

# Negotiation Kit for Beijing + 10

## Institutional Mechanisms

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### OVERARCHING CONCERN

Despite the many gains achieved, there is an overall weakening of political will in gender mainstreaming in many countries of the region.

### GAINS

- National machineries have been established and GAD plans have been formulated in almost all countries in the region.
- Gender focal points have been established in line ministries and local governments in many countries.
- Gender budgeting and related efforts to ensure gender-sensitive resource allocations are ongoing.
- More extensive training courses on gender sensitivity and gender planning have been provided to government officers and other related staff members.
- Laws against rape, violence against women, trafficking in women and children have been enacted in many countries.
- Sex-disaggregation of statistics and incorporation of gender perspective into the census, like encouraging women to report their seasonal, informal and unpaid work, have been practiced.
- Mandatory use of Gender Implication Statements and Gender Impact Assessment and Evaluation (GIAE) in public and private sector investments and projects has been launched in a few countries.
- Women's groups and organizations have been active to monitor their respective governments in their implementation of Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome Document from the Beijing+5 UN Meeting.
- Partnership between governments and NGOs/civil societies in promoting women's rights and gender equality has increased and even showed strength

## GAPS

- Most national machineries, often placed at the lower level of the government, have been marginalized. Some have suffered further down-grading, and assigned responsibilities that are welfare-oriented and focus on women's stereotyped needs. As such, they have little or no capacity to pursue gender mainstreaming, owing to, among others, insufficient resources and weak mandates.
- Gender focal points in line ministries and local governments are often lower ranking female officers whose mandates are weak or unclear.
- There is an absence of non-discriminatory and gender-sensitive legal environment due to existing reservations to CEDAW and ratifying its Optional Protocol.
- Gender budget in several countries remain marginal allocations of traditional welfare-oriented women-only projects. Gender-responsive budgeting that ensures equal access and benefits by both women and men of all economic opportunities and other services provided by government is not yet understood by the majority of governments.
- There is a lack of real progress in gender statistics including the accounting unpaid work

## EMERGING ISSUES

- There is a glaring lack in political and technical skills, not just in gender budgeting but in the capacity for broader gender-sensitive analysis of macroeconomic policies, for gender mainstreaming in line ministries, other government bodies and actors in sustainable national development.
- In some countries, a backlash caused by fundamentalists and neo-conservatives that have captured secular states, have resulted in the loss of gains made in women's human rights and gender equality.
- Policies and programs on women could not be assessed fully for want of indicators and monitoring tools. Gender statistics need to be further developed, including evaluation of unpaid work of men and women and their contributions to the economy. There is a need for national statistical policy requiring the inclusion in the national income accounts of unpaid work in the informal and care economies.
- Even when passed, gender responsive laws, policies or programs, fail to be implemented for lack of budget allocation. There is a need for gender-responsive budget preparation, utilization and monitoring.

## RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE

### *By Government:*

- Accelerate the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action strategic objectives.
- Strengthen the national machinery for the advancement of women by placing it at the highest level of the Government with strong mandates for gender mainstreaming and with sufficient financial and human resources.
- Conduct gender training courses for top government officials including parliamentarians, ministers and head of State.
- Make gender training a foundation course in the training of new civil servants and require all existing government personnel to undergo training.
- Develop effective gender training courses by improving the gender fair curriculum, materials and methods, and collaborate with NGOs and academia.
- Pass policies to increase the number and proportion of women in decision making posts in the government through lateral entry, quota for women and indigenous peoples, and other strategies of affirmative action.
- Revise the national account system by taking into account unpaid work of men and women in the informal as well as in the care economy.

### *By the United Nations, other international development organizations and regional bodies:*

- Provide governments of the South with expertise, skills and funding for doable gender budgeting and gender mainstreaming.
- Provide resources to national machineries and women's organizations to undertake wider dissemination of international treaties/agreements through the mass media. This can be done by producing information, education and communication materials (IEC) and by carrying out advocacy programs.
- Undertake and support initiatives to devise gender-responsive mechanisms for monitoring all development activities of governments, NGOs, and international organizations, including the monitoring of the Millennium Development Declaration and Goals.
- Adopt a policy of gender-responsive budgeting for all official development assistance, and strengthen implementation of gender mainstreaming policies including the re-establishment of gender focal points in international development agencies.

### *By Civil society groups including women's organizations:*

- Support women parliamentarians to enhance their capacity and boost their confidence to push gender responsive laws
- Collaborate with mass media for the positive portrayal of women and the projection of women's human rights and gender equality.

Thematic Focal Point for Institutional Mechanism  
Japan Women's Watch  
South Asia Women's Watch (SAWW)  
Korean National Council of Women (KNCW)