



**The Regional Dialogue:**  
***Practicing the Promises: Gender equality and women's rights***  
***in the EU 'NMS' development cooperation.***  
**Warsaw, 12-13 May 2010**

**REPORT**

**Organised by:**

**KARAT Coalition and One World Action**



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## Introduction

The Regional Dialogue on women's rights in development cooperation organized by KARAT Coalition and One World Action was held on 12 -13 May in Warsaw, Poland.

The Regional Dialogue was attended by 35 participants from EU New Member States' NGOs interested/involved in the Development Cooperation including KARAT members (women's organizations) and collaborators in the project "Connect! East South West Women for development" from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Georgia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, UK, Ukraine and Zambia. Other participants included 3 resource persons (Georgia, Ukraine and Zambia), representative of DFID (Department for International Development – *UK governmental agency*), 3 representatives of Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), 2 representatives of OWA (UK) and 3 persons from KARAT's Secretariat (Poland).

The main aim of the Dialogue was to increase the capacity of women's organisations from New Member States (NMS) through learning, exchange of experiences, and networking to generate stronger collaboration between women from East, South and West on EU gender equality and development policy and practice.

The Regional Dialogue was organized within the framework of the joint OWA and KARAT project "*Building Support in New Member States for Gender-sensitive and -responsive European Development Co-operation*", with a short project title being: "Connect ! South/ East/ West Women for Development" supported by European Commission (EC), Batory Foundation and FILIA.

### **Session 1: Introduction to development cooperation, gender equality and women's rights in the international and EU contexts.**

#### **The objectives of the session:**

- Ensure common knowledge about development cooperation and women's rights on international level (terms, synergies, dynamic of changes, documents and commitments etc.)



- Explain the role of the EU in development cooperation (institutions, engagement, documents etc.)

Presentations by: Emily Esplen and Carolina Gottardo from One World Action (OWA).

### **Summary of the session:**

The capacity building was devoted to presenting the most important documents, instruments and strategies related to development cooperation and women's rights. The presentation also mapped challenges and areas for improvement and identified potential entry points for advocacy.

Emily Esplen, Women's Rights Coordinator from (OWA), explained why gender issues have to be central in development. She highlighted four most important links between gender and development: reducing poverty, human rights context, development effectiveness, and role of women as beneficiaries of development aid. She also briefly presented the core international documents and commitments on women's rights and development cooperation (The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA), Millennium Development Goals, Paris Declaration, Accra Agenda of Action (AAA)) and emphasized that evaluation of gender mainstreaming have consistently shown that mainstreaming is only effective when used in combination with targeted initiatives addressing the rights and needs of women and girls.

Carolina Gottardo, Head of Policy and Advocacy from OWA, presented the European context of the development cooperation from gender perspective. She focused on the EU policy on gender and development, especially the roadmap for gender equality between women and men 2006 – 2010 and the elements of EU development cooperation. She also highlighted the importance of integration gender approach into all EU policies.

The voices from the floor, among other issues, addressed the accountability of the UN documents to gender issues, as well as harmonization of the UN and EU documents and the national laws related to development cooperation (eg. Paris Declaration [UN document] and Neighbourhood Policy [EU document]). The speakers highlighted that the Paris Declaration does not take into consideration the perspective of civil society organizations'.



## **Session 2: Challenging development cooperation policies and practices from a women's rights perspective: Voices from the South, East and West**

### **The objectives of the session:**

- Ensure the common understanding of the concepts/terms "East", "South", "West", "ownership" from different perspectives (historical, geographical etc.)
- Present the examples of development cooperation and women's rights and its challenges and opportunities in Zambia, Ukraine and Georgia

### **Summary of the session:**

At the beginning Kinga Lohmann, executive director of KARAT Coalition, explored interpretations of the geographical East, South and West and clarified the meaning of the terms in the context of the session, highlighting that the term "CEE and CIS", the UN term, is no longer corresponding with actual situation in the Region.

Facilitated by Carolina Gottardo

Panelists: Lumba Siyanga (Women for Change, Zambia), Kateryna Levchenko (La Strada, Ukraine), Jilda Ebanoidze (Caucasus Development Group, Georgia).

The session focused on the panelists' involvement in the implementation of women's rights and development cooperation in their countries. The panelists underlined that even when their countries have ratified all the most important international documents and treaties such as CEDAW as well as equality laws the implementations of these documents and fulfillment of the commitments still leave much to be desired. All the panelists of the session emphasized the gap between policies and practices. Further, the lack of interests in gender and development issues demonstrated by decision makers (government, parliamentarians) and donors was pointed out as a problem in all the countries addressed in the panel. The panelists also emphasized that for their voice to be heard the NGOs and NDGOs in their countries need the support from international organizations, as well as the inclusion in international processes, especially to building their capacity. All the panelists had similar



reflections about the EU practice on development cooperation. They highlighted the importance of creation new and wide understanding of ownership between donors and recipients of development aid. Importantly all the panelists admitted that working on gender issues in developing countries is necessary to raising awareness on gender.

### **Session 3: From Brussels to NMS. What does EU development cooperation have in common with us?**

#### **The objectives of the session:**

- Present the implications of the EU Enlargement process to the New Members States and the civil society organizations with critical review of the status quo for today
- Review of the NMS development policy and practice and formulate the entry points for the women's organizations how to engage in the process

Presentations by: Dominik Kopiński, PhD from Institute of International Studies, University of Wrocław and Katarzyna Staszewska, independent consultant collaborating with KARAT.

#### **Summary of the session:**

The second capacity building session focused on impact of the enlargement of the EU on the development cooperation processes. Both speakers highlighted challenges faced by NMS after the enlargement of EU, strengthened by the fact that in the mid 90s some of the CEE countries changed their role in the development assistance process from aid recipient to donor. During the accession to EU the development cooperation was not the issue which was widely discussed on the political level. In both presentations pointed out that the NMS had lacked the understanding of expectations of the EU regarding the development cooperation, but on the other hand development cooperation was not the priority for the EU. The obligations of NMS regarding the development cooperation and goals that should be achieved till 2015 are: poverty reduction, institutional and legal architecture and the quantity of development assistance. In reality the NMS' policy frameworks and aid practices focus more on cross-cutting themes and on regional security rather than on poverty reduction, this is despite the fact that the general public finds the development cooperation as important. Another important difference between EU development policy and NMS' development agenda is their vision to engage and list of priorities (MDGs versus Eastern Partnership concept; support for Afghanistan).



There is also another difference between EU12 and NMS regarding the financial resources devoted to ODA which are limited due to overall budgetary constraints and weak political will. The most important conclusion emphasized by both of the speakers is that the dynamic of NMS and aid corresponds with NMS and gender (before gender blind the new ODA is expected to be engendered). In concluding remarks Katarzyna Staszewska emphasized that to create good gender and development agenda in NMS it is crucial to involve the civil society with women's organizations and NDGOs in the process. The question is how to promote the gender and development issues to donors and decision makers. The presented diagnosis of development cooperation from gender perspective in NMS are not positive, but the speakers saw the chances for changes. Examples from Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia show that the improvement on this field is possible, but in long-term process with building capacities in NMS. Both of the speakers admitted that the strategies and programmes are still in the process in NMS. This situation is an opportunity for the non-governmental bodies to real influence on development policy in each country. During the implementation process governmental bodies look for expertise and experts from various perspective. The implementation of the development aid program inclusive European standards is difficult to achieve without working with NGOs, NDGOs and academics. Speakers saw it as a challenge for NGOs and NDGOs to lobbying actively for including gender to development programs and also to confirm the position of non-governmental bodies in the process of implementation the European strategies.

#### **Session 4: Taking development cooperation and women's rights on board. Institutional and CSO perspective.**

##### **The objectives of the session:**

The session familiarized participants with gender mainstreaming in programmes as well as the organizational culture of the International Department for International Development (DFID). The second presentation by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland presented the reflections on the challenges and comparative advantages NMS countries are facing in EU development cooperation.



Presentations by: Simon Williams from Department of International Development (DFID) in UK and Katarzyna Czerniecka, head of programming unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (Polish MFA).

### **Summary of the session:**

The presentation of Simon Williams was focused on the challenges which faced DFID in UK in gender mainstreaming on the development cooperation field. Before 2007 the department decided to generate good gender equality outcomes throughout their country programmes. The DFID Gender Equality Action Plan was focused on 4 areas: results, resources, partnership and building for the future. Some of the good practices implemented by DFID are: more accurate and comprehensive systems measuring practice on gender equality, incentives for staff work on gender equality sustained by strong and constant leadership, international consensus and action promote gender equality in partnerships, civil society supported to promote voice and accountability for gender equality and increased competence of all DFID staff on gender equality. The key recommendations for the future from DFID were: review lessons learned and incorporate plan's goals and outputs to create new plan of action, strengthen the links between poverty reduction and gender through policy development and/or research work.

After the presentations there was long discussion with the participants. There was a huge interests in DFID strategy and many detailed questions regarding the definition of poverty, impact of DFID's work on international and national level and links between DFID and other actors in the process.

The session had the continuation on the second day of the dialogue when Katarzyna Czerniecka, head of programming unit in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (Polish MFA), presented the current state of affairs of building the potential of Polish Aid by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also the future prospects. The polish aid program consists of 5 crucial points: development cooperation projects, humanitarian assistance, development education initiatives, voluntary service and awareness raising activities. Priority countries for Polish aid are: Afghanistan, Angola, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Palestinian Autonomy, Ukraine. Katarzyna Czerniecka gave the picture of current state of Polish aid programme and presented the challenges that Polish MFA are facing. From the NGOs perspective the most important challenges are the transparency of ODA finance, especially the funds for bilateral ODA and consultations with NGOs on the field of reporting





and expertise. The representative of Polish MFA has observed the lack of country programming, especially on gender in development and admitted that the projects supported by Polish MFA have never been focused on gender equality. The gender criteria are not considered as a crucial one in MFA calls for proposal, but the gender issues also seem not essential for development organizations. The presentation sounded promising in relation to building capacities not only of MFA staff, but also building capacities among women's NGOs and NDGOs.

The discussion with the participants of the Regional Dialogue was very interesting, especially that the representatives of other NMS were asking about and comparing Polish aid programme with their national strategies and policies. The questions about the implementation the Paris Declaration and other core documents on development aid remain without reply due to the nature of Ministers competence in this relation.

The representative of Polish MFA saw the possibilities of cooperation with women's movement and organizations, because there is lack of gender experts on development. In response KARAT Coalition offered the regional knowledge and experience regarding gender and development issues. The gender experts are needed not only during the funding selection process, but also in the training process of the Polish diplomats and ministry representatives. Because gender is horizontal issue and without gender aspect the effectiveness of development aid is questionable.

### **Session 5: Advancing women's rights: Cases from the South and East.**

#### **The objectives of the session:**

The capacity building addressed the issue of working together, including speakers expectations towards the NMS women's organizations. The panelists from South and East discussed their work (successes, problems and challenges).

Panelists: Kateryna Levchenko, La Strada, Ukraine, Lumba Siyanga, Women for Change, Zambia, Jilda Ebanoidze, Caucasus Development Group, Georgia.

#### **Summary of the session:**

Kateryna Levchenko as a president of the International Women's Centre "La Strada – Ukraine" presented her work on women's rights issues in Ukraine. The success of La Strada in Ukraine has



been lobbying the State's programs on combating trafficking since 1999. La Strada tries to put women migrants rights, amendments of domestic violence law and unification of families on the governmental agenda. On the international level La Strada has been lobbying for the rights of women, against sexual exploitation and domestic violence. The challenges for the future are: financial situation of NGOs in Ukraine, level of ratification of European laws and compensation for victims. Kateryna Levchenko also addressed the history of antidiscrimination in Ukraine. After the discriminatory statement made by Prime Minister, Mykola Azarov, a number of feminist activists, including Kateryna Levchenko, sued him for discrimination against women [more information about this case in the attachment: Levchenko vs Azarov]. It is a precedent case when the non-governmental activists took legal action against the governmental representative.

Lumba Siyanga who represented Women for Change (WfC) working predominantly with women and children in remote rural areas to contribute towards Sustainable Human Development using Popular Education Methodologies. One of the core programmes of WfC is gender analysis and awareness raising which focuses on women's workload, gender based violence, access and control of resources and benefits, education, reproductive rights and health and women's leadership. WfC supports women's human rights as a part of wider Human Rights programme. They demand basic rights for Zambian women and girls such as access to water, food, education and health. The abuse of rural women, no appropriate policies and limited possibilities for dynamic changes are the main challenges for the future. The lesson learnt by WfC is that the development is not only a linear process.

Jilda Ebanoidze (Caucasus Development Group, Georgia) pointed out that Georgia as a EU neighborhood country implemented Neighborhood Policy Action Plan where gender aspects were not fully addressed. In the same time Georgia is a developing country. The challenges recognized by Jilda are: low women's political participation (in Parliament only 7%), effects of informal labour market and high percentage of unemployment people impacts mainly women, women's migration (65% of migrants are women), violations of social, economic and health rights of women and increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Jilda found the situation of IDPs in Georgia as the most burning problem, especially after the conflict with Russia in August 2008 (currently there is approximately 300 000 IDPs from Abkhazia and South Ossetia). The first step is strengthening the potential of women in Georgian society not only by additional social assistance but also by effective institutional and legislative mechanisms including gender perspective. Sharing experiences and





### **Summary of the session:**

Each of the working groups presented the main issues brought up during their work and key recommendations.

### ***Building on partnerships***

Facilitated by: Kinga Lohmann, KARAT and Carolina Gottardo, OWA

Resource persons: representatives from the East and South

Facilitators and participants discussed the possibilities of building East – South – West bridges and challenges for the existing and potential partnerships.

The key recommendations:

- Moving beyond women's organization and reach other sectors
- Seeking communalities from women's rights/gender without losing the particular context
- Identifying and collaborating, dissemination best practice – grassroots sharing broadly E/S/W
- Organize meetings, workshops and capacity building sessions to make the Southern women's voice stronger on the international level and visible especially in Western perspective
- Equal footing, Equal voice, equal representation
- Establish the rules/definition of our understanding of equal footing
- The continuity, the follow up, the feedbacks of working on gender and development issues with strong link of East/ South/ West is needed to
- Reject imposed agendas women from East and South
- During meetings about development issues we should have ensured an equal representation and transparent possibilities of funding for women's and development organizations as well as for Eastern, Southern and Western participants
- Identify the right people on non-governmental and governmental level to have a joint partnership during the meeting which is starting point in building alliances



### ***Development education and public awareness raising***

Facilitated by: Zuzana Jezerska, Slovak Center for Communication and Development

Resource persons: representatives from the East and South

Facilitator presented short introduction on development education and awareness raising.

The key recommendations:

- Common code of conduct how to talk about development issues in proper way and without stereotypes and clichés. The code of conduct has to include types of pictures, photos and images of women in developing countries which should be used in spreading formal information.
- To link gender issues and development education in each defined target group
- Create methodology that would improve the quality of the outcomes and make them measurable to be used in the project linking gender and development education.
- Gender equality clubs in Bulgaria for girls. The clubs will be facilitated by NGOs and social activists to empower girls and teach them about their rights.
- Raising public awareness: some skills are reserved only for men, some trainings and activities are reserved only for men. Changes in public opinion are needed!
- New issues to explore: eg. environmental issues as a part of development education.
- Actors in development education have to think about methods of dissemination the information to targeted groups. Discourse have to be less academic and less theoretical.
- Media and journalists have to be also consider as a key target group.

### ***Advocacy and challenging the politics from a women's rights perspective***

Facilitated by: Mila O' Sullivan, Pro Equality Center and Ondrej Horky (Czech Republic)

Resource person: Emily Esplen

The starting point for the discussion was a short presentation of the development cooperation between Czech Republic and Angola (as a priority country in the Czech development aid program). The Czech development aid programme is hardly ever referred to gender equality, so the most burning problem now is to link gender with Czech aid.



The key recommendations:

- Dual approach: ensure that gender organizations cooperate with development ones and vice versa, sharing experience on gender and development between NGOS and other bodies
- Include the grassroots perspective: it's necessary to include the grassroots opinions and contribute the advocacy with the case studies from each project's country to have the proper background.
- To identify all stakeholders and decision makers relevant to women's rights and development agenda and raise their awareness on gender and development issues to establish strong relationship with them and to require concrete decisions and support from them. Example of possible links with decision makers: individuals responsible for ENP (European Neighborhood Policy) within the European Commission, PERM (Proper Economic Resource Management) representatives, EC delegates/ deputies, EMEA (European Medicines Agency – an agency of the EU).

### **Session 7: Closing Remarks**

It was agreed during the group work that it is crucial to conduct multi dialogue with various actors, and in different contexts, building bridges between East, South and West, linking gender and development agendas and strong human rights base approach.

To complete the last session and find the opportunities to follow up the outcomes from the Regional Dialogue Carolina Gottardo presented the mapping of policy spaces and alliances for gender and development issues.

### **Key opportunities – at international level**

- Review of Beijing +15 and CSW (past)
- MDG Review Summit (Sept 2010)
- Creation of a new UN gender entity
- High level forum on aid effectiveness (Seoul 2011) and the process of development effectiveness



- Using CEDAW and BPfA as a tool
- Using courts and legal cases as a tool

#### **Key opportunities – at European level**

- Post Lisbon architecture (more leadership in Brussels and more federal power to the Union)
- New EU strategic framework for equality between women and men (follow up EU Roadmap)
- New Gender Action Plan 2010 -201
- New European Parliament
- Strong political/policy commitments on gender equality and development that could be used as a tool
- Systems in NMSs being created and more open agenda for influencing
- Two forthcoming NMS presidencies

#### **Future activities and spaces within the Connect! project**

- National dialogues (Romania, Bulgaria, Czech and Slovakia)
- Brussels conference
- Range of print and electronic materials (briefs, case studies and media briefings)
- Media work at national level

## Attachments

### Attachment 1: Agenda of the meeting

#### Regional Dialogue Programme

*Practicing the Promises: Gender equality and Women's rights in EU  
'New Member States' development cooperation*

**Warsaw 12-13, May 2010**

#### Day 1

**09:00 – 9:15**      **Registration and coffee**

**09:15 – 09:40**      **Welcome and introduction**

Content: Introduction to the Regional Dialogue, background to the Connect! project, goals of the event and overview of the programme and materials.

Kinga Lohmann / Marta Gontarska (KARAT) and Carolina Gottardo (OWA)

**09:40 – 10:15**      **Presentation of participants**

Content: Interactive Introduction of participants and warming up for the following 2 days

Facilitator: Kasia Staszewska

**10:15 – 11:45**      **Capacity building I: Introduction to development cooperation, gender equality and women's rights in the international and EU contexts.**

Content: Presentation of the most important documents, instruments and strategies concerning development cooperation and women's rights. The presentations will also map challenges and areas for improvement and identify potential entry points for advocacy.

*Reference Material: Briefing on EU aid and gender by OWA and KARAT Coalition*

Speaker I (international context): Emily Esplen, OWA





Speaker II (EU context) : Carolina Gottardo, OWA

11:45 -12:00 Coffee Break

**12:00 – 13:30 Panel I: Challenging development cooperation policies and practices from a women’s rights perspective: Voices from the South, East and West**

**Content:** The discussion aims to reflect on the approaches of women’s rights advocates from the East and South to development cooperation and familiarize participants with the challenges faced in their respective countries.

Introduction: Kinga Lohmann, KARAT

Speakers: Lumba Siyanga (Women for Change, Zambia); Kateryna Levchenko (La Strada, Ukraine), Jilda Ebanoidze (Caucasus Development Group, Georgia)

Facilitation: Carolina Gottardo

13:30 – 14:00 Lunch

**14.00 - 15.30 Capacity Building II: From Brussels to NMS. What does EU development cooperation have in common with us?**

Content: The session will focus on the ‘specific’ context of NMS. The session will present the Polish practice in the aid delivery and strengthen participants’ understanding of policy-making processes in Brussels and policies & practices at the Member States level.

*Reference Material: Briefing on NMS aid and gender by KARAT Coalition and OWA*

Speaker I: Kasia Staszewska, Independent Consultant



Speaker II: Dominik Kopiński, Institute for International Studies, University of Wrocław

15:30-15.45 Coffee Break

**15:45 – 17:15 Taking development cooperation and women’s rights on board. Institutional and CSO perspective**

Content: The session will familiarize participants with gender mainstreaming in the programmes as well as the organisational culture of the International Department for International Development (DFID). It will also sum up the dynamic of introducing development cooperation, gender equality and women’s empowerment to the NMS systems from the CSO perspective.

Speaker I: Simon Williams, Department for International Development, UK

Speaker II: Katarzyna Czarniecka, Development Co-operation Department, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## Day 2:

**09:00 – 09:15 Welcome to the day 2**

Content: Welcome & re-cap of the Day 1 Presentation of the programme for Day 2

Facilitators: Marta Gontarska and Carolina Gottardo



- 09.15 – 10.15**      **Capacity Building III: Advancing women's rights: Cases from the South and East.**
- Content: The session aims to familiarise participants with the work of invited partner organizations to advance women’s rights in their respective countries. The presentations will be structured around the core themes of their work: CEDAW, political participation, advocacy for development effectiveness, women’s refugee rights, gender mainstreaming and sexual & reproductive rights
- Speaker I: Kateryna Levchenko, La Strada (Ukraine)
- 10:15 – 10:30      Coffee Break
- 10:30 - 11:30**      **Capacity Building III. Continuation**
- Speaker I: Ms. Lumba Siyanga, Women for Change (Zambia)
- Speaker II: Jilda Ebanoidze, Caucasus Development Group (Georgia)
- 11:30 – 11:45      Coffee Break
- 11.45 – 12.30**      **Panel II: Building East-South-West bridges on similar agenda.**
- Introduction to the Group Work.**
- Content: The panel will open the floor for questions and comments on the presentations of the Capacity Building II. It will introduce participants to different strategies addressing women’s rights in development which will be the subjects of the following group work.
- Facilitation: Kasia Staszewska
- Introduction to the group work: Carolina Gottardo, OWA – Working in Partnerships; Zuzana Jezerska, (Slovak Center for Communication and Development) - development education and public awareness raising, Mila O’Sullivan (Pro Equality Center, Czech Republic) - Advocacy
- 12.30 -13.30      Lunch



**13:30 – 14:45      Group work: Building bridges on similar agendas. What can we do ?**

Content: The groups will strategize about the best way to take advantage of spaces under national development cooperation policies and practices. The aim is ensure a South and East ownership and a proactive engagement in bringing women's rights into the agenda. Discussion will be structured around participants' core work:

**Building on partnerships**

Facilitated by: Kinga Lohmann, KARAT and Carolina Gottardo, OWA

Resource persons: representatives from the East and South

**Development education and public awareness raising**

Facilitated by: Zuzana Jezerska, Slovak Center for Communication and Development

Resource persons: representatives from the East and South

**Advocacy and challenging the politics from a women's rights perspective**

Facilitated by: Mila O' Sullivan, Pro Equality Center and Ondrej Horky (Czech Republic)

Resource person: Emily Esplen, OWA

15:00 - 15.15      Coffee break

**15:15 – 16:45      Feedback on group work and mapping of policy spaces**

Content: After the working groups report on key observations and recommendations, the facilitator will map accessible policy spaces and forthcoming momentums that can be explored for women's rights advocacy in development.



Facilitator: Carolina Gottardo

**16:45 -17:00 Closing Remarks**

Content: In the closing session, the facilitators will summarise & highlight key lessons & obstacles identified over the last two days. They will also coordinate the evaluation

Facilitators: Marta Gontarska and Carolina Gottardo

**18:30 - 20:00 Public event in the city of Warsaw**

**Attachment 2: List of participants**

No	Name	Organization/ Country
1	Jilda Ebanoidze	Caucasus Development Group, Georgia
2	Kateryna Levchenko	La Strada, Ukraine
3	Carolina Gottardo	One World Action, Head of Advocacy, UK
4	Emily Esplen	One World Action, Women's Rights Coordinator, UK
5	Katarzyna Kopystyńska	Democratic Union Of Women
6	Lumba Siyanga	Women for Change, Zambia
7	Simon Willams	DFID, Europe Department, UK
8	Dominik Kopiński	University of Wroclaw, Poland

9	Alexandra Jachanova Dolezelova	Gender Studies o.p.s, Czech Republic
10	Mila O'Sullivan	ProEquality Centre, Open Society p.b.c., FORS, Czech Republic
11	Ondrej Horky	Institute of International Relations Prague, FORS, Czech Republic
12	Jivka Marinova	GERT, Bulgarian Platform for International Development, Bulgaria
13	Dessislava Koleva	Center for inclusive education, BPID, Bulgaria
14	Denitsa Abadjieva	Gender Project for Bulgaria, BPID, Bulgaria
15	Raluca Manaila	ORG AUR, FOND, Romania
16	Adela Rusu	FOND - The Romanian NGDO Platform, Romania
17	Laura Panteli-Stanciu	AIDROM, Romania
18	Zuzana Jezerska	SCCD, member of NGDO Platform, Slovak Republic
19	Jacek Białas	Amnesty International, Poland
20	Wanda Nowicka	Federacja na Rzecz Kobiet i Planowania Rodziny, Poland
21	Monika Sobańska	Kobiety Aktywne, Poland
22	Karolina Kędziora	Polskie Towarzystwo Prawa Antydyskryminacyjnego, Poland
23	Magdalena Chustecka	GM independent trainer, Poland
24	Katarzyna Czerniecka	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, Poland/ The Development Co-operation Department
27	Izabela Wilczyńska	PAH (Polish Humanitarian Action), Poland

28	Beata Bublewicz	Parliamentarian (PO), Poland
29	Marta Gontarska	KARAT, Poland
30	Kasia Staszewska	independent consultant, Poland
31	Kinga Lohmann	KARAT, Poland
32	Katarzyna Zwolak	Przestrzeń Kobiet (Women's Space Foundation), Poland
34	Jeniffer Remme	academic(PhD), Poland/ Germany
36	Justyna Grobela	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland/ The Department of Implementation of Development Programmes

### Attachment 3: Public event

The public event “East – South. Through Their Eyes, Through Ours” took place in the evening of 13<sup>th</sup> of May in Warsaw, and addressed key and topical gender and development issues. It was held in a well-known café and cultural center created by “Krytyka Polityczna” (‘Political Critique’), the Polish largest left-wing community of intellectuals and activists. The event was organised in a form of an informal debate moderated by a journalist, Adam Leszczyński, from the most popular Polish daily “Gazeta Wyborcza”. He gave the floor for representatives of Sub-Saharan Africa - Lumba Siyanga (Women for Change, Zambia) and Eastern countries - Jilda Ebanoidze (Caucasus Development Group, Georgia) and also for the Polish parliamentarian – Beata Bublewicz from Platforma Obywatelska (Civic Platform) working on development issues in the international relations commission in Polish Parliament. The event was organized by KARAT in close cooperation with Polish Humanitarian Organization, a key Polish NDGO.

The aims of the event were to present women from South and East, their work, problems, challenges and achievements. The informal atmosphere of the meeting gave the opportunity to see how all the issues influence on each other in global perspective. Facilitation the opportunity for women from



Georgia, Zambia and Poland to exchange experiences in a face to face environment was the key achievement of the public event.

The event was accompanied by the photography exhibition consisting of two parts: photographs from refugee camp in Tanzania and the photographs focused on women's rights in developing countries from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Balkans from KARAT's project "Through Their Eyes, Through Ours".

Around 50 persons attended the event. The presentation and debate lasts around two hours.

#### **Attachment 4: Advocacy meeting at the Polish MFA**

As a follow-up of the Regional Dialogue the advocacy meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (MFA) took place on 14 May 2010 in the offices of MFA. KARAT arranged the meeting with the MFA to discuss the inclusion of the gender perspective in the agenda of the Polish development assistance/ aid/ cooperation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland (MFA) was represented by persons from two departments: The Department of Implementation of Development Programmes and The Development Co-operation Department. **(the full list of the participants is at the end of this attachment)**

The aim of the project "Connect! South East West Women for Development. Building Support in New Member States for Gender-sensitive and –responsive European Development Co-operation", which the meeting was a part of is to advocate for the full implementation of the EU Development Consensus and the EC Communication on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation in EU New Member States (NMS). The main objective of the meeting was to draw attention of the Polish MFA to include the gender perspective into the development agenda. The formula of the advocacy meeting combined presentations of the two guests speakers: Lumba Siyanga (Women for Change) and Simon Williams (Europe Department in Department of International Development, UK) and questions from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Polish MFA.

The project partners specified three objectives of the meeting:

1. Ensuring that putting the gender perspective as key issue in the development cooperation is part the agenda of the Polish MFA.
2. Putting pressure on the governmental agendas to work together with NGOs and NDGOs on some points regarding the gender perspective in development aid/cooperation/ assistance.





3. Presenting the manner gender perspective impacts the effectiveness of the development aid/ assistance/cooperation in practise. This was achieved through presentations by Lumba Siyanga and Simon Williams.

The chair of the meeting, Agata Czaplińska, vice-director of Department of Implementation of Development Programmes in Polish MFA, welcomed guests and colleagues from Polish MFA and emphasized that gender perspective is important for the development policies in Poland and the Polish MFA would like to learn more from the guests about implementation the gender perspective to development agenda.

The first speaker was Lumba Siyanga (Women for Change from Zambia). Her presentation was the specific example of the importance of gender perspective in development cooperation from one of the developing countries which is not on a list of priorities of Polish development aid program. Women for Change works with communities, especially women and children in remote rural areas to contribute towards Sustainable Human Development using Popular Education Methodologies. WfC has operational presence in Southern, Central, Western and Eastern provinces and working there with rural groups where gender stereotypes are deeply-ingrained. WfC works with traditional leaders on district, national and regional level.

The situation of Zambian women is difficult and needs to be improved on legal, cultural and everyday/ ordinary life level. Majority of women lives in rural areas where they are under-supported by public services like access to drinking water, medical services and any social welfare and due to the cultural customs they are treated like not possessing full rights citizens. One of the core programmes of WfC is gender analysis and awareness raising which focuses on issues like women's workload, gender basis violence, access and control to resources and benefits, education, reproductive rights and health and also women leadership. WfC supports women's human rights as a part of wider Human Rights programme. They demand basic rights for Zambian women and girls such as access to water, food, education and health. WfC also mobilizes and supports women's political participation.

The questions from the floor considered the methodology how to show gender inequality in the traditional communities and how to work on the issue.

The WfC uses the participatory methodology which includes playing mini dramas to show the symptoms of inequality and analyse the situation with the participants. People form WfC works in 4 regions out of 9 in Zambia from 17 years. The staff is well qualified, as they had a lot of trainings and they are working for WfC from several years, unfortunately due to the financial changes in the sector many co-workers decided to change their working profile. Polish MFA has supported many projects in Zambia, as the chair of the meeting admitted. So the Polish MFA would like to receive comments,



reports and opinions from WfC to clarify the situation and make the list of needs more detailed for this region.

The presentation of Simon Williams from Department of International Development (DFID) in UK was focused on the challenges which faced DFID in UK in gender mainstreaming on the development cooperation field. The process how DFID as the governmental agency implemented the gender action plan was very interesting for Polish MFA representatives. Polish MFA and Simon as a representative of DFID agreed to cooperate together and exchange the experience on gender perspective in practice. Polish MFA would like to cooperate with DFID to build capacities of Polish staff (internships, trainings, report and expertise).

The important question from the floor concerning the method of creating the countries programs and priorities. DFID focuses on the ownership of the programs, so the programs are created together with civil society and stakeholders in each country. DFID always cooperates with World Bank and depending on the political situations with governments and national authorities. DFID have started to mainstream gender in development three years ago. These time the understanding of gender issues was only 50%. DFID produced many guidelines and manuals to improve the knowledge about gender equality, first in DFID staff. The implementation of gender equality action plan is still in process. It's still necessary to work with gender experts, especially the civil society organizations like WIDE, OWA, CONCORD or KARAT and take part in meetings like Regional Dialogue to show various perspective. DFID advice also to prepare the mapping of gender experts in each country and other actors who could play important role in the process to work with concrete group of people on implementation gender to development. So the human resources are needed to make a full picture of the issue, not only the academics but also experts for women's movement, because from DFID experiences this kind of mix is much more effective. KARAT Coalition is willing to help with the mapping of gender experts in Poland, if the MFA would like to do it. DFID has offered their materials and manuals, which could be used by Polish MFA during the implementation of long-term gender strategy.

The meeting was a great success. Firstly, because MFA was very willing to have the meeting. Secondly, it delegated to the meeting its diverse representatives including those with decision making power. Thirdly, we received the clear statements from the Polish MFA how they would like to implement the gender perspective into the development agenda (mapping of the gender experts on the field of development cooperation in Poland, highlighting, strengthening the gender perspective in the projects supported by the Polish MFA, as well as making it more detailed; close cooperation with Department of International Development in UK – internship, exchange of experiences and materials).

KARAT and project partners achieved all of the specific objectives that were set. We were surprised (as a consequence of previous experiences working with Polish ministries) by the fact that the Polish



MFA was opened for our suggestions and replied with the clear ideas and points for our proposals and also established the relationship with KARAT Coalition.

## **List of participants of the meeting in Polish MFA:**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland**

#### The Department of Implementation of Development Programmes:

**Agata Czaplińska**, vice-director of the Department, chair of the meeting

**Edyta Bień**, assistance projects to Ukraine

**Joanna Bojko**, chief of department, implementation and monitoring of development projects, Eastern Partnership countries

**Edyta Rokicka**, assistance projects to Afghanistan

#### The Development Co-operation Department:

**Adam Bożko**, Development assistance system

**Andrzej Braiter**, Assistance projects to Afghanistan

**Jerzy Rohoziński**, Development assistance in Eastern Partnership countries

**Agnieszka Rurarz**, Co-ordination of co-operation with EU assistance institution (CODEV)

### **Department of International Development, United Kingdom**

Simon Williams, Policy Adviser, Europe Department

### **Non-governmental organizations:**

**Emily Esplen**, Women's Right Coordinator, One World Action, United Kingdom

**Marta Gontarska**, Project Coordinator, KARAT Coalition

**Carolina Gottardo**, Head of Policy and Advocacy, One World Action, United Kingdom

**Lumba Siyanga**, Executive Director, Women for Change, Zambia

**Katarzyna Staszewska**, Independent Consultant, Poland



### **Attachment 5: The follow-up activities by project's partners**

The project partners are planning various advocacy activities on development issues targeting the decision makers especially in, but not limited to, NMS. The frequency of these meetings will depend on opportunities to arrange them and the research on the agendas of agencies and departments responsible for development cooperation in each country.

They are also planning to continue dialogues between representatives of East, South and West in NMS and organize four national dialogues in Romania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Slovakia in 2011 to raise awareness and build capacities on gender and development in NMS. Further, informing the media and general public by disseminating papers/briefings on the situation of the development aid from gender perspective in NMS, gender and development policies, as well as media briefings are also foreseen.

Strengthening the capacity of women's organizations from NMS to advocate for the full implementation of the EU Development Consensus and the EC Communication on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development Cooperation is one of the main goal for project's partners. Hence, it is important to establish strong relationship between NGOs and NDGOs to exchange information and work together on gender and development issues in the future.

### **Attachment 6: Participants' evaluation of the Regional Dialogue**

The evaluation was done through a evaluation form. A total of twenty-two evaluations were received. Overall, 94% of the participants rated the workshop as very good or excellent. Group work was identified as the most useful part of the dialogue. Yet, the participants also appreciated the balance of presentations and capacity-building as "important to set the context of gender equality policy on legal framework and the challenges to be faced". The quality of the content was rated to be very good or excellent by 77% respondents and the competence and expertise of the facilitators was rated to be very good or excellent by 86%.

The participants stated that they would like to be provided with "more information about the problems and challenges in different countries" and that more case studies from South and East would be appreciated. As the participants considered the working groups as one of the most



interesting part of the Dialogue one of the participants highlighted that there was a need of “more interactive exercises during the capacity building sessions”.

In many evaluation forms the participants formulated opinion that greater representation of Southern Partners would have been useful. It was recommended for the future meetings to be more interactive, including more group work rather than panel discussions and more input from the South and East (different voices, challenges and problems in various countries).

The participants proposed various ways for using the knowledge gained during the Dialogue. They would like to share the knowledge with their colleagues, co-workers, but also with decision makers and people not working on development issues. A number of participants would like to share new experiences by organizing meetings and conducting workshops about gender and development or a lecture on development from gender perspective for students. For most of the participants the Dialogue was a valuable experience that improved their personal knowledge. For all the Dialogue was an opportunity to network and to identify common point in agendas of organizations from East, South and West. Also opportunities of linking the agendas such as cooperation with DFID, MFA and other governmental agencies became visible. The participants believed it is necessary to join voices with different perspective and experiences from various countries to work together on gender and development issues and building a common understanding of the issues.

#### **Attachment 6: Project partners evaluation of the Regional Dialogue**

After the Regional Dialogue Connect! OWA and KARAT, evaluated the meeting in the context of the objectives of the project and aims of each project partner. Both project partners were satisfied with the event particularly due to:

1. The higher number of participants/guests than was foreseen in the project was a big advantage and gave the opportunity to compare different perspectives during one meeting. It was evaluated as the most interesting and valuable.
2. The presence and active role of DFID and Polish MFA was considered as a success.
3. The active role of the Czech and Bulgarian representatives of NDGOs platforms was also appreciated. Thanks to Batory Foundation and OSI, the project partners had a chance to meet representatives of NDGOs platforms from NMS and got familiar with their work.



4. The feedback of some of the feminist activists who commented that after the meeting they had realized the importance of the links between gender and development was also important to learn and to meet the project's objectives.
5. A constructive dynamic of the meeting, the atmosphere, excellent facilitation, the networking and getting to know the participants were very positively assessed.
6. The sessions were professional and focused on the subject.
7. The feedback of participants concerning excellent organization including logistics.

The project partners found three weak points of the meeting:

1. Only one person from the Global South due to the non-attendance of Jean Magigita, Women's Legal Aid Center from Tanzania; it should be at least three persons to have a greater impact
2. The non-attendance of Véronique Dion from OWA, who is a partner involved in the project (due to a passport problem)
3. The non-attendance of Slovakian participants from other platforms and organizations .

The project partners have also considered the possibility of organization meetings like Regional Dialogue in the future. To work together and join the different perspectives, especially from NMS where supporting the gender and development issues is highly recommended.

### **Attachment 7: Case Levchenko vs Azarov**

**The text was written by Kateryna Levchenko, LaStrada Ukraine.**

“On the background of issues around the Black Sea Fleet and gas agreements, decision of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and dramatic rise in number of coalitionists words of the Prime-Minister M. Azarov that “conducting reforms in Ukraine is not women’s business” were forgotten by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

However, this statement that shook general public not only in Ukraine but in other countries as well has not left without a trace. Except of disapproval from a number of deputies, experts and NGOs it has not received any legal assessment of “competent bodies”. Nevertheless, the legal month which is given for consideration of complaints and applications from the general public passed. And then everything got started.



In the second half of March a bill of complaint prepared by a group of representatives of women organizations according to the Article 22 “Cassation of discrimination on grounds of gender identity” of the Law “About provision of equal rights for women and men was sent to the Ministry for Family, Youth and Sports as authorized governmental body in the sphere of formation and realization of gender policy in the state.

According to the Law, the Ministry has to consider applications from the general public concerning issues of discrimination on the grounds of gender identity, to do accountings and generalize such cases, make proposals on their eliminations (Article 11). So, in the bill of complaint addressed to the minister Safiullin complainants think that Azarov’s words directly correspond to the definition of “discrimination” as it is stated in the Article 1 of the Law “About provision of equal rights for women and men” as this statement shows gender non-equality, is directed on limitations and makes impossible enjoying equal rights for women and men. Namely, right to take part in governmental issues, freely choose and be chosen to governmental bodies and local authorities, rights to equal access to civil service. And this is constitutional abuse as the Article 24 says: “All citizens have equal constitutional rights and are equal before the law”.

In the bill of complaint there were presented provisions of not only violated laws but violations of international documents as well, namely, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and recommendations of the corresponding UN Committee which were provided after the presentation of periodical report about implementation of this Convention by Ukraine in January, 2010. At first, it seemed to be a good evidential base.

And what was the response? It was: “the statement of the Prime-Minister of Ukraine Azarov M.Y. from 19.03.2010 does not correspond to “discrimination on the grounds of gender identity”. What are the arguments then? The same definition of the issue “discrimination on the grounds of gender identity” of the mentioned law clearly says about this form of discrimination and makes impossible enjoying the same rights for women and men.

Do the Prime-Minister’s words correspond to this law? They don’t. Because taking part in conducting reforms refers to women only. Aren’t there any limitations on enjoying equal rights in participation in governmental issues? There are. Isn’t there any denial of fact that women and men enjoy equal rights? There is. Skills and opportunities of one gender are presented as doubtful. Why then verdict in the letter sounds different? Probably because the limitation is considered as “positive actions” by experts from the Ministry. Such conclusions are evident from the text of this letter.

“According to the article 6 of the foregoing Law of Ukraine the positive actions are not considered to be gender discrimination. Also in accordance with the article 16 of this Law the assignment to state service and to local government service is realized through gender equality principle. The use of positive actions is allowed to achieve the balanced representation of women



and men in state service and local government service taking into consideration the category of position.”

In fact I have quoted the whole answer. The only conclusion, that I can make from the foregoing paragraph is the following – the specialists from the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports consider the limitation for women in conducting reforms, the Prime Minister have been taking about, as an example of positive actions.

The authors of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Law on Equal Opportunities of Women and Men couldn’t even imagine such identification.

So what is “positive actions”? In the context of international and national law it is a fixed legal notion - “special temporal actions aimed at elimination of misbalance between the opportunities of men and women to realize equal rights given by the Constitution and Ukrainian laws (Article 1 of the same law).

The principles of application of positive actions are written in the UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (Article 4).

In the article 6 of antidiscrimination law there is a list of actions which are not considered to be discriminatory. Among them are: “special protection of women during pregnancy, [lying-in](#), lactation; obligatory military service for men; difference in retirement age for men and women, special requirements to the job safety of men and women connected with protection of their [reproductive health](#).

Detailed content of positive actions is not given in the law. The example of temporal positive actions in many European countries became fixing a quota election process. We can also talk about other positive actions. And positive action in itself is not discrimination. But the main thing that helps to qualify these or those actions of countries in this way is their directing to “acceleration of establishment of equality between men and women” and the fact that their application “should by no means lead to the preservation of unequal and differential standards” (quotations from the Article 4 of the UN Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women).

In the words of Ukrainian Prime Minister Azarov, which can be defined as administrative action, there are unequal and differential standards to the determination of social and gender roles in the society.

So these words do not undergo the definition of “positive actions”. And clearly undergo the definition of “gender discrimination”.





I'm interested in the logics of legal authority? The preliminary inquiry as to my action in Pechersk court of justice will take place on the 29th of April, the respondent if Mykola Azarov.

And one thing more.

Appealing to the Ministry of Ukraine for Family, Youth and Sports with the complaint we asked not only to consider our appeal, make suggestions as to the elimination of fact of discrimination and to provide the written answer on the results of the examination of complaint, but also using the rights fixed in the article 18 of the Law on application of public, to give a person who examines the complaint a chance to provide arguments personally; to give a chance to participate in the examination of the complaint, to get acquainted with the materials of the examination and to be present during the [consideration of complaint](#). But these rights were ignored by the Ministry (or Minister).

That's why the story is going on. To be continued."