

# **CONNECTING LOCAL TO GLOBAL**

**Women worldwide build a movement  
and forge an agenda for  
Equality, Development and Peace  
1975-2000 & Beyond**

# **WEDO's MISSION**

## Women's Empowerment Worldwide

- Increase women's participation in policymaking for economic and social justice, a peaceful and healthy planet and human rights for all.



# WEDO's PROGRAM

## Gender & Governance

- Full and equal access
- Gender balance

## Economic & Social Justice

- Gender sensitive macro economics

## Sustainable Development

- Socially just, economically sound and ecologically viable development



# **Building A Global ♀'s Movement: The Foundation**

- The Women's Movement for the right to vote
- The Women's Struggle for a space at the United Nations negotiating table

# **Building A Global ♀'s Movement: The Foundation The Women's Movement for the Right to Vote**

- Our grandmothers and great-grandmothers laid the foundations of the modern international women's movement
- In 1894, the women of New Zealand became the first in the world to win the right to vote
- Women in the U.S. won their national battle for the franchise in 1920 after Australia (1901), Canada (1917) and the UK (1918).

# **Building A Global ♀'s Movement: The Foundation**

## **The Women's Movement at the UN**

Our mothers and grandmothers made early gains for women

- 1945: UN Charter reaffirms “faith...in the equal rights of men and women.”
- 1946: Commission on the Status of Women established
- 1948: Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims “everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth...without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex...”
- 1954: General Assembly calls on governments to abolish “ancient laws, customs and practices” inconsistent with the Declaration
- 1967: Noting continued discrimination, GA adopts Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- 1970: GA urges “ratification of...the relevant instruments relating to the status of women.”

## **Building A Global ♀'s Movement**

# **Women making policy, not coffee, in 30 years of Global Meetings**

- 1975-1985: Diverse women, working together during International Women's Year and the Decade of Women, brought their perspectives, issues and analyses to global policymaking.
- By the 1990s, in a series of world conferences on key development issues for the new millennium, it was plain that in making global policy, what's good for women is for the good of all.

## **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

**It began with a year. It turned into a decade.  
It became a revolution.**

1975 ♀

**United Nations International Women's Year (IWY)**

June 16-July 2: Mexico City

**First Intergovernmental Conference on Women**

- Themes: **Equality, Development and Peace**
- Policy: Equality of Women and their Contribution to Development and Peace



## **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

June 16-July 2, Mexico City: **IWY Tribune**

- Participants: **6000**
- Themes: Equality, Development, Peace and a multitude of other issues from rural women's small businesses to the training of women astronauts
- Events: More than **200 workshops and panels**

**1976-1985 United Nations Decade for Women**

## **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

1980 ♀

July 14-29, Copenhagen, Denmark

### **Second World Conference on Women**

- New sub-themes: **Education, Employment, Health**
- Policy: **Programme of Action**

July 14-28, Copenhagen: **NGO Forum**

- Participants: **8000**
- Some Additional Themes: Female sexual slavery, wages for housework, appropriate technology, Women's Studies

# **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

1985 ♀

July 15-26, Nairobi, Kenya

## **Third World Conference on Women**

- Aim: to review the achievements of the Women's Decade
- Policy: **Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000**

July 10-19, Nairobi: **Forum 85**

- Participants: **15,000**
- Themes: Additional topics included women, law and development; lesbian rights; research issues; women in arts and music
- Events: More than 1,400 including demonstrations, exhibitions, film and video festival, craft bazaar, Peace Tent, workshops, panels

## **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

### **1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development**

- Place: Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
- Policy: For the first time, formal recognition by the world community of women's central role in sustainable development

### **1993 World Conference on Human Rights**

- Place: Vienna, Austria
- Policy: For the first time, women's human rights recognized and accepted

## **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

### **1994 Int'l Conference on Population and Development**

- Place: Cairo, Egypt
- Policy: Formal recognition of women's reproduction rights

### **1995 World Summit on Social Development**

- Place: Copenhagen, Denmark
- Policy: Section devoted to women and gender promotes equality between women and men

# **Building A Global Women's Movement: 30 years of Meetings**

1995 ♀

Sept 4-15, Beijing, China

## **Fourth World Conference on Women**

- Aim: to formulate **action for the advancement of women**
- Policy: Beijing Declaration and 12-point Platform for Action

Aug 31-Sept 12, Huairou, Beijing: **NGO Forum 85**

- Participants: **40,000**
- Themes: **12 Critical Areas of Concern**
- Events in 75 meeting rooms, 30 tents, 250 booths, theatre, open-air stage

# Building A Global ♀'s Movement: Principles of Interdependence

- Networking & Alliance-Building
- Advocacy
- Issue Linkages



# **Networking & Alliance Building**

Networking is a vibrant tradition for women everywhere

In this tradition women worldwide used the global conferences to:

- Share Concerns and Identify Problems
- Analyze Issues and Raise Consciousness
- Build Networks across regions
- Plan Strategies and Take Action



## **Networking & Alliance Building**

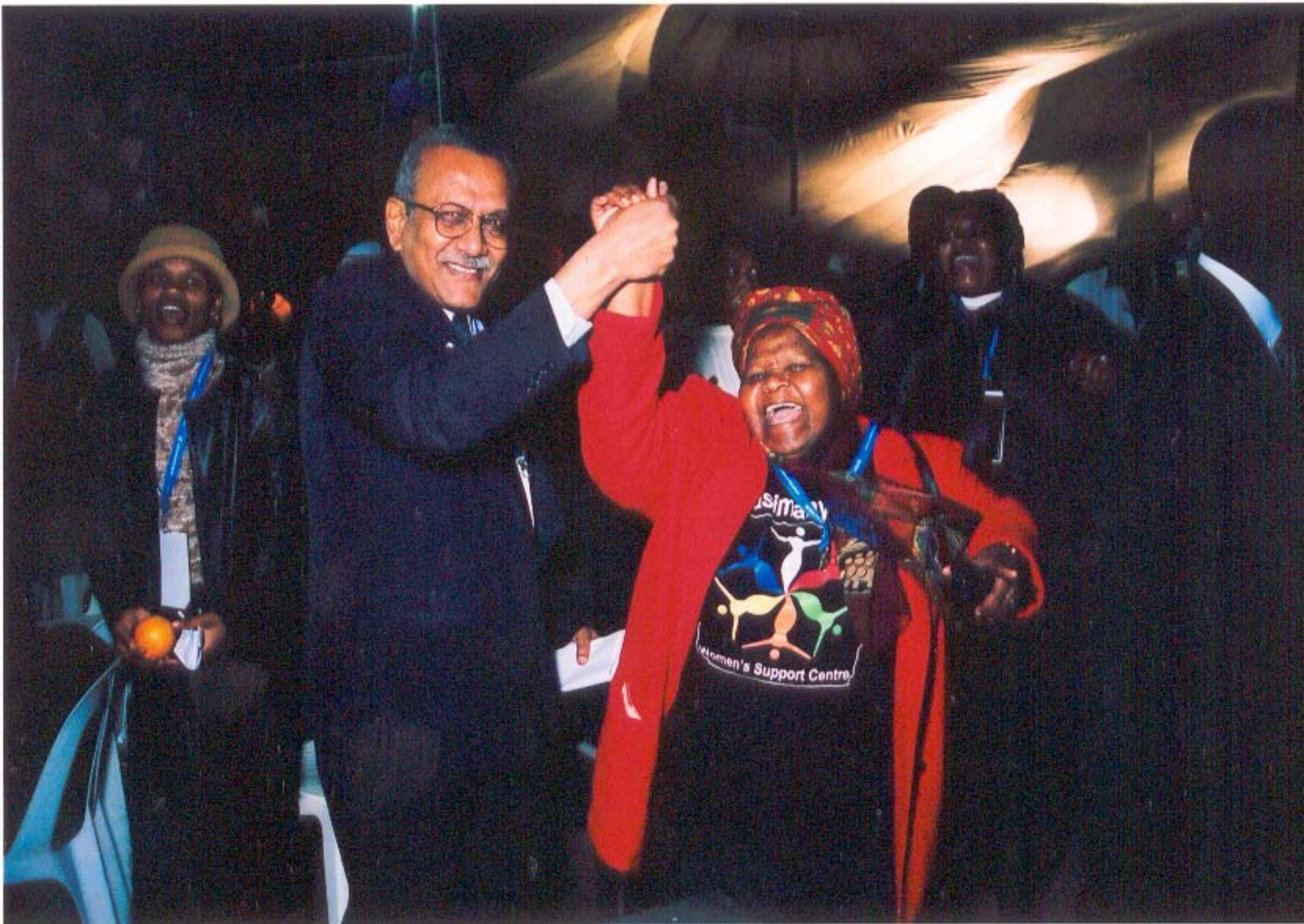
- Diverse women in their millions---grassroots women, academics, activists and politicians; linking across all regions, religions, races and classes; from rural and urban---came together inside and outside the conferences in a vibrant burst of energy.
- They worked hard in the first three women's conferences to forge consensus, create new political spaces and raise the volume of their voices.





PEACE  
SUSTAINABILITY  
PEACE  
BOAT

EVITA LAS  
BOLSAS  
PLASTICAS









DEMOCRACY IS NOT ENOUGH

DEMOCRACY IS NOT ENOUGH

DEMOCRACY IS NOT ENOUGH

DEMOCRACY IS NOT ENOUGH

WE NEED GENDER JUSTICE

WE NEED GENDER JUSTICE

WE NEED GENDER JUSTICE

DEMOCRACY IS NOT ENOUGH

DEMOCRACY IS NOT ENOUGH



justicia

justi

Educación

Familias

Paz

Derechos

AVANZANDO POR LA PAZ  
FAMILIAS Y COMUNIDADES

AVANZANDO POR LA PAZ  
FAMILIAS Y COMUNIDADES

AVANZANDO POR LA PAZ  
FAMILIAS Y COMUNIDADES



## **Networking & Alliance Building**

- Strengthened by these conferences, women moved to the forefront of the UN conferences of the 1990s to lead the charge for social justice.

## **Networking & Alliance Building**

# **“One Hand Can’t Clap”**

Along the way, the world’s women have worked in broad alliance with sympathetic forces

- Within the UN system and within governments our allies have supported our efforts, our activities and our proposals, as we have helped strengthen their ability to win over other bureaucrats with creative proposals, reality-based analysis, and by our refusal to compromise our basic positions.

## **Networking & Alliance Building**

# **“One Hand Can’t Clap”**

- Outside the system we have built alliances with the other actors in the social justice movement--- labor unions, environmental and human rights organizations, farmers and peasants, small business people and parliamentarians---and strengthened their understanding of the need to bring a gender lens to their advocacy



## **Networking & Alliance Building**

- Millions more are outside the system in the globalization movement that works to build a better world with social justice for all.
- Evidence of this: Tthe massive mobilization for anti-war movement demonstrations on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2003

# Advocacy

Women have always lobbied for their rights in the home, in the community and in legislative chambers in local and national governments

In 1991, 1,500 women from 83 countries came together in Miami and created a powerful advocacy base to advance their perspectives in global policy.

This base comprised:

- A Political Manifesto, Women's Action Agenda
- A Women's Caucus

**Advocacy: Lobbying Strategies**  
**United We Stand**

The Women's Caucus is a structure for combining efforts for greater impact and success:

- Each day representatives of women's NGOs review the results of the previous meetings, share information and plan follow-up action
- The document being negotiated is broken down by issue area and task Forces are formed to focus on each of these areas, study the draft language and propose alternative text

## **Advocacy: Lobbying Strategies**

# **United We Stand**

- Armed with the alternative text Task Force members fan out to monitor the negotiations and lobby their respective government delegates
- Daily Task Force reports form the basis of statements to the plenary, the media, the public



# Issues

- The **Women's Action Agenda** has been used by women at local, national, regional and global levels to present a unified voice on the wide range of social, economic and political issues affecting their lives
- It has been a key element in the success women have had in placing their issues--- and the issues of all peoples---on the global policy agenda.

# Poverty

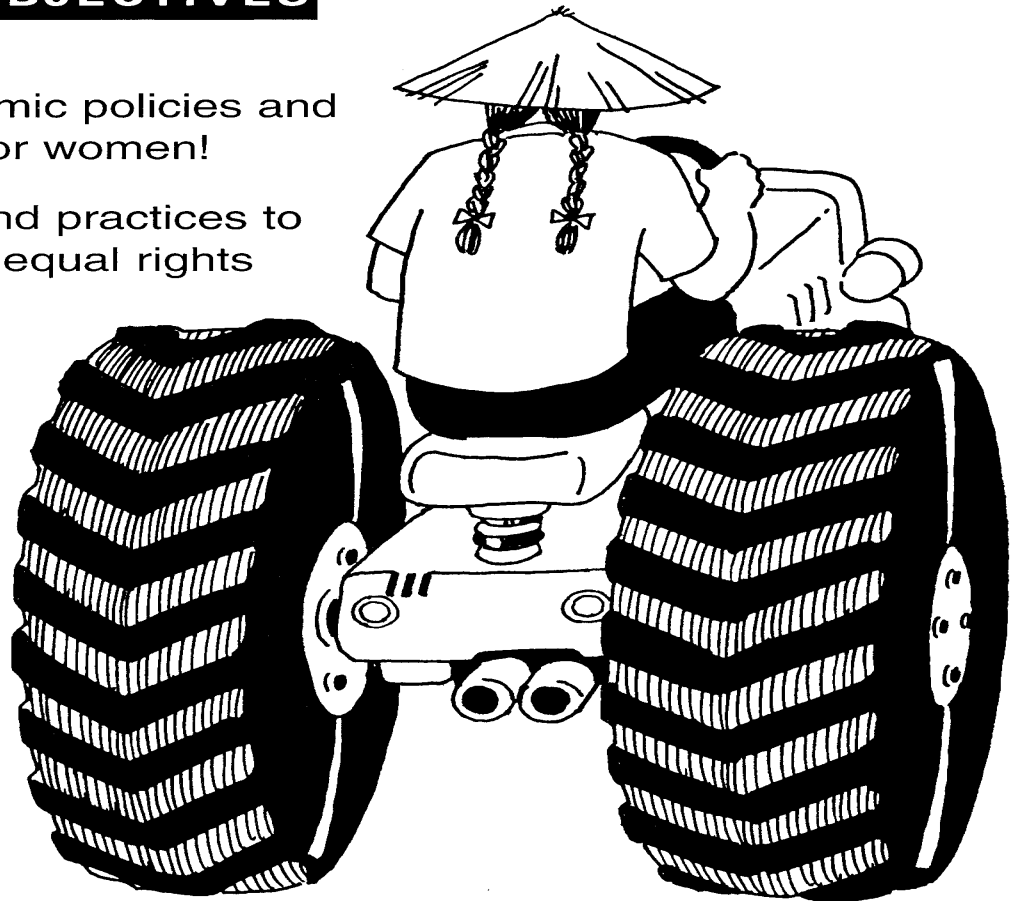
## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Develop** economic policies and strategies for poor women!

**Change** laws and practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources!

**Give** women access to savings and credit!

**Develop** gender-based methodologies and do research on the feminization of poverty!



CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 1

# Education

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

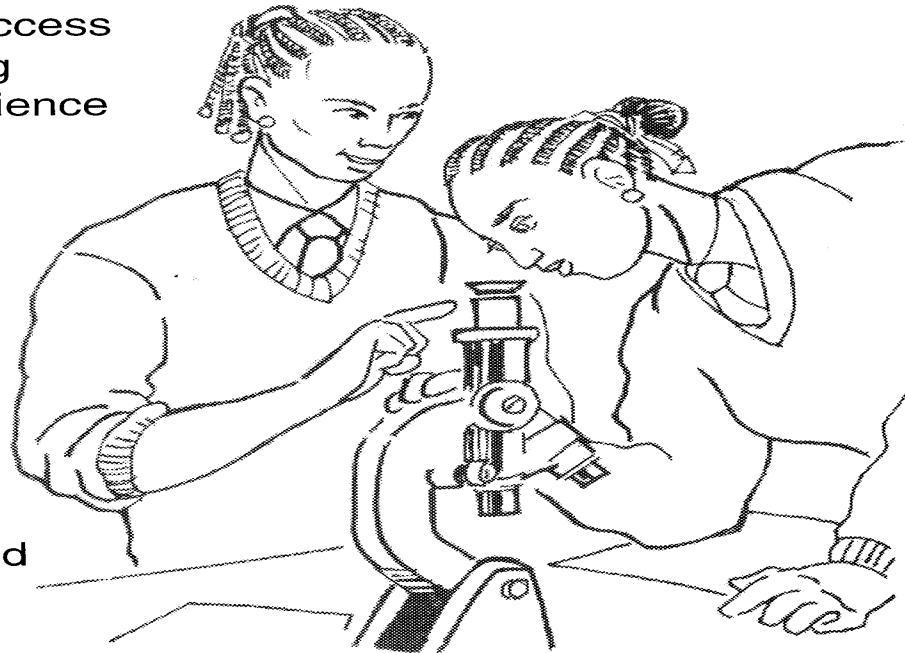
**Give** women equal access to education, including vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education!

**Develop** education and training programmes that do not discriminate against women!

**Provide** sufficient resources for educational reform and monitor its progress!

**Encourage** life-long education and training for women!

**Wipe out** illiteracy among women!



## CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 2

# Health

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### COMMUNITY CLINIC

**Provide** women with good, affordable health care, information and related services!

**Strengthen** prevention programmes and encourage research on women's health!

**Establish** gender-sensitive procedures for sexually-transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and reproductive health issues!

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



## CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 3

# Violence

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Stop** violence against women!

**Study** the reasons for, and results of, violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures!

**Stop** trafficking in women and help women who are victims of violence because of prostitution and trafficking!



## CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 4

# Armed Conflict

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Encourage** non-violent methods of settling conflicts and include more women in decision-making when conflicts are being resolved!

**Reduce** military spending and control the availability of war weapons!

**Protect** women living in situations of armed conflict or under foreign occupation and protect, assist and train refugee and other displaced women!

**Encourage** women's contribution to developing a culture of peace!

**Assist** the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories!



CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 5

# Economy

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

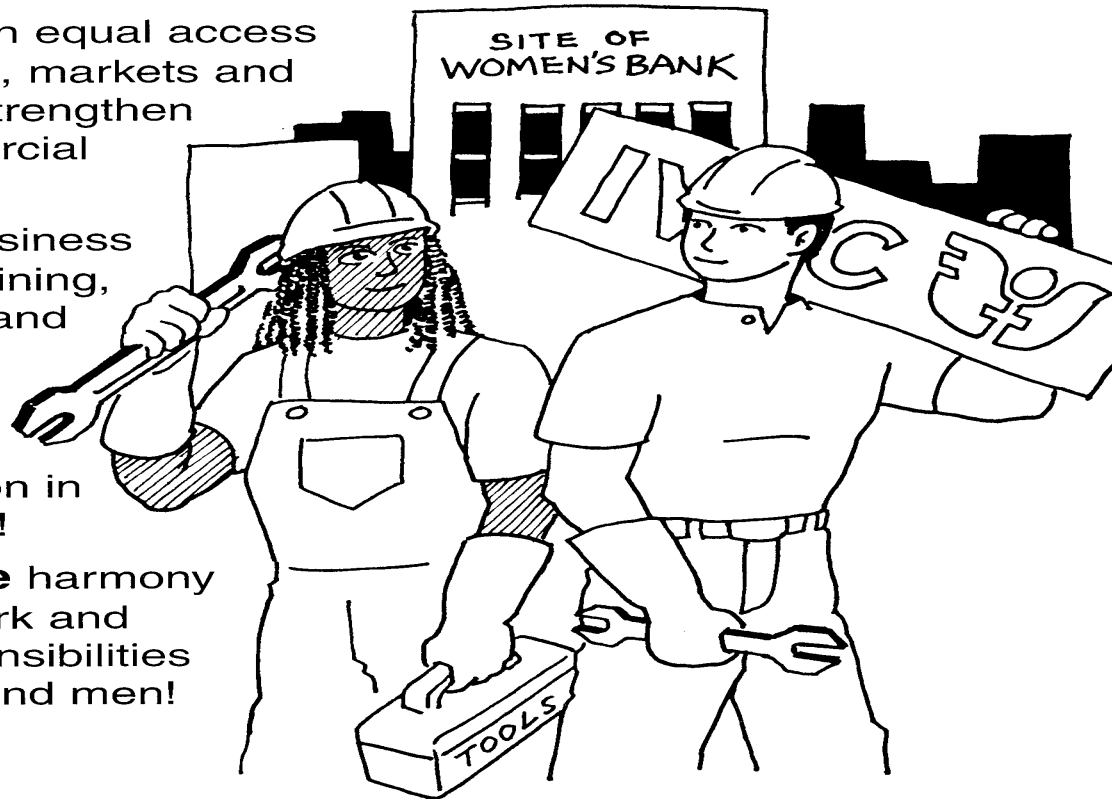
**Promote** women's economic rights and independence!

**Give** women equal access to resources, markets and trade, and strengthen their commercial networks!

**Provide** business services, training, information and technology,!

**Stop** all forms of discrimination in employment!

**Encourage** harmony between work and family responsibilities for women and men!



## CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 6

# Power/ Decision-making

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Ensure** that women have equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision-making!

**Increase** women's ability to participate in decision-making and leadership!



**CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 7**



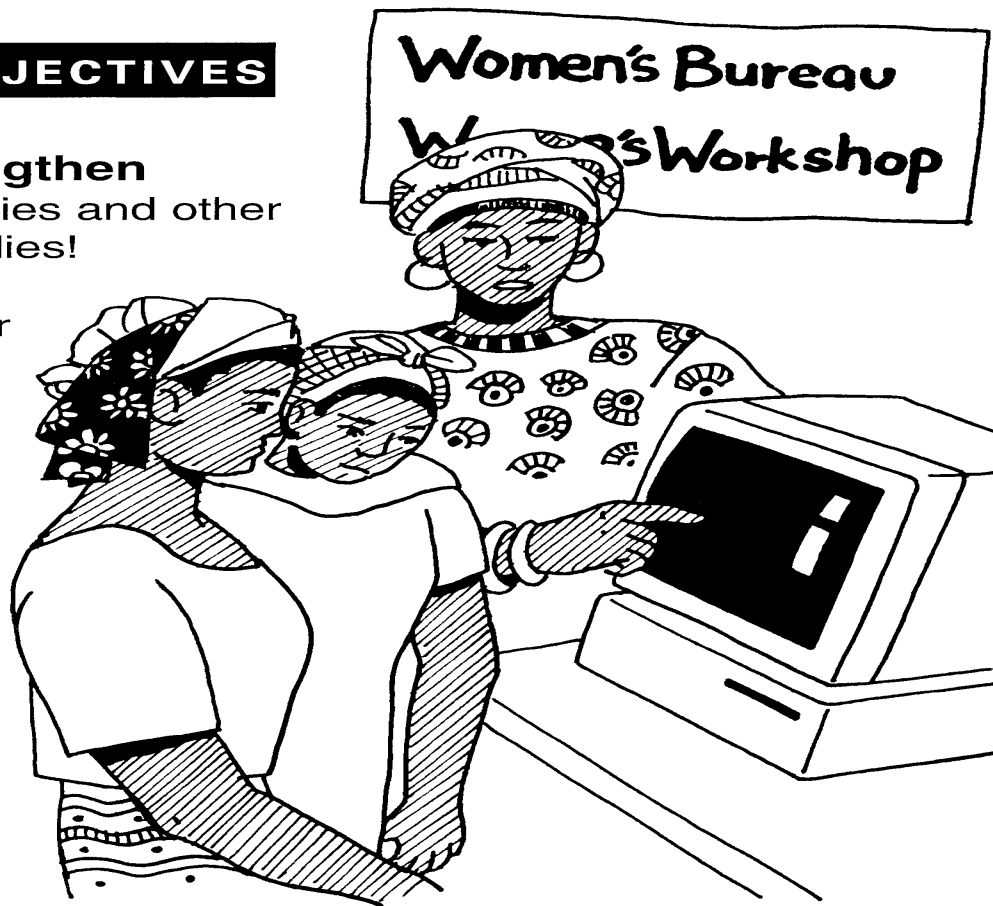
# Institutional Mechanisms

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

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

**Include** a gender perspective in laws, public policies, programmes and projects!

**Ensure** that statistics are collected, compiled and presented by gender for planning and evaluation purposes!



CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 8

# Human Rights

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Promote and protect** the human rights of women by putting into effect all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)!

**Ensure** that women have equal rights and are not discriminated against either under the law or in practice!

**Achieve** legal literacy!



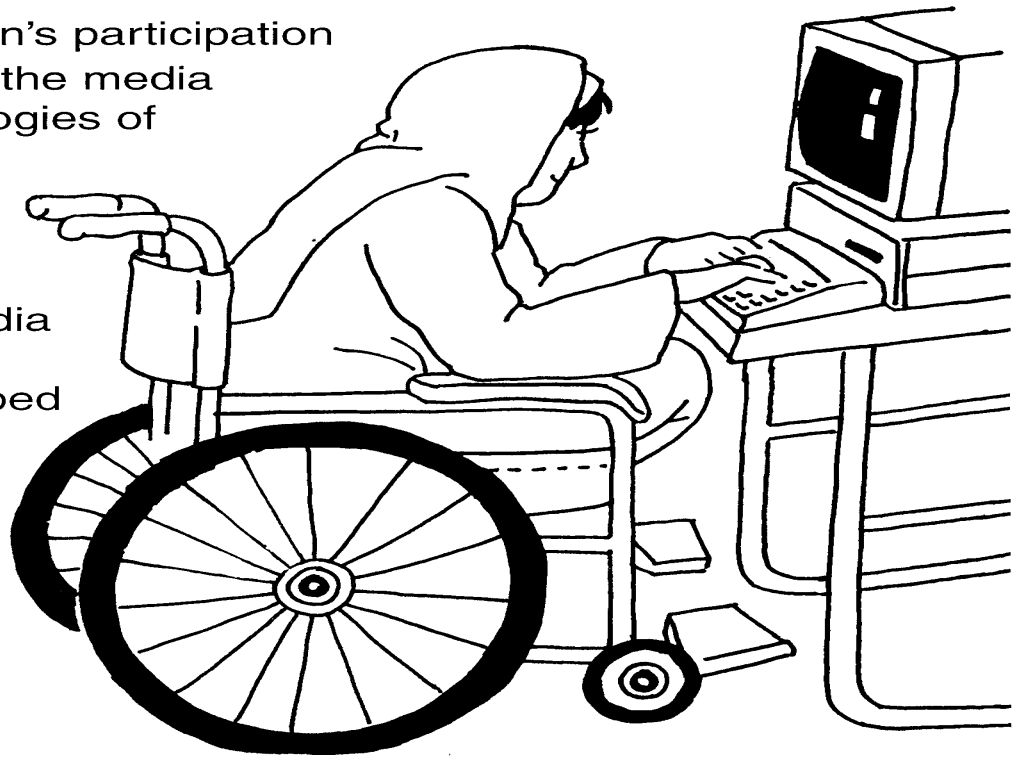
**CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 9**

# Media

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Increase** women's participation in and access to the media and new technologies of communication!

**Ensure** that women are shown in the media in a balanced and not stereotyped way!



**CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 10**

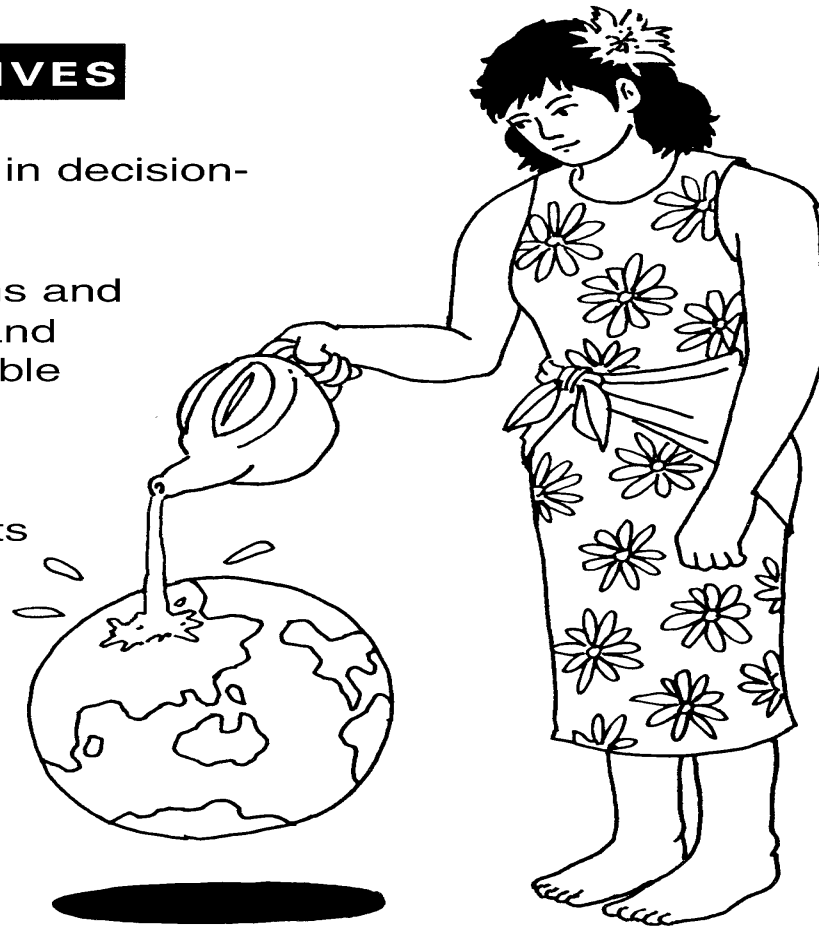
# Environment

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Involve** women actively in decision-making at all levels!

**Include** gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development!

**Strengthen or set up** ways to assess the effects of development and environmental policies on women at the national, regional and international levels!



CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 11

# The Girl Child

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

**Promote** and **protect** the rights, needs and potential of girls!

**End** discrimination, negative cultural attitudes and practices!

**Stop** violence against the girl child and her economic exploitation!

**Encourage** her participation in all areas of life!



**CRITICAL AREA OF CONCERN # 12**

# **Going Forward**

## **The Struggle for Implementation**

“We have the words now we need the music”

Bella Abzug 1920-1998

- Now that women have gained the policy commitments from their governments, our advocacy focus is implementation.

Here we face formidable barriers

## **Going Forward**

In 2003 we live in an economic, political and social context that is beset with new dangers and injustices

- The power and dominance of some countries, corporations and institutions is both unprecedented and unchecked.
- The United Nations has been seriously weakened, overshadowing much of the progress women have achieved.

## **Going Forward**

- New and revived fundamentalisms—including both secular and religious varieties—create a stifling climate for progressive social movements.
- The increased militarization of societies, and the unprecedented numbers of wars and civil conflicts, have created unparalleled levels of violence and displacement.



## **Going Forward**

- The dominance of the neo-liberal economic model and market-driven policies, the privatization of basic services and natural resources, and the unregulated power of multinational corporations and movement of capital have all exacerbated poverty, food insecurity and economic exclusion for the majority.
- The worst affected by these economic changes are poor women and their children.

## Going Forward

Women look to new global policy processes in which to continue the struggle for Equality, Development and Peace

- The **Millennium Development Goals**, agreed by 189 governments in 2000, are a composite of the development commitments from the UN conferences and summits of the 1990s supplemented with a set of targets intended to improve living conditions and remedy key global imbalances by 2015.

# Going Forward

## The Millennium Development Goals

- Poverty Eradication
- Universal Primary Education
- Gender Equality
- Reduction of Child Mortality
- Improve maternal Health
- Combat HIV/AIDS and other Diseases
- Environmental Sustainability
- Develop a Global Partnership for Development

# Going Forward

Advocate gender-balanced, democratic and accountable governance in decision-making

- Demand full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action
- Promote more extensive use of CEDAW, the most comprehensive legally binding women's rights treaty, and its optional protocol
- Work for a more democratic and accountable global governance system that emphasizes multilateral processes and has the United Nations at its center.

# Going Forward

Challenge the global economic paradigm that prioritizes free markets, corporate profits and unsustainable consumption over human rights and needs

- Demand greater accountability and transparency from the international financial and trade institutions
- Advocate for more equitable, sustainable and gender-sensitive global economic and trade policies

UN Process: Financing for Development

## **Going Forward**

Promote a model of sustainable development that advances peace and economic, social and ecological justice

- Advocate for the centrality of gender, women's equality and reproductive rights to the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

UN Process: Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

# Going Forward

Challenge U.S. unilateralism and advocate for a U.S. foreign policy that promotes peace, sustainable development, human rights and human security

- Support the efforts of the U.S. women's movement and social justice sector to raise public consciousness and build public demand for a new approach to foreign policy and a leader in implementation of the global policy gains of the past decade

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Website: [www.wedo.org](http://www.wedo.org)

- WEDO is an international advocacy organization that seeks to increase the power of women worldwide as policymakers at all levels of governments, institutions and forums to achieve economic and social justice, a healthy and peaceful planet and human rights for all.