

Summary of the report

Beijing + 10 Strategy Meeting for CEE/CIS Warsaw, 3 October 2004

1. Overview and Introduction

A consultative meeting of CEE/CIS women's activists took place around the upcoming Ten Year review of progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action adopted at the World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995). The meeting was organized by Karat Coalition and supported by UNIFEM.

Participants included representatives from regional networks: Karat Coalition, ASTRA network for women's reproductive health and rights, the Women's Network of the Open Society Institute, NGOs, as well as experts on key issues of relevance and concern to women in the region, including trafficking and gender and economics. Selection of participants was based on their experience and participation in the Beijing process.

The main goal of the meeting was to unify regional activities that are connected to Beijing + Ten, as well as to have members inform the group about each other's activities in order to maximize contributions and not duplicate or waste resources.

The topics covered during the meeting included: Situation assessment; CEE-CIS priorities for the Beijing + 10 process including the strategic entry points, priority next steps on three themes and emerging issues for Geneva meeting in December; Resources and resource mobilization / fund-raising for selected priority Beijing + 10 activities.

Desired outputs cover five areas which fit together, agreed to by participants:

1. Plan of action for B+10 and follow up - concrete strategies that are divided and coordinated with clear roles and responsibilities
2. Better networking and voice.
3. Visibility and effectiveness
4. Common strategic priorities
5. New thinking, new framework, message that will carry on through another 10 years.

2. Voice and Core Messages

The group decided its primary interest was to establish a clear, strong voice to deliver the following core messages. The first three relate to mission, wider purpose and contribution. The middle three relate specifically on linking with the Beijing Plus Ten process and beyond. The last three relate to strategy for going forward:

Purpose and Contribution of CEE/CIS Women to Regional and Global Processes:

1. **Link with Women's Equality and Democratization in the Region:** The work of NGOs in the region is directly linked to wider work on civil society and democratization; the regional specificities present distinct challenges and opportunities with respect to addressing the two in parallel, and women's groups and networks strengthen and increase the capacity for democratization as they address capacity for gender equality;
2. **Gender Mainstreaming:** *Gender mainstreaming* as an approach of governments and development partners is characterized by inconsistencies. This is an entry point, particularly for networks of organizations and groups working on women's equality, and especially as civil society in partnership with the UN system and their Government partners;
3. **Cumulative Capacity to Contribute:** as groups and activists in the CEE/CIS region gain experience with the Beijing Plus Ten process, they are also gaining cumulative capacity to contribute meaningfully to that process, as well as to other international treaty and global processes that recognize the importance of gender equality - for example, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and reporting process.
Contributing to and Participating in the Beijing + Ten Process
4. **Participate in Geneva PREPCOM with a Strategy Linking to Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York:** for the Geneva Prepcom, the group wants to establish priority topics and decide on next stage interventions to follow through to the CSW in New York;
5. **Coordinate Strategies for Participation in CSW in New York** agenda and the continuing process, not only to have a presence at one event,
6. **Leverage the Process for Greater Government Compliance:** meeting participants agree on the importance of using the process to support monitoring and government compliance with binding international commitments;
Points for Moving Forward
7. **Common Strategy to Move Forward:** group members agree and as individuals, commit to the importance of common strategies to move forward;
8. **Link and Coordinate EU and UN Processes:** a lack of relationship between EU and UN processes (policy, legislation etc.) and donor fragmentation are having a negative and divisive effect on work for women's equality in the CEE/CIS region; the different groups and networks focusing on different aspects of this work can use their common voice effectively to support coordination and greater coherence between EU processes and existing and binding international treaty commitments, such as the Beijing + 10 process;
9. **Set and Maintain a Focus on Implementation.** The top strategic priority for all at the meeting is a focus on implementation -coordinated work to influence governments to implement National Plans of Action and agreements for social justice and gender equality. (This strategic point links to point 6, above, on leverage for greater government compliance. This illustrates how the nine agreed points do not stand alone, but link with and mutually support the others).

3. Highlights from Discussions

Discussion during the one-day meeting covered different aspects of people's experience linked to a strategy for Beijing + Ten. Highlights from discussion are in Annex 2, on pages (8-10) of the Report.

4. Working Group Report Back

In the working group discussions, groups outlined their **overall visions** for the region, which include the use of networks, greater collaboration and coordination between NGOs as well as UN agencies. Additionally, the groups reviewed **regional priorities** (e.g. legislation, VAW, gender mainstreaming etc.). In their reports the groups outlined two main sets of points important for follow-up - strategic entry points, and agreements about participation in the Geneva Prepcom for Beijing + Ten, both summarized here. **Strategic Entry Points.** The regional group will: contribute to the specific panels at the Geneva Forum; use best practices of previous participants of the Beijing process conferences (e.g. publications), - utilize other events in 2005 to look at Beijing + Ten, such as using the Beijing Platform for Action in electoral processes in the upcoming year.

Agreements about Actions Relating to the Geneva Prepcom. Main agreements are: to create/establish a preparatory body, representing the networks present as well as others; to encourage high level governmental representatives to participate in Geneva and NY meetings; to involve women from each country in the Beijing process; to organize a regional caucus; to participate in other caucus meetings as relevant to the regional priorities; to research contributions the group can make to the workshop programme already planned, and to explore the possibility of holding parallel workshops on specific priorities for women in the CEE/CIS region in the global process.

5. Next steps

CEE/CIS Alliance for B+10.

The group decided to develop CEE/CIS Alliance for B+10. As immediate follow up, the group would seek to mobilize support from broader constituencies and other NGOs and networks that did not participate in the meeting, with the specific aim of consolidating and developing a wider alliance. The overall purpose of the Alliance is to support coordination of NGO efforts towards ensuring that women from the region are strongly represented and contribute to the Beijing + Ten review process, and beyond. As a first priority, the aim is to ensure strategic representation of the region at the PrepCom in Geneva and to ensure that the priorities and concerns of CEE/CIS women are taken into full account. Coordinating contributions to sessions as well as organizing separate sessions such as the regional caucus and possibly separate workshops are key.

Working groups.

Two ongoing working groups were established to carry forward the decisions of the larger group - **Statement Working Group and Technical Working Group**. The principles for selection of members of these groups were that the process should be open, membership by voluntary and people volunteering be representative of the group:

Statement Working Group: *Jana Javornik, Edite Kalnina, Barbara Limanowska (resource person), Kinga Lohmann, Osnat Lubrani, Wanda Nowicka, Anastasia Posadzkaya-Vanderbeck, Michaela Marksova, Shorena Dzotsenidze.* This Task Force formed to initiate work on a draft of a joint statement that will be further developed by a CEE/CIS Alliance for Beijing +10, once it has been officially formed through a consultative process involving all sub-regions. The statement is meant to be finalized and endorsed at the NGO Forum in Geneva.

Technical Working Group: Dina Loghin, Kinga Lohmann, Osnat Lubrani (*checking on what is available*), Wanda Nowicka, Anastasia Posadzka-Vanderbeck This working group is responsible for the logistics associated with the participation of regional representation in the Geneva Prepcom. Its aim is to assure the participation of the speakers from CEE/CIS in the thematic workshops, organize the room for preparing the daily CEE/CIS caucuses, be in touch with other sub-regional representations in order to identify their strategies, and strategize with members of the Alliance how best to work together on the next stage of collaboration, leading up to effective representation of regional women's interests at the CSW meeting in New York.

A report of the meeting provides more detail. This is available on the KARAT Coalition website and has been circulated to all of the meeting participants.