

**WO=MEN, WIDE Strategy Meeting on CSW 52
Den Haag, 17th January 2008**

Continuation of discussions morning session and discussions on European (trade) perspective based on Wide's position paper.

1. Introductions

List of participants

Ana Lydia Fernández-Layos, Grupo Género y Desarrollo, CONGDE / WIDE Spain, Spain
Astrid Meyer, WOMNET, Germany
Anne Schönstein WOMNET, Germany
Tania Tisheva, BGRF, Bulgaria
Gertrude Eigelsreiter-Jashari, WIDE Austria, Austria
Kinga Lohmann, KARAT Coalition, Poland
Nerea Craviotto, WIDE Secretariat, Brussels
Gea Meijers, WIDE Secretariat, Belgium
Zairah Khan (WO=MEN)
Anneke Wensing (WO=MEN)
Inge Stemler (WILPF/WO=MEN)

AFTERNOON SESSION

2. Discussion on WIDE's position paper

Nerea introduced the skeleton prepared for this session and invited people to comment, so we can come to a WIDE network position. Nerea explained point per point.

Theme 1: Macro-economics and follow-up of the Monterrey Consensus:

- WIDE's work is very much focused on the linkages between trade and development, bringing the gender dimension to the debate. Entry point for CSW position paper could be policy coherence. Related issues to go under it could be global trade policies influencing national governments and undermining their sovereignty to choose their development path (cutting budget for basic services, fiscal issues, etc.).
- Monterrey Consensus issues related with macro-economics;

Discussion:

- From the Dutch platform the issue of coherence between trade and development is really important. Within the Dutch context this discussion is missing (Zairah).
- For the Austrian representative, the issue of policy coherence is being one of the most important issues in the government, which is currently developing a report on 'foreign economic policy of Austria' (Gertrude) in dialogue with 5 ministries.
- Should this be our most important issue? Gertrude: depends on strategy, sustainable development should be going to trade, it is a weak position in governments. Nerea: the Monterrey Consensus provides a holistic approach to development including aid, trade, financial markets, debt, this could be an opportunity to raise our own understanding on sustainable development. Gertrude: the concept of sustainable development is occupied now by trade etc., maybe we should take it back. Nerea: words to use is delicate, what would be an alternative concept? Zairah: if this section would be the most important priority would be good (trade and development) as it is most controversial in several countries, so most strategic possible for encouraging the debate. Gertrude: for our paper it is important, Anne: is important. Nerea: yes, but trade / development decision-makers will not be in New York for the CSW. Gertrude: if we raise those issues already during the

CSW as first time, we will be stronger later in the year. Gea on behalf on Brita: CSW is an opportunity for raising issues and strategising on the road to upcoming events in 2008, with Accra, Doha, etc. Zairah: maybe we need to push for a dialogue between different departments / ministries. Ana Lydia: proposed a dialogue between trade and development ministries at national level. For trade, we could focus on profit, where is the profit going to? In the North and South. Anne: maybe it is also the place to explain the relation on how women are effected by economics. Gertrude: make reference to EU coherence commitments. Tania: good to have introduction and then some recommendations. In Bulgaria we miss this debate, because many people have no expertise. Trade liberalisation and the impact on women livelihoods in Bulgaria: this is missing in Bulgaria. It is a useful to present something on this, very concrete. Gertrude: also include economic rights. Zairah: and clarify that it is not about social corporate responsibility, or not only. Gertrude: would we be in favor of fair trade? Gea: why not to focus more on the need of alternative frameworks drastically, not tinkering –not focusing on CSR? Ana Lydia: companies should take account of gender equality and rights, and sustainable development. Zairah: positive formulation of that we want companies to be responsible, but this would be just a small part of the solution.

Input on this section: Gertrude, Anne and Zairah

(for all sections others are welcomed too to comment!)

Theme 2: Public finance and gender-responsive budgeting

Gender budgeting, ownership, Nerea gave an introduction.

Discussion:

- How gender budgeting in practice is explained;
- Women's movement have been lacking persistency in handling money;
- Gender budgeting is important, because it tackles the whole government budget, a tool to show what the governments do: It is very important that we persist on the need to integrate such initiatives in the budgeting process. If women's organisations do not push for these issues, nobody will do it.
- The instrument is ready to use, people only need to use it and know about it.
- We should be clear that it is a tool but not an end in itself;
- WOMNET not focussing on Germany, should we be focusing on our governments too? Different people felt we can lobby with it as part to our own countries. WILPF: there are some experiences in Berlin. Gertrude: also in Austria.

Input: Gertrude

Theme 3: Bilateral and multilateral aid

Gea introduced the issue on Gender Equality Architecture Recommendations (GEAR) that is part of UN reform. Kinga: WEDO will put it on the agenda, but DAW is not very enthusiastic. Gea: Right, but we have to decide what we, as women's organisations feel is needed. All women's organisations in the South and North are supportive of the recommendations, though in detail some organisations would put different accents as others. Politically the whole UN reform is a controversial process. Women's organisations have lobbied for GEAR trying to push for move on this, not for one UN reform.

Input on UN Reform: Gea and Anne

Input on Aid Effectiveness: Nerea and Astrid

Theme 4: Funding the women's movement

Funding for women's organisations:

Discussion:

- Important to raise the issue of access to funding for youth women organisations / youth leadership. There shouldn't be competition on access to funding between youth women's organisations and women's organisations in general;
- Kinga: the situation of funding for women's organisations in new member states is very challenging (former donors disappear from the region; new sources of funding, etc), she would like the WIDE's position paper to tackle this specificity. Also, the position in non-EU member states towards funding women's organisations (is not a priority). WIDE's position paper should look at development policy and ENP policy as well. KARAT and BGRF will contribute on these issues;
- Ana Lydia: support to national machineries for support to local grassroots women organisation in the South.

Input on Funding: Brita, Kinga and Tania

Process: the WIDE Secretariat will work on a draft for the position paper to be circulated by the 30th of January for input. The position paper needs to be ready by mid-February for consultation and agreement within the WIDE network.

3. Strategies to bring the message across

Gea made a short introduction on the session: goals of the session:

- Strategies: national plans to the CSW; WIDE plans; follow-up towards Accra, Doha;
- Available funding and criteria on how to use this funding.

Gertrude (WIDE Austria):

- She would like to be in the exchange / information sharing processes; it would be very good to organise a side event on policy coherence for gender equality and sustainable development;
- Gertrude will be part of the Austrian official delegation (government);
- The Prime Minister with different Ministry representatives will be going for three days;
- Gertrude will be speaking at one High-Level Panel on "financing for gender equality and empowerment of women".

Kinga (KARAT)

- Regional caucuses, thematic caucuses; very important to have meetings while in New York (daily, sometimes even twice a day); during the Beijing + 10 they were organised in a way that allow a WIDE presence during the whole CSW session, but rotating people; preparation of statements from women's organisations (Charlotte Bunch, she is the usual leader on this);
- KARAT Coalition has a very good contact with the Slovenian representative in the CSW, Chair of EU Delegation to CSW, who will speak on behalf of the EU. The EU Chair can support us in getting information on EU's Delegation positions, EU's statements, etc.

Nerea (WIDE)

- Lobby for CSOs to get a space at the closing session to present CSOs concerns;

Ana Lydia (WIDE Spain)

- WIDE Spain is trying to identify who would be going from the Spanish Cooperation and issues that the Spanish Cooperation will be arising; the Spanish platform is pushing high profile representation from the Spanish Cooperation; pushing as well to include a CSO representative as part of the Spanish delegation;
- Need to identify who from women's organisations are going to the CSW, not only from the development sector;

Tania (BGRF)

- They didn't know yet who will be going from the Bulgarian government;

- For BGRF is an opportunity to raise awareness around gender equality and women's rights issues at national level, get the issues in the national agenda;

Astrid (WOMNET)

- They didn't know yet who will be going from the German government; but they have a briefing session with the government to identify this, as well as priorities / expectations for the German government (Family, Women and Senior Citizens Ministry) on the 12th February. WOMNET will present its priorities and concerns; Gender Desk in Development Ministry might attend, although they department is just being opened and they don't have enough staff yet; WOMNET will be convening this meeting;
- Identifying which other women's organisations will be going.

GAD network:

- Will be organising a side event based on their research on financial situation of women's organisations in the South;

To strategise: Official dates: 25th February – 7th February:

- Ideally WIDE people should be meeting everyday: information sharing; coordination;
- One person from the WIDE delegation should have the opportunity to get speaking time to present WIDE's position paper;
- Prepare a statement from the position paper;
- Shall WIDE puts some efforts in organising a press conference? (although CSW doesn't get much attention from journalists); worthy to make a mapping of media that would be present in NY covering this event and invite them to our events; ask Charlotte Bunch or Lydia Alpizar (Nerea);
- Organise a meeting with the Chair of EU Delegation and WIDE Delegation, suggest to organise a meeting between EU Delegation and the WIDE Delegation;
- Brita from Womankind (UK WIDE platform) suggests to organise a first WIDE strategising meeting already on the 24th of February; coordinate this with Zairah so she can communicate with Dutch platform members;
- A contact list will be established: for information sharing and coordination (Gea?);

Preparation:

Criteria on how to use WIDE available funding:

- depending on costs WIDE has funding to cover participation for 3-5 people; ideally WIDE would prefer co-funding, but in cases where is not possible WIDE could cover full costs;
- Zairah would be supportive of Kinga's request for support;

4. WIDE's workshop / side event:

- 2-3 key speakers; length 1:30 h; we will need to find the speakers among WIDE delegation / partners in NY; theme: macro-economics? alternatives / putting together women's recommendations to the CSW? critical analysis of economics that should lead us to concrete recommendations based on alternatives; decent work, corporations power? Whatever the subject we decided it shouldn't be only a critical approach but bring the alternatives to the discussion too.

Final decision on workshop by e-mail: the Secretariat will introduce two concrete proposals based on discussions in Den Haag.