

International Conference on Gender and Human Development
Marriott Hotel, Islamabad, Pakistan.
22-24 February 2005

Aide Memoire

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The United Nation's Millennium Summit in September 2000 adopted eight major goals, which were internationally agreed and accepted as a framework for measuring development progress. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) are as follows:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality & empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop global partnership for development

Pakistan is one of the signatory nations of the Millennium Declaration and is also targeting other international commitments to implement the recommendations of the major international summits and conferences, mainly the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action (PFA), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Literacy Decade, (UNLD: 2003-2012), the UNESCO Education For All (EFA), the Dakar Framework for Action, the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) and the Johannesburg Summit.

Pakistan is often perceived as a traditional country of the south, where "women" and "disadvantaged" are seen as synonymous terms. Women in Pakistan do not enjoy many of the rights laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Despite the best efforts of the Government, NGOs, CBOs and other gender-focused organizations, there remains a significant disparity between these principles and day to day reality.

The call for equality was given soon after partition in 1947 when the Quaid, Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Begum Raa'na Liaquat Ali Khan, Lady Haroon and many more courageous women and men led the movement for equal rights of all citizens without any discrimination. This movement led to the evolution of the '**All Pakistan Women's Association' (APWA)**, which was founded by the late Begum Raa'na Liaquat Ali Khan on the 22nd of February 1949.

APWA is a Pakistani non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1951, working towards health, legal and educational empowerment of Pakistani women for over 50 years. Essentially the brainchild of Begum Raa'na Liaquat Ali, the wife of Pakistan's first Prime Minister, founded APWA to oversee, consolidate and co-ordinate women's activity for their empowerment and involvement in political, economic and social development. From her point of view, mobilizing women was absolutely critical for Pakistan's development. She argued that, while they represented nearly half of the total number of actual and potential consumers of the nation's wealth and productivity, their actual influence was far greater because of their influence within the family. APWA is also known for its untiring advocacy efforts to equalize and regularize aspects of Muslim Family Law. In a pamphlet produced by APWA in the late 1960s, Begum Liaquat claimed that "the history of APWA is the history of the women's movement in Pakistan"

As 2005 will be a year of centenary celebrations for Begum Raa'na Liaquat Ali Khan, an "International Conference on Gender and Human Development" will be held from 22-24 February 2005 as a tribute to her memory and her unceasing efforts for the empowerment of women

To strengthen partnership initiatives between the United Nations and NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, the NGO Section and the Office of ECOSOC Support and Coordination of the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) are strongly supporting APWA to coordinate this Conference in order to effectively and efficiently increase concrete civil society contributions to the ECOSOC work in implementing the MDGs and the recommendations of major international conferences.

This Conference will contribute to the high-level segment of ECOSOC Session of July 2005 in Geneva and will be instrumental in the review of the five-year implementation of MDGs of 2005. The timing of the conference is thus critical for reflection, advocacy and positive practical steps for the future.

This first ever International Gender Conference in Pakistan will be a joint effort: hosted by the Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan; coordinated by APWA, in collaboration with several UN Agencies, including UNICEF, UNDP, UNDESA, UNESCO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNIFEM, as well as other donors and partners.

II. VISION

The International Conference will be an extraordinary opportunity for a concrete and effective partnership initiative between Civil Society, Governments, the United Nations, the private sector and the donor community towards Gender equality and MDGs' implementation for peace, security, justice, democracy and prosperity during the Third Millennium, in a challenging world.

III. OBJECTIVES

- To stimulate public-private and civil society partnerships to effectively and efficiently implement the Millennium Declaration and the major UN Summits and Conferences' Recommendations and Action Plans for gender equality and development.
- To improve collaboration among all actors at all levels (local, national, regional and international) for gender equality and sustainable development.
- To share international "best practices" and innovative experiences among stakeholders and participants.
- To strengthen the international and national awareness and training campaign for enabling women to exercise their political, democratic and legal rights especially through local governments and civil society organizations.
- To draw out and adopt a midterm action plan for gender equality and development.
- To determine the appropriate means to implement the midterm action plan and navigate a way forward.

IV. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. An adopted midterm action plan for gender equality and sustainable development: "Islamabad Plan of Action" inclusive of:
 - a set of substantive policy and action-oriented recommendations
 - means to ensure effective implementation
 - performance indicators for monitoring
2. A commitment to sustained mobilization of resources from domestic sources and international partners for the implementation of the Islamabad Plan of Action.
3. A statement on "gender equality and MDGs' implementation" based on the "Islamabad Plan of Action", to be presented by APWA on behalf of the participants, during the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC, Geneva, July 2005.
4. A significant contribution based on the "Islamabad Plan of Action" to the Fifth-year review of MDGs implementation and to the UN Secretary General Report to the 60th General Assembly.

V. THE PROCEEDINGS

- HOST:** Ministry of Women Development, Government of Pakistan
- COORDINATOR:** All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA).
- UN PARTNERS:** UNICEF, UNDP, UNDESA, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNIFEM.
- MAIN SPEAKERS** The Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Shaukat Aziz (inauguration).
President of Pakistan, General Pervez Musharraf(closing ceremony).
Kofi Annan, Sonia Gandhi, Senator Hillary Clinton, Amartya Sen and Melinda Gates
Dr. Nafis, Sadik, Noeleen Heyzer (UNIFEM), Thoraya Obaid (UNFPA), Carol Bellamy (UNICEF) Sarbuland Khan (UNDESA) Onder Yucer (UNDP) Hanifa Mezoui (NGO Section/ECOSOC)
- PARTICIPANTS** Approximately 300 participants are expected to attend. They include 100 international speakers, resource persons & heads of NGOs from the SAARC countries, Europe, Morocco, South Africa, and USA. Approximately 200 participants will be invited from within Pakistan.
- SELECTION CRITERIA** For the selection of resource persons/speakers the following five main criteria will be adopted:
- Expertise and experience
 - Geographical balance between regions and countries
 - Gender factor
 - Stakeholder/Actor representation: Government, NGO, Academia, Private sector and UN.
 - Commitment for implementation and follow up
- NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC acting as UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinators will also be involved (See attached list)*
- THEMES:**
- ***Gender Equality and MDGs' Implementation***
 - ***Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment***
 - ***Gender Equality, Human Rights and Peace***
 - ***Gender Equality and Poverty Alleviation***
 - ***Gender Equality and Health***
 - ***Gender Equality and Education***

While the first theme will be discussed during the first plenary panel session, each of the five other themes will be addressed in the respective workshop held concurrently as indicated in the Conference Programme below:

VI. CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day I Tuesday 22 February 2005

Time	Sessions	Speakers/Facilitators
9:00-1:30	Registration (Marriot Lobby)	
1:30-3:05	OPENING SESSION	
1:30-1:35	National Anthem	
1:35-1:40	Recitation of The Holy Quran	
1:40-1:55	Welcome and objectives of the Conference	Nilofer Bakhtiar, Laila Sarfaraz (tbc)
1:55-2:05	Film on Begum Raa'na Liaquat Ali	Serendip Productions
2:05-2:25	Opening Remarks	Cherie Blair Senator Hillary Clinton Melinda Gates Amartya Sen (all tbc)
2:25-2:45	Keynote Address	Sarbulund Khan, UNDESA
2:45-2:55	Congratulatory Statement	Dr. Nafis Sadik as representative of UN Agencies (confirmed)
2:55-3:05	Opening Statement	Begum Sehba Musharraf and/or Shaukat Aziz (tbc)
3:05-3:25	<i>Networking Tea Break</i>	
3:30-5:30	PLENARY SESSION 1	
	Gender Equality and MDGs Implementation	
3:30-3:40	Panel Introduction:	
3:40-3:50	Implementation and Follow-up to International Commitments and Goals	
3:50-4:00	Mainstreaming Gender into National Development Policies	
4:00-4:10	Strengthening and Promoting Gender-based Civil Society Organizations	
4:10-4:20	Allocating Resources for Gender Equality: Gender Responsive Budgeting	
4:20-4:30	Developing Partnerships for Gender Equality and Development	
4:30-5:30	General Discussion and Recommendations	
6:00-10:00	Cultural Show and Dinner (tbc)	

Day 2: Wednesday, 23 February, 2005

9:00-10:00		PLENARY SESSION 2				
		Wrap-Up and Review of Recommendations				
10:00-1:00		Concurrent Workshops				
		Room A	Room B	Room C	Room D	Room E
		Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (MDG 3)	Gender Equality, Human Rights and Peace (Millennium Declaration & MDG 8)	Gender Equality and Poverty Alleviation (MDG 1, 7 & 8)	Gender Equality and Health (MDG 4,5 & 6)	Gender Equality and Education (MDG 2, 3 &8)
Session 1: 10:00-11:15	Political Participation and Leadership (A1)	Human Rights and Gender based Approach to Human Development (B1)	Microfinance and Skills Development (C1)	Women's Reproductive Health and Rights (D1)	Girls Education and Development (access, quality and UNGEI) (E1)	
11:15-11:45		Networking Tea Break				
Session 2: 11:45-1:00	Legal and Political Frameworks including Islamic Law (A2)	Violence against Women and Children (B2)	Integrated Rural Development and Environmental Sustainability (C2)	STD's and HIV/AIDS (D2)	Literacy, Life-long Learning and Vocational Training (E2)	
1:00-2:30p		Lunch				
Session 3: 2:30-3:45pm	Economic and Social Empowerment (A3)	Trafficking of Women and Children (B3)	Public, Private and Civil Society Partnerships to address Poverty (C3)	Nutrition and Child Mortality (D3)	Public-Private, and Civil Society Partnerships for Literate Society (E3)	
3:45-4:15pm		Networking Tea Break				
Session 4: 4:15-5:30pm	Women Leaders for Tomorrow (A4)	Women's Role in conflict-prevention and resolution, and peace-building (B4)	Capacity building and Human Development (C4)	Inclusion and Social Protection of the Disabled and Elderly (D4)	Culture and Dialogue among Generations (E4)	
5:30-8:00pm		Drafting Committees (General Conclusions and Recommendations)				
5:30-8:00		Shopping Excursion				

Day 3: Wednesday, February 23, 2005

Time	PLENARY SESSION 3		
9:00-10:15	Workshop Reports/Recommendations		
9:00-9:15	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
9:15-9:30	Gender Equality, Human Rights and Peace		
9:30-9:45	Gender Equality and Poverty Alleviation		
9:45-10:00	Gender Equality and Health		
10:00-10:15	Gender Equality and Education		
10:15-10:45	<i>Working Tea break</i>		
10:45-1:00	General Discussion and Adoption of Workshop Recommendations		
1:00-2:30	Lunch		
2:30-5:00	Excursion to National Heritage Museum (Shakarparian)		
2:30-5:00	Drafting Committee for Conference Report (closed)		
5:30-7:20	CLOSING SESSION		
5:30-5:35	Recitation of the Holy Quran		Marquee
5:35-5:45	Welcome and Recapping the Dynamics of the Conference	Nilofer Bakhtiar and Tazeen Faridi	“
5:45 –6:15	Short Play/Cultural Dances	Ajoka Performance (tbc) or Kailash Dances	“
6:15-6:40	Presentation of Conference Outcome Document “Islamabad Plan of Action” to President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ministry of Women Development ➤ APWA ➤ UN Partners 	“
6:40-7:00	Closing Remarks and Support for Implementation of ‘Islamabad Plan of Action’	UN partners and donor community	“
7:00-7:15	Closing Speech	Pres. Pervez Musharraf	“
7:15-7:20	National Anthem	Sung by College Girls Live Orchestra	“
7:20–7:50	Press Conference	Pres. Pervez Musharraf Nilofer Bakhtiar Tazeen Faridi Nafis Sadik UN, NGOs, Partners	Marriot Press Center
9:00-11:00	Dinner	Host -Office of the President	tbc

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Participants will be provided with a list of hotels upon their attendance confirmation not later than 20 December 2004.

A detailed Registration form is available at www.pakconference2005.com
A hard copy can be faxed on request.

For more information please contact:

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Conference Website

www.pakconference2005.com