

Ode to Kofi Annan

By June Zeitlin, Executive Director

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

Ten years ago, Kofi Annan was named SG
You made it clear you stood for gender equality
Women's rights groups rallied to your side
We hoped gender parity would be your ride.

It was a roller coaster—up and down we rode
Security Council Resolution 1325 was a heavy load
Peacekeeping requires recognizing women's key role
For in war and conflict women bear a heavy toll.

The MDGs collapsed the world conference lore
Rio, Vienna, Cairo, Beijing, Copenhagen and more-
In each, we fought for women's rights and gender equality
but only ended up with MDG #3.

That alone was not enough
Women around the world hung really tough
In the Summit last year we got much more
And now violence against women and reproductive health are part of the
score.

Women also celebrated Beijing 10 last year
And held the line against the U.S.—don't fear
We showed the world women will not go back
No matter how high the odds are stacked.

Now your term as SG is coming to an end
And we want to wish you and Nane a warm send (off)
We are very pleased with the proposed new, stronger agency for gender
equality
Its adoption next year will be your lasting legacy.