

Proposed Language Amendments on the Draft Outcome Document for the Millennium +5 Summit, 14-16 September 2005

10 June 2005

Prepared by the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL),
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN),
United Methodist United Nations Office (UMOUN)
Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Women's organizations and networks welcome the statements by governments that reaffirm the critical importance of gender equality, women's empowerment and the promotion and protection of the human rights of women in achieving sustainable development and peace.

However, the Secretary-General in his report "In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" and governments in their statements have not sufficiently integrated a gender perspective and women-centered approach in their commitments to development, peace and security, and human rights.

In accordance with the following previously-made governmental commitments, we urge governments to ensure that national statements and the outcome document integrate a gender perspective and incorporate calls for the full participation of women in the commitments to development, peace, human rights and UN governance:

*The General Assembly,
Emphasizes that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the mainstreaming of a gender perspective, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions; (A/RES/59/168, para 19)*

For more information contact:

Charlotte Bunch, CWGL, at cwgl@igc.org; Francoise Girard, DAWN, at fgdk@aol.com;

Vina Nadjibulla, UMOUN, at pnadjibu@gbgm-umc.org; June Zeitlin, WEDO, at june@wedo.org

Kara Piccirilli, WILPF-UN Office, at kara@peacewomen.org

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The two columns below highlight paragraphs in the draft outcome document (3 June 2005) that contain language that we encourage governments to strengthen and/or retain. Specific recommendations for strengthening the language in these paragraphs can be found on pages 3-6 of this document. All proposed language is in bold. References to agreed language are in italics.

We urge Member States to strengthen the text contained in the following paragraphs:

II. Development

paras: 14(10), 17, 20, 26

III. Peace and Collective Security

paras: 37, 40, 41

IV. Human Rights and Rule of Law

paras: 66, 67, 69

V. Strengthening the United Nations

paras: 96, 102

We urge Member States to retain the text contained in the following paragraphs:

I. Values and Principles

paras: 3, 9

II. Development

paras: 14(1), 15, 19, 21

III. Peace and Collective Security

paras: 31, 32, 40

IV. Human Rights and Rule of Law

paras: 62, 65, 71, 72, 75

V. Strengthening the United Nations

para: 88(6)

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II. Development

Financing for development

14. Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus, we recognize that mobilizing financial resources for development is central to the achievement of these goals and to this end, we:

- Agree to support country led “quick win” initiatives consistent with long-term national development strategies so as to realize major immediate progress towards the development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals through such measures as the free distribution of malaria bed nets and effective antimalaria medicines, the expansion of home-grown school meals programmes using locally produced foods and the elimination of user fees for **preschool education, where appropriate, primary education and health services, universal access to sexual and reproductive health information and services, including family planning and contraceptive information and services and the closing of existing funding gaps for supplies and logistics, expanded use of proven effective drug combination for AIDS, the launching of national campaigns to stop violence against women, and the collection and disaggregation of data by sex;**
(*Millennium Project Overview Report, p. 26*)

17. We resolve to make the goal of productive employment and decent work, **including safety standards, labour protections and provisions against discrimination and sexual harassment,** a central objective of our national and international macro-economic policies as well as poverty reduction strategies.

Gender equality and empowerment of women

20. We reaffirm that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration; and resolve to promote gender equality and to overcome pervasive gender bias by:

- increasing primary school completion and secondary school access for girls,
- ensuring secure tenure of property, **land and inheritance rights** to women;
- ensuring **universal** access to **sexual and reproductive health services;**
- **protecting reproductive rights;**
- promoting equal access to **sustainable employment** [delete: labour markets] **as well as adequate labour protections;**
- **investing in the infrastructure necessary to reduce women’s and girls’ time burdens, so that, for example, the amount of time women spend on gathering fuel, water, and other basic necessities is drastically reduced.**
- **taking positive measures to achieve gender balance by 2015** in government decision-making bodies; and
- supporting direct interventions **and providing resources to protect women from violence, to punish acts of violence against women, and to implement comprehensive national plans.**

Meeting the special needs of Africa

26. Reaffirming our commitment to urgently meet the special needs of Africa to enable it to enter the mainstream of the world economy, we resolve to:

- **Urge African leaders to implement the Dakar and Beijing Platforms of Action, as their implementation is essential to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and NEPAD.**
- Attach priority to providing assistance for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment in African countries, **taking into account the specific concerns, needs and leadership of African women and girls**, on a grant basis, and to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make anti-retroviral drugs affordable and accessible in Africa and ensure increased support for bilateral and multilateral assistance to combat malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases in Africa.

III. Peace and collective security

Role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts

37. We stress the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace building. We also underline the importance of **the integration of gender perspectives and women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as well as the need to increase their role at all levels of decision-making. We strongly condemn all violations of the human rights of women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the use of sexual exploitation, violence and abuse and commit to establishing and implementing strategies to prevent and report on gender-based violence.**

Peacebuilding

40. Emphasizing the vital role that the United Nations plays in helping parties end hostilities and emerge from conflict towards recovery and development; we decide to:

- Establish a Peacebuilding Commission to provide sustained international attention...It should extend political attention to recovery beyond the period of dedicated attention by the Security Council, working with the Economic and Social Council and other bodies **and civil society organizations**, and should report on country-specific issues to the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in sequence, depending on the phase of the conflict. On general issues, the Peacebuilding Commission should make recommendations on peacebuilding policy to the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the General Assembly within their areas of competence;

Peacebuilding (cont'd)

41. We request the President of the General Assembly, assisted by the Secretary-General, to conduct consultations with Member States and **civil society organizations, and in particular, women's organizations**, in order to develop the necessary modalities for the effective operation of the Peacebuilding Commission, including on its composition, its rules of procedure and financial arrangements for its functioning, so that the body can begin operations no later than 31 December 2005.

IV. Human rights and rule of Law

Human Rights

66. We resolve to improve the effectiveness of the human rights treaty bodies, including through improved and streamlined reporting procedures **that maintain processes through which governments will be required to report with the same specificity as they had in previous documentation to specific Committees, such as those on race (CERD), children (CRC) and women (CEDAW)** and to promote the implementation of their recommendations.

Rule of law

67. Recognizing the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both national and international levels, we pledge to:

- **Recognize the important role of law, including legislation, in the promotion of gender equality, and calls upon States to continue their efforts to repeal laws and eradicate practices that discriminate against women and to adopt laws and promote practices that protect the rights of women and promote gender equality;**
(A/RES/59/168, para 26)

Democracy

69. We commit to support democracy in our own countries, our regions, and the world, **including by guaranteeing the political rights of women and gender balance in political representation at all levels**, and resolve to strengthen the United Nations' capacity to assist Member States on request. We therefore welcome the establishment of a Democracy Fund at the UN and invite the Secretary-General to establish an Advisory Board to provide policy guidance and funding guidelines.

V. Strengthening the United Nations

Secretariat

96. We welcome the commitment of the Secretary-General to secure a **[delete: just]** gender balance in the staffing of the Organization. We encourage the Secretary-General and all decision-making bodies to take further steps in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the policies and decisions of the Organization, **to elevate the status of women-specific entities in the UN system, and to increase the allocation of regular and voluntary funds for the women-specific and gender mainstreaming work of all UN entities.**

Participation of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector

102. We welcome the **[delete: positive]** contribution of non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector in the promotion and implementation of development, security and human rights **processes and** programmes and stress the importance of their continued engagement with governments, the UN system, **and in particular, through enhanced connection with the General Assembly and Security Council deliberations and decision-making,** and other international organizations in these key areas.