

Working Group on Girls of the NGO Committee on UNICEF
Suggested Amendments to the Draft presented by the Bureau of the CSW
Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-second session, 25 February – 7 March 2007
Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women

Please note:

- The **underlined headings** are added just to help organize the document and our discussion. We are not suggesting that they be added to the Outcome Document and will be removed before we circulate suggestion from the Caucus on girls.
- Suggested additions to the text are shown in ***bold italics***.
- Suggested deletions are ~~struck through~~.
- We have added “girls” throughout the document wherever it seemed appropriate because we believe that
 - The term “women” is not universally understood to include girls i.e. females less than 18 years of age.
 - Girls have particular experiences, needs, concerns which are most often overlooked if they are simply grouped either with women or children. Their rights and well being must be considered.
 - The well-being, concerns, equality and empowerment of girls are of proper concern to the Commission on the Status of Women because they are included in the Beijing Platform for Action (see Section L).

Some Questions for further consideration:

- Should we add something about—encouraging national ministries and UN entities working on women’s issues and those comparable entities working on children’s issues to talk to each other about girls?
- Do mechanisms for the advancement of women include girls?
- Should we add a piece about life cycle to the background section of the document?

Background and Rationale

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which emphasized the need for political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women ***and girls*** and that funding had to be identified and mobilized from all sources and across all sectors to achieve the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women ***and girls*** (**Based on Platform for Action, para. 345**) and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which called upon Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption, and execution of all budgetary processes, as appropriate, in order to promote equitable and effective resource allocation and establish adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women’s empowerment. (**Resolution S-23/3, annex, para 73 (b)**)

2. The Commission acknowledges that national machineries are necessary for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action; and that for national machineries to be effective, clear mandates, location at the highest possible level, accountability mechanisms, partnership with civil society, a transparent political process, adequate financial and human resources and continued strong political commitment are crucial. (**CSW Agreed conclusions 1999/II, para. 4**)

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3. The Commission recalls that the Platform for Action recognized the roles of United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the promotion of the empowerment of women *and girls*, and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action within their respective mandates, and noted that the resources provided by the international community needed to be sufficient and should be maintained at an adequate level. **(Based on Platform for Action, para. 360)**

The Commission reaffirms the call of the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women to all States and the international community, including the United Nations system, and its invitation to international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to mobilize and allocate all necessary resources, support and efforts, including at the international level, to realize the goals, strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Platform for Action with regard to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child and the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as other relevant commitments. (Based on Agreed Conclusion CSW 51 see E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9, para. 16)

4. The Commission recognizes the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. **(Based on ECOSOC 2006/9)**

5. The Commission recalls the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol, *as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Based on CRC Part 1 Article 2)* and draws attention to the work of the *respective* Committees towards the practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men *of all ages*. **(Based on CEDAW article 2 (a))**

6. The Commission recalls the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development in 2002, which emphasized the importance of a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development – sustainable, gender-sensitive, people-centred development. **(Based on A/CONF.198/11, chapter 1, resolution 1, annex, paragraph 8)**

7. The Commission also recalls the 2005 World Summit, which reaffirmed that the full and effective implementation of the goals and objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly is an essential contribution to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. **(A/RES/60/1, para. 58)**

8. The Commission reaffirms the declaration adopted on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which stressed that challenges and obstacles remained in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and pledged to undertake further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation. **(Based on para. 2 of the CSW Declaration see ECOSOC decision 2005/232 contained in document E/2005/99)**

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9. The Commission is concerned that, despite a growing body of evidence demonstrating that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, and despite the calls for gender mainstreaming in economic and public finance processes, adequate resources have not been systematically allocated, and that monitoring and reporting on resource allocations remain insufficient in all areas. **(Based on E/CN.6/2008/2, paras. 14, 83 and 87)**

10. The Commission is also concerned that insufficient budgetary resources continue to undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of both national mechanisms for the advancement of women *and girls* and women's organizations *and organizations working with or for girls* in advocating for, supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 86)**

Recommendations Begin Here

11. The Commission urges Governments, the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, including the private sector, as appropriate, to take the following actions:

Mandates of National Machineries for the Advancement of Women

a. Strengthen the mandates of national machineries for the advancement of women, and ensure that they are adequately resourced to carry out their critical mandates in advocating for, supporting and monitoring the incorporation of gender perspectives in all policy areas and the implementation of gender equality plans and programmes; **(E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (f))**

Strengthen Dialogue so as to Incorporate Gender Perspective

b. Strengthen the dialogue between ministries of finance and planning and national mechanisms for the advancement of women, gender focal points in line ministries and women's organizations *and organizations working with or for girls* to ensure the incorporation of gender perspectives into all economic policies, plans and budgets; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(f))**

Prioritize Gender Equality in All Economic Policies

c. Ensure that gender equality is prioritized as a central goal in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all national economic policies, strategies and plans, across all policy areas, including in national development strategies and poverty reduction strategies, and encourage the active participation of national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's *and organizations working with or for girls* in the design and development of such policies, strategies and plans; **(E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (c))**

d. Cost and fully resource national gender equality policies, strategies and plans and ensure that they are incorporated into overall national development strategies and reflected in relevant sector plans and budgets; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (e))**

Invest in Girls

Give explicit attention to the girl child in budget processes at all levels, including resource allocation and expenditure reviews, to ensure the mobilization of sufficient resources for

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the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against girls.” (Agreed Conclusion CSW 51 see E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9, para.13 (l)).

Invest Education and Training

Allocate sufficient resources in order to strengthen the capacity to provide equal access to education and to monitor progress in closing the gap between girls and boys and women and men in education, training and research, and in levels of achievement in all fields, particularly basic education and literacy programmes. (Based on Agreed Conclusions of CSW 51 E/2007/27 E/CN.6/2007/9 para.14.2 (o))

Invest in Health

Allocate sufficient resources to ensure that women’s health is a priority in national budgets so that from infancy on, the society is committed to nurturing and providing services girls need to thrive. (Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 2)

Invest in Combating Violence

Allocate sufficient resources in order to strengthen the capacity to eradicate all forms of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation of women and girls. (Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19, 1)

Invest in Conflict Prevention and Peace Building

Allocate sufficient resources to conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peace building processes so that gender perspectives are addressed. In addition, ensure the inclusion of flexible and long-term resources for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration programs for girls affected by armed forces and groups to ensure a successful reintegration into their communities.

Invest in Infrastructure

Increasing public expenditures in infrastructure, such as roads and water supply, can reduce women’s and girls’ time burdens and enable women to participate in the paid labour force and girls to attend education and training programmes. (Based on E/CN.6/2008/2 para. 22)

Disaggregated Data

e. Improve ~~sex~~ *the collection of data* disaggregated data collection *by age and sex (Based on Agreed Conclusions CSW 51 see E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9, para.14.16)* and develop performance indicators to measure progress in financing gender equality and empowerment of women *and girls* at national level; (E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 90 (h))

Capacity Building

f. Allocate resources for capacity-building in gender mainstreaming within finance and relevant line ministries, to ensure that domestic resource mobilization and allocation is carried out in a gender-sensitive manner; (E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(g))

Gender Analysis

g. Undertake and disseminate gender analysis of macroeconomic policies, including taxation, public expenditure, investment and finances; (E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(b))

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Public Finance Management

h. Develop methodologies and tools to systematically incorporate a gender perspective into results-based public finance management, including through analysis of both revenues and expenditures, as well as into tools developed to monitor and evaluate public financial management systems; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(c))**

Asses Gender Impact of Revenue Raising

i. Assess the gender impacts of revenue raising measures, including user fees as well as the taxation structure and composition, and develop mechanisms to ensure gender-sensitive revenue raising; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(d))**

Link Allocation of Resources to Gender Equality

j. Initiate transparent expenditure reviews, with the participation of civil society, which link the allocation of resources to overall development goals, including gender equality, and evaluate impacts on the poor, in particular women *and girls*; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(e))**

Trade

k. Incorporate gender perspectives in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of trade policies, and facilitate the active participation of women decision-makers and women's *and girls'* organizations in national, regional and international trade decision-making structures and processes; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(i))**

Labor and Human Trafficking

l. Carry out gender-sensitive assessments of labour laws and standards, with particular attention to export processing zones, and establish policies and guidelines for the employment practices of foreign investors, including global corporations, building on existing agreed multilateral instruments, including the International Labour Organization conventions (E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(j)) *and the provisions of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. (Based on Agreed Conclusions CSW 51 see E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9, para. 13(b))*

Micro-Finance

m. Take measures to develop and implement gender-sensitive programmes aimed at stimulating women's entrepreneurship and private initiative and assist women-owned business in participating in and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and investment; **(CSW Agreed Conclusions 2002/5/A, para. 5(w))**

Development Assistance--ODA

n. Increase the share of development assistance specifically targeting gender equality and women's *and girls'* empowerment, through both gender mainstreaming and targeted activities, and strengthen mechanisms to effectively measure resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all areas of development assistance; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(l))**

Debt

o. Eliminate conditionalities in debt relief initiatives and debt financing measures that lead to the perpetuation or exacerbation of gender inequalities, and earmark resources released by

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debt relief to address specific targets and benchmarks agreed upon in the Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(k))**

IFIs

p. Ensure that international financial institutions take gender perspectives into account in loan approvals, debt servicing and debt relief, in compliance with commitments to gender equality; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(n))**

New ODA Modalities

q. Take measures to incorporate gender perspectives in new aid modalities and efforts to enhance delivery mechanisms, including through the Development Cooperation Forum; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(m))**

UN System Reform

r. Increase resources for gender equality work throughout the United Nations system, including for gender mainstreaming **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(q))** and for the interagency work on gender equality to enhance coherence and coordination; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(r))**

s. Develop a more coherent and transparent system for tracking financial resources across the United Nations system, including on gender mainstreaming, and institute systematic reporting on resources invested; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(p))**

t. Ensure that resource allocation is incorporated in all evaluations and audits of United Nations entities' implementation of gender equality policies and programmes; **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(o))**

Funding for NGOs

u. Ensure that direct funding goes to women's organizations *and organizations working with or for girls* to advance their autonomy and sustainability, and increase support for women's funds which provide small grants to women's initiatives **(E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(s))** *and to girls' programmes.*

CEDAW

12. The Commission encourages the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to:

a. Include in its lists of issues and questions prepared as part of the consideration of States parties' reports explicit requests for information on resources allocated for gender equality; **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 91 (b))**

b. Invite States parties to include information on resources allocated to the practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/5, para. 91 (a) and CEDAW article 2(a))** *and girls and boys.*

CRC

The Commission encourages the Committee on the Rights of the Child to:

a. Include in its list of issues and questions prepared as part of the consideration of States parties' reports explicit requests for information on resource allocation for gender

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equality; (Based on Agreed Conclusions of CSW 51, see E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9, para. 15).

b. Invite States parties to include information on resources allocated to the practical realization of the principle of equality between girls and boys. (Based on Agreed Conclusions of CSW 51, see E/2007/27-E/CN.6/2007/9, para. 15 and CRC articles 2 and 4).

13. The Commission requests Member States, with a view to strengthening financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women *and girls*, to fully incorporate gender perspectives in the preparations for and outcome of the “Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus”, and to fully reflect these Agreed Conclusions therein. **(Based on E.CN.6/2008/2, para. 88(a))**

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