

Summary of Outcomes

From the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (IPM CDS-13)

Notes prepared by Cayetana Carrion

17 March 2005

The Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) took place from February 28 to March 4, at the same time as the first week of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The aim of this session was to draw on the obstacles, lessons learned and best practices identified and discussed at CSD-12. Three Secretary General's reports addressed each of the thematic areas (water, sanitation and human settlements) and were submitted for consideration by the IPM. Each report included a number of policy options and possible actions aimed at expediting implementation.

The 9 Major Groups (MG) were present at the IPM and submitted a list of priorities for action prior to the meeting

The Women MG (hereinafter WOMEN) representative was Joy Tukahirwa, from Ecotrust in Uganda. Our delegation comprised Monique Essed-Fernandes from Suriname and WEDO Board Member, Irene Dankelman from Holland, as well as Cayetana Carrion, WEDO sustainable Development Programme Coordinator. Emmy Galama-Rommerts of the Huairou Commission also spoke on behalf of WOMEN at the Human Settlements session.

MGs were given the opportunity several times within the sessions to express their priorities for action and concerns. WOMEN participated actively in the interactive discussions and produced a list of priorities for action that was handed out to the CSD Bureau. WOMEN strongly urged the CSD Bureau to incorporate **women and water** as a major topic in the Commission on Sustainable Development 13 agenda and to create a fund to facilitate the implementation of gender as a cross-cutting issue in the ten-year work plan of the CSD, as agreed in CSD-11. We also put forth a right-based approach regarding water, sanitation and human settlements and focused on the need to implement legal tools to achieve a right to access to land, water and other natural resources. Empowerment and gender equality were at the core of our statements. We also put forward that the principle of women as participants in the CSD process and the acknowledgement of women as key actors in the use and management of water, sanitation and human settlements now need to be put into practice. (See the "Women's Statement" and the "List of priorities for action from the Women's MG.")

HIGHLIGHT OF SOME IMPORTANT POINTS RELATED TO GENDER DURING THE IPM SESSIONS

(for a detailed summary of the whole IPM, go to <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd13prep/mar03.html>)

Water

Many delegates emphasized holistic approaches that integrate water and sanitation, and underscored the importance of women's and civil society participation in planning and implementation. The water session also focused on monitoring and securing finance for water-related investments. In this session, the gender perspective was completely absent. WOMEN called for gender-disaggregated and gender-sensitive data and indicators.

Sanitation

The discussion focused on policy options and practical measures, including decentralized approaches, the role of stakeholders, health and education, and financing. Many delegates stressed the importance of the integrated approach to water and sanitation. Delegates also underscored the role of women in decision-making, implementation and capacity-building activities; the importance of involving communities and NGOs in implementation; decentralizing implementation and strengthening local government capacities and funding; and the “case” for investing in sanitation. Many delegations also shared their national experiences in providing sanitation services.

This session also focused on capacity and finance requirements for meeting the JPOI sanitation target. Many delegations stressed South-South cooperation, education, capacity building and technology transfer. On finance, The NETHERLANDS highlighted that secure land tenure and equal access for women could facilitate access to loans and microcredit. TRADE UNIONS, with several delegations, said full cost recovery does not work when providing services to the poor. WOMEN, supported by WSSCC, urged consideration of self-financing schemes that generate income.

On policy options related to sanitation, delegates identified the need to:

- respond to women’s needs, such as privacy and security (Norway, Sweden);

Human Settlements

During the experts panel on Human settlements, María Antonia Trujillo, Spain’s Minister of Housing, presented key lessons from the second World Urban Forum. She highlighted the importance of land registration and titling; local materials and contractors; women’s legal access to land and inheritance; and training people *in situ*.

The session focused on providing improved housing and associated services to the urban and rural poor and on creating jobs and promoting local entrepreneurship. The importance of land tenure for slum dwellers was stressed, which was underscored by delegations, many of whom also emphasized the importance of securing land tenure and inheritance rights for women.

Stating that the urban poor are the most important agents for social and economic change, NORWAY highlighted the potential of women and youth to this end, and called for empowering these groups and informing them of their rights. NGOs urged a reference to the human rights dimension in the Secretary-General’s reports. The HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CAUCUS said sustainable human settlements, adequate shelter and basic services can only be achieved through policies that realize the right to housing, land access, secure tenure and infrastructure provision.

On finance, WOMEN stressed the need to enable slum dwellers to raise capital and purchase land. The Human settlements session also focused on financing to meet the needs of the urban poor. Many delegates underscored the need to empower local authorities. Several delegations highlighted the need to encourage micro-credit, micro-loans and micro-savings schemes, especially schemes targeted at women and youth. SWEDEN called attention to the link between women’s credit access and security of tenure, and stressed the need to link rural and urban financing.

Water and Sanitation

Experts panel: Water and sanitation:

Nafisa Barot, Utthan, emphasized, *inter alia*, women’s vulnerability to water and sanitation problems; the need to enhance the involvement of marginalized populations; hygiene education; micro-financing; long-term investment needs; and the importance of a rights-based approach.

The Water and Sanitation session focused on integration, synergies and linkages between water and sanitation. NGOs called for the scaling-up of rainwater harvesting and micro-dams to meet the water and sanitation targets, and WOMEN urged the CSD to take decisions that reflect the needs of the poor. On linkages with other processes, WOMEN said the UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development offers an opportunity to advance the links between education, water and sanitation.

Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements

The session focused on inter-linkages and cross-cutting aspects. Several delegates stressed integrated approaches in addressing the three themes, and outlined the need to integrate the themes into urban planning.

On gender mainstreaming, many delegations called for women's involvement in decision-making and implementation. SWITZERLAND recommended going beyond projects targeting women as an isolated group, stressed the need for improved understanding of the effects of policies on gender roles and power relations, and discussed innovative tools such as gender-budgets and audits. SOUTH AFRICA said the promotion of gender equality should be part of poverty reduction strategies, and urged prioritizing the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups in the delivery of basic services. UN-HABITAT highlighted the need for women's empowerment through property and inheritance rights, and MARSHALL ISLANDS urged the development of guidelines to foster women's involvement in decision-making.

Chair's text and closing remarks

A representative of WOMEN highlighted the consensus from the Beijing+10 deliberations that no tool is as effective for sustainable development as investing in women.

On the Chair's Summary

See the Draft Chair's text in attach or go to:

http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/ipm_chairstext2.pdf

Major Groups were not allowed to react to the chair's summary before it was formally approved. The following are the paragraphs where women and/or gender are mentioned:

- WATER: **18, 20**;
- SANITATION: *national priorities, policies and institutions*: **57**; *Hygiene education, awareness raising and community participation*: **69, 71, 75**;
- HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: *Providing improved housing and associated services to the urban poor*: **97, 100**; *Jobs creation and enterprise promotion*: **104, 105**;
- INTERLINKAGES AMONG WATER, SANITATION AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: **121**

CSD-13: 11-22 APRIL

The 13th session of the CSD will be the first Policy Session under the Commission's new work cycle, and the focus will be on water, sanitation and human settlements. The mandate of CSD-13 is to build on the progress made during the review session at CSD-12 and to adopt policy decisions that would enable the implementation of practical measures and options related to the three thematic areas. The main aim of CSD-13 is to mobilize action by all stakeholders at all levels for further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).

WEDO plans to organize the following side events (see description in attach)

- 1) The human right to water (probably in partnership with TWA, IATP, Council of Canadians) – scheduled for 11 April.
- 2) Gender and natural disasters with a human rights perspective (UNFPA, UNEP) – probably 2nd week of CSD-13.

The WEDO delegation for the CSD-13 session is:

Annabell WAITITU – Groots (Kenya)
Ethne Davey - Gender and Water Alliance (South Africa)
Eugenia Juarez – Fundacion Guatemala (Guatemala)
We might also bring someone from the Asia region.

NEXT STEPS: CSD-14/15

To consult the Guidelines for National Reporting to the Fourteenth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natinfo/natinfo_docs.htm#csd14 - Guidelines available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian)

The implementation cycle of the 14 and 15 (2006-2007) CSD sessions will focus on **atmosphere, climate change, energy, and industry development**, in addition to the cross-cutting issues.

All responses will be posted on the Division's website so that they can be widely shared, at: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/natinfo/natinfo.htm>.

Information that reaches the Bureau by the deadline of **1 June 2005** will be used to the maximum extent possible for the analytical reports of the Secretary-General to the CSD.

You may wish to submit your information to us through e-mail or by mailing the diskette to:

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Partnership with ENERGIA

I also wanted to inform you that the organization ENERGIA (International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy - <http://www.energia.org/>) is going to be very involved in the CSD-14/15, since the issues covered are in line with their expertise and areas of interest. ENERGIA suggested to have an active participation based on a collaborative strategy in the Women's caucus and would like to offer their services, capacity and expertise for backstopping support. They can provide technical advice on issues related to **atmosphere, climate change, energy, and industry development**.

This is a very good opportunity for the Women's caucus to strategize, strengthen and enforce their advocacy and lobby actions and activities around these sensitive topics.