

The **March 2004 CSW** and Beijing+10

This March, the UN Commission on the Status of Women (1 -12 March 2004) will make decisions on the format for a Beijing+10 review to take place next March 2005 at the 49th CSW. According to the Chair of the CSW Bureau, they seek a brief document, without too many specifics, that would mandate DAW to provide the framework for that event. There is some suggestion of a negotiated outcome document, or political statement, which many women's NGOs have opposed. Thus, our input over the next two weeks will be important.

At the same time, official regional reviews have already begun (Caribbean), and some will involve negotiations. We are also watching the regional reviews of Cairo+10 to get a sense of the regional dynamics. Both in ICPD+10 regional events and B+10 regional events there will be strong pressure to "negotiate" in order to roll back gains, particularly on reproductive rights and on sexual rights. In informal conversations with the Bureau of the CSW, which has been seeking NGO input on what a Beijing+10 process might look like, a group of New York-based NGOs affirmed the growing consensus that emerged from discussions last year-- that in principle, there should be no new negotiations. This seems to be the position of the Bureau, but not of all member states. If you agree, it is important that you **find out the position of your government, if it sits on the CSW, and lobby this week for no new negotiations.** This discussion is slated to begin on the CSW calendar on Thursday, March 4. To date, in informals, governments have been reticent to take a position publicly.

NGOs who gather next week at the UN in New York will need to act quickly to develop positions regarding the formal review process in 2005. In addition, a discussion of the DAW report on "Reform of the CSW" will take place at the CSW this year.

We welcome suggestions on the formal outcome of the Beijing+10 review by women's organizations who cannot be in New York for the 2004 CSW, which begins March 1, 2004.

Groups meeting in New York in February, 2004, including Amnesty International, the Center for Women's Global Leadership, CONGO-CSW Committee, IGLHC, the International Women's Health Coalition, the International Women's Tribune Centre, WEDO and WICEJ, suggested the following potential recommendations to the CSW regarding Beijing+10, to be further discussed among NGOs at the CSW:

- Seek formal links between Beijing+10 and Millennium Declaration +5 Reviews, not only in the CSW but throughout the UN System
- Continue to urge no negotiated text.
- Have a strong DAW report on obstacles and best practices drawn from the DAW questionnaire as content for discussion but not negotiation.
- Support the idea floated by DAW, of an FFD-like format of high-level roundtable discussions that include civil society. The only outcome document would then be a Chair's summary report.
- Support DAW's suggestion of a big celebratory event on International Women's Day 2005 (30 years since Mexico). Consider 2005 a review of

progress and blocks to women's equality and equity over the past 30 years, not just since Beijing.

DAW circulated a national assessment questionnaire on progress and constraints to all member states near the end of 2003. CONGO's NGO-CSW committee will again be compiling national shadow reports, due in Sept. 2004. They urged women's groups to submit national shadow reports.

There will be several opportunities for NGOs to discuss these issues during the CSW. For those who will not be in New York, please send your insights to share. For those coming to New York, meetings will include:

- Linkage Caucus meetings (Tues and Thurs. each week)
- 2 March, CSW Plenary: High level panel on "*Gaps and challenges in measuring progress in implementation in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the 23 special session, by the CSW at its 49th session in 2005.*"
- 5 March, CONGO CSW-NGO committee interactive dialogue on B+10, MDG+5, and WCW5 (9 - 1:00, a CSW bureau member will participate in first hour).
- 6 March-- Day long discussion, sponsored by CONGO CSW-NGO committee, on B+10, MDG+5, and WCW5
- There may also be meetings with members of the CSW Bureau, and with UN staff working on the Millennium Declaration review.

There are likely to be discussions, led by CONGO, about what kind of a global NGO structure can be put together to facilitate sharing of information and shared decision-making around the B+10 process. For B+5 this was housed at CONGO, with reps from all regions.

For a copy of the draft prepared by DAW for CSW discussion on Beijing+10 see: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw48/CRP2-Backgndpaper.PDF>

For details on NGO activities to be held during the CSW see: <http://www.peacewomen.org/un/ecosoc/CSW/CSW2004.html>

We share this information with you in hopes of broadening the discussions, strategizing across regions, and building greater consensus about how to proceed over the coming months. Please be in touch with other regional groups, groups listed in the above conversations, or with us, to share concrete suggestions.

Thank you!

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(These three women agreed to circulate notes after the World Social Forum meeting on Beijing+10. We decided to also include other discussions currently taking place on the issue.)