

**CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE BEIJING + 5  
(May 15-16, 1999, Bucharest)**

**NGO ALTERNATIVE NATIONAL REPORTS**

It was agreed that an alternative NGO national report would be based on the DAW's questionnaire completed by government officials. The alternative report will consist of NGO's comments and opinions on the government responses (NOTE: the NGOs are not supposed to collect new data, but only use the material collected by the government, and eventually, make expertise for their alternative report). It will also include the NGOs recommendations for the government to make new commitments to further actions, eventually leading to the identification of new and emerging trends. The following countries have assumed the responsibility to prepare alternative reports: Albania, Czech Rep. (confirmed by e-mail), Moldavia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, and Slovakia. Bulgaria will complete an alternative report if it receives a completed questionnaire from its government. Macedonia will make its decision after consultation with other NGOs. Hungary was absent during the last session, when the decisions were made. NOTE: The deadline for sending the NGO alternative national reports to regional coordinator with the recommendations is 30 SEPTEMBER 1999.

(Poland gave an example of how it is going to proceed in elaborating its alternative national report. The questionnaire completed by the government will be sent to over 200 Polish women's organizations accompanied with a short questionnaire asking for the most important recommendations to the government. The NGO alternative report will be written on the basis of these opinions).

**CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPE NGO ALTERNATIVE SUB-REGIONAL REPORT**

It was decided that the KARAT Coalition would produce only the SUB-REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS with their short descriptions. These recommendations will be a part of European NGO alternative regional report (Western European report will be completed by the European Women's Lobby). (The European regional alternative report will be part of the NGO Global Alternative Report).

REQUEST: each KARAT Coalition country-member is requested to send their RECOMMENDATIONS. The deadline is also SEPTEMBER 30, 1999 (those countries which write the NGO alternative report will include the recommendations within that report). It was proposed to organize The following people presented themselves as the editorial staff: Kinga Lohmann (Poland), Cecilia Preda (Romania), Jeta Katro Beluli (Albania), Zuzana Jezerska (Slovakia), Aleksandra Solik (Poland). Elizabeth Szabo (Hungary) and Ewa Charkiewicz (Poland) (presented herself by e-mail). (REQUEST: please let us know if you are interested in joining the editorial team).

**CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPEAN WEB SITE: BEIJING+5**

The KARAT Coalition web site on our sub-regional preparations for Beijing + 5 will be linked with the Beijing + 5 sections of the following Regional Web sites:

1. Africa,
2. Asia and Pacific,
3. Latin America and Caribbean,
4. Western Asia,
5. Europe,
6. North America.

Lin Pugh (one of the panelists) - from the International Information Center - presented a global communications network for NGOs - preparations for Beijing+5. (This project is going to be implemented soon). The KARAT Coalition web site will contain the alternative NGO

national reports and sub-regional recommendations from Central and Eastern Europe, national campaigns related to preparation process to Beijing+5, etc.

### **THE SITUATION OF THE WOMEN IN THE BALKANS CONFLICT AREA**

It was agreed that the armed conflict in the Balkans is one of the most burning questions calling for resolution, and has to be included in the recommendations from our sub-region prepared for General Assembly Beijing + 5 Special Session.

Two important outcomes of the session were: First: the official statement of the KARAT Coalition Conference on Central - Eastern European Preparatory Meeting for the Beijing + 5 Reviewing Process in Bucharest:

We, the participants from the Central - Eastern European Region, as members of the KARAT Coalition for Regional Action, in the face of the new millennium, believe in the right of people to live in peace. In monitoring the Beijing Platform for Action for the advancement of women we recognize that the emerging priorities related to our region are:

1. The necessity to stop violence immediately and strengthen the global decisive role of the United Nations.
2. Equal participation of women in the peace making process.
3. Equal involvement of women in power and decision making processes.

The statement was also signed by some of the invited guests from Croatia, Germany, Moldova, and Romania; others from Western Europe and America promised to promote the statement in their countries. (For example: the UK stated that it would transmit it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Second: Recommendations concerning women in armed conflicts for the Beijing + 5 Special UN Session can't be agreed upon without the main "actors" - women who suffer from the war. It was decided to organize a meeting (in Budapest) and invite women's NGOs from all the former republics of Yugoslavia: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rep. Serbska and Federation of Croatian and Bosnian), Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia (Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo), and other neighbouring countries. The conference has to take place as soon as possible. Two scenarios of the conference will be prepared: first - if it is held during the armed conflict, second - if it is held after. The KARAT Coalition will have to raise funds for this purpose.

### **NEW COUNTRY MEMBER OF KARAT COALITION**

Valentina Bodrug-Lungu from the Gender Centre of Chisinau State University in Moldova participated in the Bucharest meeting expressed the interest of women's NGOs in Moldova of becoming a KARAT Coalition member and being involved in the sub-regional preparations for the Beijing+5 session. It was unanimously agreed upon that Moldova should be a KARAT member. Ms. Bodrug-Lungu is the contact person for Moldova.

### **KARAT COALITION REGIONAL MAGAZINE**

The publishing and marketing of a quarterly gender and development magazine over the period of one-year (four issues) will be undertaken within the framework of the KARAT Coalition. The Women's Alliance for Development of Bulgaria will implement the project. Representatives of each of KARAT's member countries agreed to the new project in Bucharest, which already has the approval of KARAT members in New York.