

Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-second session, 25 February – 7 March 2008
DRAFT Agreed Conclusions
Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women
8 March 2008

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 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 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 policies and budgetary processes, as appropriate, in order to promote equitable, effective and appropriate resource allocation and establish adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment. **AGREED AD REF**

2. 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. **AGREED AD REF**

3. The Commission recalls the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey in 2002, which affirms inter alia, that a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development - sustainable, gender-sensitive, people-centered development - in all parts of the globe is essential. **AGREED AD REF**

4. The Commission also recalls the 2005 World Summit, and reaffirms that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the International Conference on Population and Development and other United Nations summits and relevant Conferences are essential contributions to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular, on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. **AGREED AD REF**

5. The Commission reaffirms the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and takes note of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women towards the practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men and girls and boys. **AGREED AD REF**

6. The Commission also reaffirms that states have primary responsibility for

promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that gender mainstreaming and national machineries are necessary and play a critical role in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and that for national machineries to be effective, a strong institutional framework with 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. **AGREED AD REF**

7. The Commission recalls that the Platform for Action recognizes that its implementation requires adequate financial resources committed at the national and international level, and that strengthening national capacities in developing countries in this regard requires striving for the fulfillment of the agreed targets of overall official development assistance from developed countries as soon as possible. The Commission also recognizes the importance of the full utilization of all sources of development finance. **AGREED AD REF**

8. The Commission also recognizes the importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality and to that end the need to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, and to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender. **AGREED AD REF**

9. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential to advance development, peace and security, and stresses that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and development. **AGREED AD REF**

10. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, and reaffirms as well the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, to contribute to and to enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. **AGREED AD REF**

11. The Commission notes the growing body of evidence which demonstrates that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth, and that increasing women's economic empowerment is central to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to poverty eradication and recognizes that adequate resources need to be allocated at all levels, mechanisms and capacities strengthened and gender-responsive policies enhanced to fully utilize the multiplier effect. **AGREED AD REF**

12. The Commission further reaffirms the goals aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality, combating HIV/AIDS and improving maternal health by 2015 as contained in the Millennium Development Goals, and reaffirms the goal to achieve universal access to reproductive health as set out in the International Conference on Population and

Development, which are critical to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. **AGREED AD REF**

13. The Commission recalls the recognition by the Platform for Action, of the role of the United Nations, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in particular the special roles of UNIFEM and INSTRAW, within their respective mandates, as well as recognizes the role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women as part of the United Nations system in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action. **AGREED AD REF**

14. The Commission further recalls that the Bretton Woods Institutions, other financial institutions, and the private sector also have an important role to play in ensuring that financing for development promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. **AGREED AD REF**

15. 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. **AGREED AD REF**

16. The Commission is concerned that insufficient political commitment and budgetary resources pose obstacles to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and continue to undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of both national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's organizations in advocating for, implementing, supporting and monitoring the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. **AGREED AD REF**

17. The Commission is concerned about the growing feminization of poverty, and reiterates that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, including the least developed countries. In this regard, the Commission stresses that achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals is a global effort that requires investing sufficient resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. **AGREED AD REF**

18. The Commission remains concerned about the lingering negative consequences, including for women, of structural adjustment programmes, stemming from inappropriate design and application. **AGREED AD REF**

19. The Commission expresses its concern at the under-resourcing in the area of gender equality in the United Nations system, including UNIFEM and INSTRAW, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, and stresses the need for more effective tracking of resources allocated to and spent on enhancing gender equality and the

empowerment of women across the United Nations system, including on gender mainstreaming. **AGREED AD REF**

20. The Commission states that the global commitments for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women since the Fourth World Conference on Women, including through the Monterrey Consensus, have yet to be fully implemented. **AGREED AD REF**

21. The Commission urges Governments and/or, as appropriate, the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, bearing in mind national priorities, to take the following actions: **AGREED AD REF**

a. Increase the investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the diversity of needs and circumstances of women and girls, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective in resource allocation and ensuring the necessary human, financial, and material resources for specific and targeted activities to ensure gender equality at the local, national, regional and international levels as well as by enhanced and increased international cooperation; **AGREED AD REF**

b. Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for activities targeting the elimination of persistent obstacles to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action; **AGREED AD REF**

c. Design and strengthen poverty eradication strategies, with the full and effective participation of women, that reduce the feminization of poverty and enhance the capacity of women and empower them to meet the negative social and economic impacts of globalization; **AGREED AD REF**

d. Create an environment where women and girls can fully share the benefits from the opportunities offered by globalization; **AGREED AD REF**

e. Integrate a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of all national economic policies, strategies and plans, in a coordinated manner across all policy areas, including in national development, social protection and poverty reduction strategies, and involve national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's organizations in the design and development of such policies, strategies and plans with the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women; **AGREED AD REF**

f. Incorporate gender perspectives into all economic policy-making and increase participation of women in economic governance structures and processes to ensure policy coherence and adequate resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women; **AGREED AD REF**

g. Give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries, including least developed countries, to ensure the full and effective participation of women in deciding

and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development in support of the efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women; **AGREED AD REF**

h. Remove barriers and allocate adequate resources to enable the full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making and in administrative entities, in particular those responsible for economic and public finance policies, so as to guarantee the full and equal participation of women in the formulation of all plans, programmes and policies; **AGREED AD REF**

i. Strengthen the capacities and mandates of institutional frameworks and accountability mechanisms, including of national machineries for the advancement of women, and ensure that they are continuously and adequately resourced and given the necessary authority to carry out their critical role in advocating for, supporting, monitoring and evaluating the integration of gender perspectives in all policy areas and the implementation of gender equality plans, programmes and legislation; **AGREED AD REF**

j. Strengthen a coordinated and institutionalized dialogue between national mechanisms for the advancement of women, relevant governmental agencies and entities, including ministries of finance and planning, and their gender focal points, and women's organizations, to ensure the integration of gender perspectives into all national development policies, plans and budgets; **AGREED AD REF**

k. Cost and adequately resource national policies, programmes, strategies and plans for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the gender mainstreaming and affirmative action strategies, and ensure that they are incorporated into overall national development strategies and reflected in relevant sector plans and budgets to achieve international and regional commitments for gender equality, including Millennium Development Goal 3; **AGREED AD REF**

l. Allocate resources for capacity development in gender mainstreaming in all ministries and particularly within national women's machineries and finance ministries, and, as appropriate, local authorities, to ensure that domestic resource mobilization and allocation is carried out in a gender-responsive manner, and reinforce national efforts in capacity-building in social and gender budget policies; **AGREED AD REF**

m. Improve, systematize and fund the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated and gender-related data, including disaggregated by age and other factors, and on women's contribution to the care economy, and develop necessary input, output and outcome indicators at all levels to measure progress in financing gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular, in introducing and implementing gender-responsive approaches to public finance; **AGREED AD REF**

n. Undertake and disseminate gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy, and support

and facilitate research in these areas, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action and with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women, as well as to assess their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services; **AGREED AD REF**

o. Carry out gender-sensitive analysis of revenues and expenditures in all policy areas, take into account the review and evaluation results in budget planning, allocation, and revenue-raising, so as to enhance the contribution of government expenditures to accelerating the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; **AGREED AD REF**

p. Develop and implement, where appropriate, methodologies and tools, including national indicators, for gender-responsive planning and budgeting, in order to systematically incorporate gender perspectives into budgetary policies at all levels, with a view to promoting gender equality in all policy areas; **AGREED AD REF**

q. Urges developed countries that have not yet done so in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets, *inter alia*, to assist them in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women; **AGREED AD REF**

r. Ensure the effective and equitable participation of developing countries in the formulation of financial standards and codes, with a view to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women; **AGREED AD REF**

s. Strengthen focus and impact of development assistance specifically targeting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in line with national development priorities through both gender mainstreaming and funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue on these issues between donors and developing countries, and strengthen mechanisms to effectively measure resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all sectors and thematic areas of development assistance; **AGREED AD REF**

t. Encourage the integration of gender perspectives in aid modalities and efforts to enhance aid delivery mechanisms; **AGREED AD REF**

u. Identify and implement development-oriented and durable solutions which integrate a gender perspective to external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least developed countries, *inter alia*, through debt relief, including the option of official development assistance debt cancellation, in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women; **AGREED AD REF**

v. Encourage international financial institutions to continue to take gender perspectives into account in the design of loans, grants, projects, programmes and strategies; **AGREED AD REF**

w. Identify and address the differential impact of trade policies on women and men and incorporate gender perspectives in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of trade policies, develop strategies to expand trade opportunities for women producers, and facilitate the active participation of women in national, regional and international trade decision-making structures and processes; **AGREED AD REF**

x. Undertake gender-sensitive assessments of national labour laws, policies and programmes, and establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including those of transnational corporations, building on appropriate multilateral instruments, including the ILO Conventions; **AGREED AD REF**

y. Allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace including unequal access to labour market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men; **AGREED AD REF**

z. Establish and fund active labour market policies devoted to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women in all international and national development and poverty eradication strategies, the creation of more and better jobs for women, both urban and rural, and their inclusion in social protection and social dialogue; **AGREED AD REF**

aa. Take measures to develop, finance, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-responsive policies and programmes aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship and private initiative, including through microfinance, microcredit and cooperatives, and assist women-owned businesses in participating in and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and transfer, investment, as well as knowledge and skills training; **AGREED AD REF**

bb. Fully maximize the role of, as well as ensure access to, microfinance tools, including microcredit for poverty eradication, generation of employment and especially for the empowerment of women, encourage the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions, and ensure that best practices are widely disseminated; **AGREED AD REF**

cc. Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the rights to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; **AGREED AD REF**

dd. Take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and increase their access to and control over bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women; support women's

access to legal assistance; encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in their policies and programmes; ensure women's full and equal access to training and productive resources and social protection; and facilitate equal access of women, particularly women in developing and least developed countries, to markets at all levels; **AGREED AD REF**

ee. Strengthen education, health, and social services and effectively utilize resources to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and ensure women's and girls' rights to education at all levels and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible health care and services, particularly primary healthcare; **AGREED AD REF**

ff. Address the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and taking into account that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are most easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they have become more vulnerable to violence, stigma and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis and, in this regard, scale up significantly towards the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010, and to ensure these efforts integrate and promote gender equality; **AGREED AD REF**

gg. Ensure adequate financing for women's full, equal and effective participation at all levels in conflict prevention, management, conflict resolution, peace negotiations and peacebuilding, including adequate national and international funding to ensure proper access to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and other relevant programmes, for women and girls; **AGREED AD REF**

hh. Reduce excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, so as to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, including, inter alia, for gender equality and the advancement of women; **AGREED AD REF**

ii. Ensure adequate resources are allocated for activities targeting persistent serious obstacles to the advancement of women in situations of armed conflicts and conflicts of other types, wars of aggression, foreign occupation, colonial or other alien domination, as well as terrorism; **AGREED AD REF**

jj. Integrate a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national environmental policies, strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels of environmental issues, and in particular strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls; **AGREED AD REF**

kk. Strengthen coordination, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women,

including through more effective mainstreaming in all aspects and enhancing its capacity to effectively assist States, upon their request, in implementing their programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and, to that end, make adequate and reliable human and financial resources available; **AGREED AD REF**

ll. Create and enhance a supportive environment for the mobilization of resources by non-governmental organizations, particularly women's organizations and networks, to enable them to increase their effectiveness and to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through assisting in the implementation of the Platform for Action and participating in policy processes and programme delivery; **AGREED AD REF**

mm. Provide assistance to States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, upon their request, to support the implementation of States parties' obligations under the Convention. **AGREED AD REF**

22. The Commission invites the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to continue to give, while exercising its mandated functions, due consideration to financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women in its work. **AGREED AD REF**

23. The Commission requests Member States, with a view to strengthening financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, to integrate 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", to be held in Qatar in 2008. **AGREED AD REF**