematically have a just gender balance in its debates, reflecting the reality of our society (i.e. we, women represent half of humanity).

I would like to give you some figures regarding this 2012’ Convergences 2015 Conference. More than 300 speakers participated in the 55 workshops and plenaries. 28,5% of the speakers (!) were women. 11% of the workshops were 100% men speakers, while there was just 1 workshop (2%) for women.

It is interesting to see what were the workshops with only men participating in the panel:

- “the impact of urban development on poverty and the environment in developing countries”;
- strengthening local governance in developing countries: a key issue for sustainable local development”;
- “energy transition and sustainable energy: how to address energy poverty while preserving the environment?”;
- “finding synergies between public, private and solidarity-based actors to achieve sustainable development”;
- “what part can banks play to support the development of a more responsible economy?”;

and: “what are the global stakes of food sovereignty?” This was an opening session with 8 speakers of which one woman.

The workshop where you could find only women in the panel was “impact evaluation: choosing the right methodology for different projects and objectives”.

I think these numbers speak for themselves.

*Irène Serot Almeras, a WIDE Plus member, is currently responsible of the Office for Cooperation with CSOs in the Embassy of France in the United States.*

## News from WIDE PLUS network members

### **New website developed by KARAT: Women and development**

This discussion paper reviews how in development cooperation the rules of budget support include little to no action to implement gender budgeting or gender justice in general, and do not ensure the implementation of democratic principles. Therefore, civil society and the gender budgeting community greatly fear that gender goals and concerns of unorganized / marginalized groups are forgotten in the implementation of general budget support. Gender budgeting would help in ensuring that the reforms will bring better results in terms of gender equity, and therefore has an essential role to play. [Read more \(in German\).](#)

### **UK Gadnetwork briefing paper “Gender Equality and the post-2015 framework”**

As the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, debate has begun in earnest as to what should follow. The recommendations of the Gender and Development Network (GADN) outlined in this [briefing](#) are intended to complement the various proposals for a post-2015 development framework currently being debated, rather than to add yet another alternative. We argue that it is critical to maintain a strong and explicit focus on gender equality in any new global framework, with priority given to reaching the poorest women and girls. Achieving this will require a two-pronged approach of mainstreaming gender in targets and indicators across the board, *and* a standalone goal or domain for gender equality.

### **DFID publishes UK Gadnetwork ‘How to’ notes on Violence Against Women and Girls**

The guidance package that the UK Gender and Development Network produced for DFID on tackling violence against women and girls is now available for a wider audience. One can download the following ‘how-to’ notes: 1) A Theory of Change for Tackling Violence against

Women and Girls, 2) A Practical Guide on Community Programming on Violence against Women and Girls, and 3) Guidance on Monitoring and Evaluation for Programming on Violence against Women and Girls. Although they were produced with an internal DFID audience in mind, DFID are very happy for us to share them widely and they are available on GADN’s [website](#).

### **MIGS Report on Combating Honour Related Violence and Forced Marriage in Cyprus**

MIGS is pleased to announce the publication of the “Cyprus National Report on Combating Honour Related Violence and Forced Marriage”, which is part of the EU funded Daphne III Programme. The study was carried out in Cyprus with NGOs and grass-roots organizations that work in the area of gender-based violence in order to identify best practice examples in addressing honour-related violence and forced marriage. The study also provided an overview of the national legal framework and policies to combat these forms of violence. To download the publication please [click here](#).

### **Spanish civil society recommend stronger human rights approach in new plans government’s development cooperation**

Many Spanish NGOs that focus on women’s rights and equality in development have published a set of recommendations for future Spanish development cooperation in the framework of the IV Spanish Master Plan. The document analyzes key aspects on gender issues demanding a more effective and human rights based cooperation, fulfilling the commitments made by Spain. [Click here](#).



## Spanish women activists defend abortion rights in Global Call initiative

On 28 September, Spain took part, for the first time, on a **Global Call initiative defending the abortion rights** coming from Latin America. Many women went out in many cities protesting in defense of the abortion rights: "Deciding is not a crime. ABORTION OUT OF PENAL CODE". They also denounced the neoliberal and conservative attacks to women's rights. This event arose in 1990 in Argentina to show how many women died due to clandestine abortions, being the first cause of death for women in many countries in this area of the world (6,000 women killed each year in Latin America for a total of 4 million abortions). [The Manifiesto](#).

## Upcoming activities for the next Latin-American summit

Some organisations from Latin-America and Spain, under the leading of the Spanish WIDE

platform (WIDE-E), are mobilizing several actions in the framework of the Latin-American Summit to be held in Cadiz on 16 and 17 November, as it was proposed during the feminist seminar "Diálogos Consonantes" held in Madrid in April this year, reported in the previous newsletter.

Among the different actions that we are organizing are the following:

1. Virtual Campaign, focus on the collection of signatures of the Social and Feminist Manifiesto
2. A Feminist Seminar: "Women standing: Not one single step backwards in equality policies"
3. Mobilization, in the framework of the official summit in Cadiz.

The online campaign has already started and you are kindly invited to sign the Manifiesto and announce the initiative among your members and allies, supporting Latin-American, Spanish and Portuguese women's and social demands. The [Manifiesto](#).

## Feminist Forum, 8-11 November, Florence, Italy, with two weeks of European activity.

Unparalleled assaults from financiers coupled with the imposition of inhuman austerity policies inhuman attack our most fundamental rights; today, we are oppressed to the extreme. Faced with limited economic means, the massive participation of women in such international meetings is increasingly difficult. However, it is more urgent than ever for women's movements to be able to discuss and take action.

The objective of this Forum is to participate in the construction of a new process that unites feminists in Europe. At this meeting, we, as feminists, could use our experience in our different struggles as the basis for a discussion on how to face these new challenges; we could develop new strategies and a set of common demands.

This feminist Forum will be held in Florence during the event [Firenze 10+10](#), from 8 to 11 November at Fortezza da Basso, Florence, in Italy. The initiative comes from a network of European feminists (each of them from different collectives, such as [CADTM](#)).

For two weeks just before Firenze 10+10 between October 22 and November 8, feminist activists from Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Greece, England and Hungary will be travelling across France for a series of meetings and seminars on the same subject 'Illegitimate Debt, Austerity, Social crash and Feminism.' But the tour could be expanded to other countries in Europe.

*If you are interested, please write to [info@wide-network.org](mailto:info@wide-network.org) and we will put you in touch with the organizers.*

## Other Events

### **Ewha Programme “Transnational Feminisms and Women’s Activism”, 9-22 January, 2013, South Korea**

Ewha Womans University is calling for applicants to the 2012 winter Ewha Global Empowerment Program (EGEP). This EGEP is a two-week programme that aims to empower women activists within civil society in Asia on the theme: “Transnational Feminisms and Women’s Activism”. Deadline for applying is 10 October 2012. The University provides the funding to cover fees for the tuition, dormitory, and a two-week allowance for all the participants. Funds for airfare will be awarded only to the participants from ODA beneficiary countries.

For more information, please visit the website of the organizing institution, Asian Center for Women’s Studies, at <http://acws.ewha.ac.kr> or write to: [egep@ewha.ac.kr](mailto:egep@ewha.ac.kr).

### **Trust Women Conference “Putting the rule of law behind women’s rights”, 4-5 December 2012, UK**

[Thomson Reuters Foundation](#), the charitable arm of the world’s leading provider of news and information, and the [International Herald Tribune](#), the global edition of the New York Times, will co-host a high-level women’s rights conference in London on December 4-5, 2012. The conference will bring together women and men from the legal, financial, government, corporate and non-profit sectors to drive pragmatic action to fight violence against women and other injustices including trafficking, domestic slavery and discrimination. The objective is to stimulate new, positive action and solutions to those issues which most threaten the ability of women to support themselves and their communities. [www.trustwomenconf.com](http://www.trustwomenconf.com)

### **European Gender Summit “Aligning Agendas for Excellence”, 29-30 November 2012, Brussels**

The European Gender Summit 2012 brings together top-level researchers, science leaders, and policy makers to examine gender issues that impact on the implementation of the EU science programmes. Distinguished scientists and leading science institutions will discuss opportunities for advancing excellence through greater awareness of the role of gender as a dimension of research content, and as an important driver to promote innovation and mobility of talent and knowledge. <http://www.gender-summit.eu/>

### **Scholarship for Gender Mainstreaming workshop in Turin 5-16 November**

[The Gastaldo scholarship](#) is offered to women working with minority groups or aboriginal communities, and/or coming from rural areas, youth, from developing countries and covers all expenses (travel, lodging) to attend the mainstreaming course that is organized by the International Training Center of the ILO.

## New Publications

### Papers from UN CSW Expert group meeting on the prevention of violence against women & girls

The next UN 2013 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will focus on "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" as its priority theme during its fifty-seventh session. An expert meeting was recently held that discussed several critical areas, such as needed legal and policy reforms, changing the culture, work environment and practices of private and public sectors, awareness-raising and mobilization. Papers from the meeting are available <http://www.unwomen.org/events/59/expert-group-meeting-prevention-of-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

### AidWatch Report 2012 "Aid We Can: more investment in global development"

The AidWatch Report 2012 written by CONCORD concludes that 9 EU countries meet aid targets, but Germany and France missed the mark in 2011. Aid budget cuts are becoming a major trend, with €500 million slashed from total EU aid spending in 2011. Also, 14% of EU aid or €7.35 billion didn't reach developing countries in 2011. Aid commitments are still achievable but major donors are off track. And the crisis is particularly hitting aid to the poor. <http://aidwatch.concordeurope.org/>

### UN Human Rights Council reflects on the impact of traditional values as a part of women's human rights

The UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee debated in August on "promoting human rights through a better

understanding of traditional values of human kind". The session concluded with a preliminary study that admits that while some traditions go along with human rights norms, others are in conflict with or undermine them. The study mentions the negative impact of traditional values on women and minority groups (paragraph 39) and the fact that cultural relativism is often used as an excuse to justify violence against women (paragraph 42). However, the risk of backlash is still present as for example, the Russian delegation opposed the paragraph 32 which mentions that "diverse traditional values are at the root of universal human rights, but some have played a role to justify subordination and minority groups in the world" (From KARAT news August).

The final study on the linkage between traditional values and human rights will be adopted by the Human Rights Council during its next session in September 2012. [Read the draft study.](#)

### UN reviews follow up to Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

This report reviews the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly. In particular, the report focuses on the extent to which gender perspectives are reflected in selected intergovernmental processes of the UN. The report concludes with recommendations for further measures to enhance the implementation of gender equality mandates. Read the UN Secretary-General's report: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/185](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/185)

## New Publications

### **New CONCORD Publications available on EU contract management and CSO development effectiveness**

CONCORD, the European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development organizations, published two documents on the European external actions. The "Reader 2012" is a tool for EU Standard Contract Management. It helps NGOs and EU officials to interpret the complex rules of the European Commission. The "EU Delegation Watch" report monitors the experience of NGOs working with the EU overseas Delegations in developing countries. The report finds that:

- EU Delegations lack transparency and predictability in handling calls for proposals, which creates barriers for CSOs to access EC funding.
- Efficiency of development aid projects delivered by CSOs is hampered by serious delays in approvals by EU Delegations through all phases of the project.
- Useful monitoring activities led by EU Delegations of development projects are diminished by limited preparation and a lack of feedback towards CSOs.

To read the publications: <http://www.concordeurope.org/>

### **European Commission's publications on the performance of development cooperation**

The European Commission (EC) published two reports on the progress and effectiveness of the EU's development cooperation efforts. The 2012 "[EU Accountability Report on Financing for Development](#)" analyses and illustrates how the EU and its member states implemented their commitments for more and better financing for development. The "[Annual Report 2012 on the EU's Development and external assistance policies and their implementation](#)" gives an overview on the EU's development efforts during the past year.

### **Strategies of Feminist Bureaucrats: United Nations Experiences**

This IDS Working Paper explores the challenges and opportunities for feminists working as women's rights and gender equality specialists in the UN as analysed from a practitioner perspective. Part 1 by Joanne Sandler analyses the experience of feminists struggling with the institutional sexism of the UN bureaucratic machine and shows how this played out in the difficult but ultimately successful negotiations around the creation of UN Women. In Part 2, Aruna Rao describes how cross-agency UN Gender Theme Groups worked together through to strengthen the gender equality programming of three UN Country Teams in Morocco, Albania and Nepal. <http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/Wp397.pdf>



## Other

### **New Worldbank's internet portal on gender equality data & statistics**

This gender data portal is a one-stop shop for gender information, catering to a wide range of users and providing data from a variety of sources. The data available should enable assessment of Bank funding of gender-informed activities, as well as monitoring of country progress on key development agendas. This portal is a work in progress -- the database will be continuously updated as new information becomes available, and as new gender priorities are identified. <http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/>

### **UNRISD call for research papers on the Social and Solidarity Economy**

UNRISD research is focusing on "alternative" development policy and strategy. One strand of this inquiry concerns advocacy, policy and practice related to "Social and Solidarity Economy" (SSE). This term is increasingly used to refer to forms of production and exchange that aim to satisfy human needs, build resilience and expand human capabilities through social relations based on varying degrees of cooperation, association and solidarity. UNRISD invites researchers to submit proposals for papers that critically examine the scope for expanding social and solidarity economy (SSE), and its potential and limits as a distinctive approach to development. Deadline: 15 November 2012. <http://www.unrisd.org/sse>

### **Educational tools "Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide"**

Inspired by journalists Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book of the same name, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* brings together video, websites, games, blogs and other educational tools to not only raise awareness of women's issues, but to also provide concrete steps to fight these problems and empower women. Change is possible, and you can be part of the solution. <http://www.halftheskymovement.org>.

### **Call for articles on Feminist Solidarity and Collective Action**

The July 2013 issue of the international journal *Gender & Development*, (published for Oxfam GB by Routledge/Taylor and Francis) will look at Feminist Solidarity and Collective Action. This issue will bring together case studies of development and humanitarian work that supports women's movements, and collaborates with grassroots women in transformative ways. Development and feminist policymakers and practitioners, and researchers, are all invited to share insights in this issue. The journal is currently read in over 90 countries. Published as an online and print journal at [www.tandfonline.com/gad](http://www.tandfonline.com/gad) and free material at [www.genderanddevelopment.org](http://www.genderanddevelopment.org). If interested, please send a paragraph outlining your proposed idea for an article before the commissioning deadline: 22 October 2012. [Click here for more.](#)

#### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

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