

Gertrude Eigelsreiter-Jashari, Julia Günther, Brita Neuhold

**Beijing – Twenty Years Later
Review and Recommendations
In Selected Countries and Specific Areas of Concern**



'Every Woman, Every Right, Every Minute
Everyone is Responsible. The Time is Now.'

"The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action are as relevant today as they were twenty years ago."

References to citations from title-page:

NGO-CSW UN ECE Geneva 2014: Geneva NGO Forum on Beijing +20, DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS, 5.11.2014, <http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Outcome-Document-NGO-Forum-Beijing-20-FINAL-21Dec2014-clean.pdf>, 27/1/2015

United Nations Economic and Social Council, Economic Commission for Europe of United Nations Economic and Social Council, 18/12/2014: Report of the Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting, AC.28/2014/2, 13

Vienna, February 2015

Impressum:

WIDE - Entwicklungspolitisches Netzwerk
für Frauenrechte und feministische Perspektiven
Margaretenstr. 166/2.Stock/218-221, A-1090 Wien, Austria
Tel: (+43-1) 317 40 31
office@wide-netzwerk.at
www.wide-netzwerk.at
ZVR-Zahl: 626905553

With financial support from:

Austrian
 Development Cooperation

Table of Content

1. Introduction	5
1.1. Starting Point	5
1.2. Overview of This Study	5
2. From Beijing 1995 to New York 2015	6
2.1. Commitments Ahead of the 4 th World Women´s Conference	6
2.2. Beijing – A Spectacular Event	6
3. Beijing Realised or Just to Be Revisited? Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Selected Countries and Specific Areas of Concern	7
3.1. Georgia (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia – ESCWA)	7
3.1.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)	7
3.1.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)	9
3.1.3. Emerging Priorities	10
3.2. India (Asia and Pacific – ESCAP)	11
3.2.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)	12
3.2.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)	15
3.2.3. Emerging Priorities	16
3.3. Croatia (Economic Commission for Europe – ECE)	17
3.3.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)	18
3.3.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)	19
3.3.3. Emerging Priorities	20

3.4.	Ethiopia (Economic Commission for Africa – ECA)	21
3.4.1.	Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)	21
3.4.1.1.	Gender in Macro-Economic Policies	21
3.4.1.2.	Legal and Policy Framework to Empower Women	22
3.4.1.3.	Property	23
3.4.1.4.	Social Protection Schemes	23
3.4.2.	Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)	23
3.4.3.	Emerging Priorities	25
4.	Efficiency of Austria's Gender-Oriented Development Cooperation with Countries in the Global South	26
5.	Recommendations For Change	27
5.1.	Poverty Reduction	29
5.2.	Human Rights	29
6.	Conclusion	31
	Literature	33
	Abbreviations	35
	About the Authors	36

1. Introduction

1.1. Starting Point

In March 2015 – twenty years after the Fourth UN World Women’s Conference in Beijing – a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by governments having adopted these documents will be performed. This important process will not be undertaken within the framework of a further UN World Women’s Conference but during the 59th annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

The national reviews were submitted at the end of May 2014, while the regional reviews were presented and adopted at the regional conferences which took place in November 2014. According to UN Women, these reviews are to clarify the following issues:

- Which trends can be defined?
- Which goals could be reached?
- Which gaps and challenges can be stated?
- Which future plans are drafted?

1.2. Overview of This Study

In this context, the feminist development network WIDE Austria aims to analyse the national reviews on the implementation of the BEIJING DECLARATION and BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION (BPfA) by the UN member countries India, Georgia, Ethiopia and Croatia which have been submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women. The authors selected these countries to investigate differences in the implementation of the BPfA in and between several UN world regions, in particular in countries which are important in the context of the Austrian Development Cooperation, like Ethiopia and Georgia. This study is focussing in particular on the information on policies and practice in the fields of the critical areas of concern A (Poverty of women) and I (Human rights of women). The authors selected the areas A and I for two reasons. First, as these areas are the foundation of any kind of development in a country as well as of development cooperation initiatives: they are among the most important fields to analyse and discuss. Second, the authors have been working on these issues for years and hence have an expertise in the named areas.

2. From Beijing 1995 to New York 2015

2.1. Commitments Ahead of the 4th World Women's Conference

The 4th UN World Conference on Women was prepared with intensive commitment by governments as well as civil society organisations in the majority of UN member countries.

In Austria, an inter-ministerial working group was established with broad involvement of NGOs. The group met regularly, provided sufficient documents and information material and was very effective with respect to mutual exchange of ideas and concrete working proposals. This cooperation continued during the UN World Women's Conference and contributed to a very active participation of the civil society. The work and effect of this official inter-ministerial working group cannot be lauded enough.

2.2. Beijing – A Spectacular Event

The document of negotiations at the 4th UN Women's World Conference is the *Declaration and Platform for Action of Beijing*. In Beijing, the negotiations were not as strongly overshadowed by North-South conflicts as former women's conferences, but mostly characterised by cooperation and mutual tolerance. Nevertheless, tensions also emerged, mostly around the issues of traditional values concerning women's sexuality and reproductive and inheritance rights. In this respect, the traditional attitudes were actively supported by some conservative Islamic States and the Vatican. Nevertheless, in both cases progressive proposals securing the human rights of women and girls were adopted. Disagreements also emerged discussing economic issues, above all in Area of Concern A, concerning the issue of debt problems and in the framework of Area of Concern K around the intellectual property rights of indigenous women and concerning a text on the transport of dangerous, toxic and radio-active garbage. On both issues, the USA and the EU enforced soft and general formulations.

In the end, consensus prevailed and the outcome document was adopted with positive support and acknowledgement. Consequently, the outcome documents of this conference, the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action, stand for a

turning point in the field of negotiations on women's rights and is ranking high in international recognition.

3. Beijing Realised or Just to Be Revisited? Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in Selected Countries and Specific Areas of Concern

This study aims to give a critical review of the implementation of critical areas of concern identified in the BPfA and to focus on the national reviews of Georgia (for Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia - ESCWA), of India (for Asia and Pacific – ESCAP), of Croatia (for Economic Commission for Europe – ECE) and of Ethiopia (for Economic Commission for Africa – ECA), which have been submitted to the UN prior to the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. All these case-studies highlight the fact that the BPfA induced national governments to put women's advancement and gender equality at the forefront of their national policies.

3.1. Georgia (Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia - ESCWA)

In general, the achievements and challenges since 1995 show that along with freedom and opportunities after independence structural poverty has emerged.¹ One of the three major challenges regarding the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women is poverty among women. Noteworthy is that this is greatly acknowledged by the government and included in the *Gender Equality Action Plan of Georgia (2014-2016)* adopted in January 2014.²

3.1.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)

Georgia, in general, suffers from high unemployment rates for both men and women as well as from low economic activity rates that are higher for women than for men. The labour market is gender-segregated. In many impoverished families, women have taken on the role of breadwinners by accepting low-paid jobs, while remaining primary caregivers, responsible for household work and caring for children

¹ Georgia 2014: Georgia – Beijing +20 National Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Tbilisi, 3.

² Ibid, 13

and the elderly. Women mostly work in low-paying fields, like agriculture, education, healthcare and light industry.³

Within the *Millennium Development Goal* (MDG) 3 – promotion on gender equality and empowerment of women - Georgia has chosen two key targets: first, ensuring gender equality in employment and second, ensuring equal access to activity in the political domain and at all levels of management. Progress towards the implementation of the MDGs has been uneven and much remains to be achieved especially in the areas of women's political and economic empowerment⁴.

Referring to the first of the eight MDGs, eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the UN-MDG Report 2013 finds positive results for the *Caucasus and Central Asia Region*, including Georgia⁵. According to the report, the region has almost met the target of halving hunger by 2015.

In 2006, the CEDAW Committee recommended that the government ensures that all poverty alleviation programs and strategies are gender-sensitive and takes into account the needs of vulnerable groups, including rural women, elderly women and women-headed households⁶. Yet, an annual study from 2012⁷ revealed that the failure to foresee gender aspects of the social protection system may become a direct source of discrimination against women, which is prohibited by the Constitution of Georgia. However, the existing legislation does not address victims/survivors of domestic violence, who move to shelters, to receive financial assistance⁸.

The most vulnerable group, however, is the one of single mothers. There are no state programs supporting single mothers. The state provides free legal aid for socially vulnerable people but does not focus on single mothers alone. Free consultation on civil and administrative cases is available for both men and women⁹. In regard to the children's welfare, it is critical to ensure that the allowance is

³ Ibid, 15; Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia, State Department of Statistics, Women and Men in Georgia, Statistical Booklet, Tbilisi: 2008, 41.

⁴ Ibid, 15

⁵ http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/millennium_development_goals/MDGs_and_georgia#.U0vOwfmSzal, 7/1/2015

⁶ Ibid, 16

⁷ The annual Report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The Situation of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/1/1350.pdf, 17/1/2015

⁸ Ibid, 17

⁹ Ibid, 17

provided in the best interests of a child, thus the ministry is considering making mothers primary recipients of this allowance.

In 2014, UN Women organised a consultation meeting with civil society advisory groups around Beijing+20 review processes, in which over 20 of the leading women's rights NGOs participated. The outcome is appalling: women are at high risk of poverty and feminisation of poverty is a reality in Georgia. Women are the primary caregivers for disabled members of their families, a reality which further prevents their employability.

According to representatives, Georgia needs to take more proactive steps to help women to overcome poverty¹⁰. Greater commitments are needed to implement these policies and legal frameworks in order to meet Georgia's international obligations, including the BPfA¹¹.

3.1.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)

Article 14 of the Constitution of Georgia mandates equality – i. a. between women and men - and in this respect states the following:

„Everyone is born free and is equal before the law, regardless of race, skin color, language, sex, religion, political and other beliefs, national, ethnic and social origin, property and title of nobility or place of residence.“¹².

Georgia signed and ratified CEDAW without reservation in 1994, and concludes that, under Article 6 of the Constitution, it prevails as an international treaty over national legislation, making the CEDAW legally binding and enforceable by Georgia's courts.

Several laws like “Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance to the Victims of Domestic Violence” (2006), the „Law of Georgia on Gender Equality (2010), the „Labour Code of Georgia“ amended in 2013, and the „Civil Code of Georgia“ are devoted to the improvement of the situation of women in Georgia, the latter law dealing particularly with the equal rights of women and men with respect to

¹⁰ Ibid, 18

¹¹ Ibid, 15

¹² Ibid, 40

education and training of their children. The Non-Discrimination Law, adopted in April 2014, „clearly states unacceptability of discrimination on the basis of one’s gender identity and sexual orientation along with (...) sex, pregnancy, marital or health status (...)”¹³.

A very important role in this context is taken over by a special ombudsperson, who is known under the denomination as „Public Defender“ who examines laws with respect to eventual discrimination. In May 2013, the „Gender Equality Department“ has been established as part of the office of the Public Defender¹⁴.

3.1.3. Emerging Priorities

The following points have been identified as emerging priorities:

- Write all poverty alleviation programs and strategies gender-sensitive and reflect the needs of women and women-headed households.
- Mainstream gender aspects in the social assistance and social protection system of Georgia to make sure that different needs and priorities of women, men, boys and girls are met.
- Make special effort to improve women’s access to resources and training for enhancing livelihoods.
- Analyse possibilities to invest in inter-generational programmes for helping families in their care giving responsibilities and intergenerational support¹⁵.
- Improve existing national non-discriminative legal framework by supporting the full adoption and implementation of the non-discrimination Law and make needed amendments to Gender Equality Law to ensure linkages in terms of implementation mechanisms between the two acts¹⁶.
- Consider inclusion of provision regulating “equal pay” and prohibition of “sexual harassment” and determination of forms of sanctions/punishment in the Labor Code¹⁷.

¹³ Ibid, 41

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ Ibid, 49f

¹⁶ Ibid, 53

¹⁷ Ibid, 53

3.2. India (Asia and Pacific – ESCAP)

In 2006 the *Department of Women and Child Development*, which began its work in 1985, has been upgraded to the *Ministry of Women and Child Development*. The ministry has four autonomous organisations working under its wings:

- i. National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)
- ii. Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA)
- iii. Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB)
- iv. Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK) ¹⁸

To strengthen convergence and provide technical support to the ministry, the *National Mission for Empowerment of Women* (NMEW) has been launched in 2010 and focuses on the following areas:

- i. Poverty Alleviation and Economic Empowerment of Women
- ii. Social Empowerment And Education
- iii. Health & Nutrition
- iv. Gender Rights, Gender Based Violence and Law Enforcement
- v. Gender Budgeting, Gender Mainstreaming
- vi. Empowerment of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups and Women in Difficult Circumstances
- vii. Media and Communication
- viii. IT¹⁹

The Government of India is among the first nations to introduce a *Gender Budgeting Statement* as part of the Union Budget. From 2005 to 2006 there were only 9 ministries/departments which implemented gender budgeting in their finances. In 2014-2015, however, the number has increased to 30. The total allocations reported in the *Gender Budget Statement* in 2014-15 have been Rs. 975,330 million, an increase from 2,79% to 5,46%²⁰.

In 2012, the Government of India has furthermore set up a high level committee on the status of women “to undertake comprehensive study to understand

¹⁸ India 2015: India’s Report On the Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action In Context of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Delhi – further referred to as Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid, 4f

²⁰ Ibid, 5

the status of women since 1989 as well as to evolve appropriate policy intervention based on a contemporary assessment of women's needs"²¹.

3.2.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household. It is provided in the act that while providing employment, priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women. In fact, the women participation rate has ranged between 40-53 % (2006-2013). Also there should be one-third in the decision-making bodies as per this act. Research studies indicate that MGNREGA is an important work opportunity for women and has a positive impact on the economic well-being of women²². It has also led to gender parity in wages and improved the social status of women. A large percentage of these women spend their money to avoid hunger, repay small debts and pay for their child's schooling²³.

To increase participation rates of women workers in this scheme, the government has suggested that individual bank/post office accounts must be opened in the name of all women MGNREGA workers and their wages directly credited to their own account. The Central Government has also advised the States the following²⁴:

- i) To identify widowed women, deserted women and destitute women who qualify as a household under the Act, to ensure that they are provided 100 days of work.
- ii) To ensure that pregnant women and lactating mothers (at least up to 8 months before delivery and 10 months after delivery) are given work which requires less effort and is close to their houses.
- iii) To conduct time and motion studies to formulate gender, age, level of disability, terrain and climate sensitive Schedule of Rates (SoRs) and to ensure accurate capturing of work done by women at worksites.
- iv) To ensure that at least 50% of the worksite supervisors (mates) at all worksites

²¹ Ibid, 7

²² Ibid, 23

²³ Ibid, 24

²⁴ Ibid, 25

are women.

v) To ensure that worksite facilities, such as crèches, drinking water and shade, are provided through convergence with Women and Child Development Schemes, like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

vi) To encourage participation of women groups, including Self Help Groups (SHGs) in awareness generation, capturing demand, planning, implementation, monitoring and maintenance of works.

Aajeevika or NRLM (National Rural Livelihoods Mission), one of the world's largest poverty eradication programmes, seeks to organize 80-100 million rural women into SHGs over a period of 10 years to improve their quality of life and come out of poverty with their immanent capabilities through creating an enabling environment for them²⁵.

Each SHG covers 10-20 women, provides space for self-help, mutual cooperation and collective action for social and economic development for its members. It especially focuses on women headed households, single women, female victim of trafficking and other similar vulnerable groups.

Some of the import aspects of the groups are their homogeneity, voluntarily and consisting of only poor women. The poor are identified through the *Participatory Identification of the Poor* (PIP) process. The process of identification of these poor women is clearly structured and institutionalised including a regular follow-up and review of implementation. Women are encouraged to take up credit and thrift activities²⁶.

The infusion of capital, dissemination of information, convergence and linkage with government line departments has increased the participation of women in the economy. Creating such institutions for women is one outcome. MGNRLM facilitates women to assert their rights for inclusion in the economy, for accessing resources, for addressing powerlessness and exclusion, for enabling participation and most significantly for realizing equity²⁷.

²⁵ Ibid, 25

²⁶ Ibid, 25

²⁷ Ibid, 26

Furthermore, the Indian Government, especially the Ministry of Rural Development, has created several further schemes for rural housing, pensions for widows and family benefit scheme for families who had lost their primary breadwinner(s). A scheme for training for women's employment was already launched in 1986/87 with the aim to make an impact on women by upgrading skills on a self-sustainable basis. During the ongoing 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) 65.252 beneficiaries are covered²⁸.

Two programmes under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs deal with indigenous groups. One is for economic development of scheduled tribes by extending concessional financial assistance for income generating including an exclusive scheme for women. Another one is a special assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan which is stipulated that 30 % of the funds are to be kept aside for "Women Component" and to be spent for income generation activities of women beneficiaries²⁹.

There is also a running scheme from the *Department of Science and Technology* with the prime objective of promoting gender equality and empower women through the application of science and technology through research, development, transfer of proven technologies and adaptation of technologies to enhance the socio economic development of women, especially of those living in rural areas.

Within the national urban housing program the key aspects outlined are involving women at all levels of decision making for ensuring their participation, addressing the special needs of women-headed households, single women, working women and women in difficult circumstances in relation to housing serviced by basic amenities³⁰. As the construction industry is one of the biggest employers of women workers and also one of their biggest exploiters in terms of disparity in wages, this program aimed also at upgrading the skills of women construction workers, induct them at supervisory levels and also train them to be contractors³¹.

National urban livelihood programs explicitly provide for inclusion and empowerment of women detailed operational guidelines. The *Slum Free City Plan of Action*, for example, entails inclusion of women in the process, prioritisation, decision-

²⁸ Ibid, 28

²⁹ Ibid, 28

³⁰ Ibid, 28

³¹ Ibid, 29

making and vulnerability assessment. The preference has been given to women in identification of beneficiaries. These programs also provide assistance for development/upgrading of skills of the urban poor which aims at financial assistance for setting up gainful self-employment ventures or micro-enterprises. The percentage of women beneficiaries aims to be 30 percent. Preference has been allocated to women and women-headed households³².

3.2.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)

The National Commission for Women (NCW), which was set up as a statutory body in 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act 1990, is one of the main entities to assess the status of women across the Indian subcontinent. Furthermore, it organises and carries out seminars, workshops and campaigns on gender-related topics, such as sex selective abortions, violence against women, child marriage, and dowry related issues³³.

The girl child continues to be one of the most vulnerable members of the Indian society. Although the literacy rates show an increase of girls in primary education (sex ratio is 933 to 943), the child sex ratio of the age group 0 to 6 highlight a deterioration from 927 in 2001 to 918 in 2011³⁴. The preference of a male child prevails and reflects a pre-birth discrimination by pre-natal diagnostic techniques. These techniques however have been prohibited by the Prohibition of Sex Selection Act, 1994. Unfortunately, the implementation of this act is lacking. After birth, girls experience inadequate health care, malnutrition and limited education opportunities. In order to increase the sex ratio, the government initiated a programme called 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (BBBP) which aims to change the societal mind-set. It furthermore emphasises prevention of sex selective abortion, protection of the girl child and ensuring primary education for the girl child.

Another important act to protect the girl child is *The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006* which prohibits child marriages. Women need to be 18 years of age and men need to be 21 years of age before their marriage day. On January 24,

³² Ibid, 29

³³ Ibid, 65

³⁴ Ibid, 68

when India celebrated the 'National Girl Child Day', campaigns to sensitise and raise awareness on the girl child are being initiated to reach a wider public³⁵.

Violence against girls and women has been a pre-dominant issue in India. The interventions by the government are mainly of legislative nature. They include offences and punishments provided under the Indian Penal code, gender-specific legislations and schemes and programme interventions to prevent violence against women which support victims of such crime in the form of shelter and rehabilitation.

Furthermore, India has two statutory commissions to safeguard constitutional and legal rights of women and children, redress any deprivation of their rights and promote gender justice and equality:

- i. National Commission for Women (NCW)
- ii. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)³⁶

Among those laws that have been enacted to enhance the rights of women and girls in the recent years are the *Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013*, making the punishment for offences such as rape more stringent, the *Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013*, which provides a safe and secured working environment and the *Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005*, which protects the rights of women who are victims of domestic violence³⁷.

3.2.3. Emerging Priorities

One of the main emerging priorities is that women become equal partners in all development processes: "It is well recognised that societies which discriminate by gender tend to experience less rapid economic growth and poverty reduction than societies which treat men and women more equally"³⁸.

Furthermore the following is stated:

"Gender assessments have to be undertaken continuously to reveal gaps and monitor progress towards gender equality. Empowerment of women is essentially the vehicle of change to achieve gender equality that is meaningful and sustainable"³⁹.

³⁵ Ibid, 69

³⁶ Ibid, 2

³⁷ Ibid, 3

³⁸ Ibid, 80

³⁹ Ibid, 80f

The importance of empowerment has been recognised in the *Indian National Policy for the Empowerment of Women* of 2001 which leads to a woman's economic and societal improved standing.

- Gender equality and empowerment is the core development goal.
- Gender assessments have to be undertaken continuously to reveal gaps and monitor progress towards gender equality. Empowerment of women is essentially the vehicle of change to achieve gender equality that is meaningful and sustainable.
- The *Indian National Policy for the Empowerment of Women*, 2001, outlines that the empowerment is an enabling process that must lead to women's economic as well as social transformation⁴⁰.

3.3. Croatia (Economic Commission for Europe - ECE)

The Gender Equality Commission of the Government of the RC was founded in 1996. The policy of gender equality and the advancement of women were further affirmed by the continual adoption of five-year national action plans in 1997, 2001, 2006 and 2011⁴¹.

The actual fundamental strategic document is the *National Policy for Gender Equality 2011 to 2015*⁴². In general Croatia reports achievements in the effort to combat violence against women and to enhance legislation, education⁴³ and economic empowerment of women, while there is unsatisfactory regarding political empowerment and de jure/de facto gap⁴⁴. Most important challenges are gender inequality on the labour market, the availability of financial resources⁴⁵ for gender equality and the full affirmation of women's human rights⁴⁶.

⁴⁰ Ibid, 80f

⁴¹ The Republic of Croatia 2014: Report by the Republic of Croatia on the Application of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Results of the 23rd Special Session of the UN Gender Assembly (2000) – Beijing +20, Zagreb.

⁴² Ibid, 4

⁴³ Ibid, 4-6

⁴⁴ Ibid, 8

⁴⁵ Ibid, 10

⁴⁶ Ibid, 11

3.3.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)

Since 2007 several instruments and programs combating poverty have been established but none of them only addresses women. In the *Joint Memorandum of Social Inclusion* with the European Commission the fight against poverty is identified as a main challenge and priority but without reference to women.

Within several policies and programs, women are subsumed in vulnerable or minority groups. Nevertheless, it is mentioned that women often face increased and/or multiple discrimination and social exclusion. In general, in 2012, the rate of poverty risk was 20,5 % - 19,4 for men and 21,6 for women. The highest risk is for those people older than 65, where the difference between men (21,1 %) and women (30,4 %) is the greatest and is constantly growing. Single people face the greatest risk of poverty, especially single households comprising elderly women (42,7 %). In the category of households with children, the highest rate of risk of poverty is found in single parent households (40,4 %) and the proportion of women among single and of unemployed parents, who have insufficient means, amounts to 72 %. Over the past three years this rate has been falling for men but rising for women.

The vulnerable group of elderly people were included in the extra-institutional services programs, of which women were 74 % in 2012. The percentage of women in an employment programme for long-term unemployment, elderly and those with low qualifications is 82 %⁴⁷. The number of adult women who receive support allowance from the state has been rising, from 53.702 women in 2011 to 54.153 in 2012⁴⁸.

Measures related to improving the social position of Roma women are an integral part of the *National Policy for Gender Equality 2011-2015*. In the reporting period, a series of workshops, round tables and other activities were held aiming to empower Roma women and combat their poverty and social exclusion⁴⁹.

⁴⁷ Ibid, 14

⁴⁸ Ibid, 14

⁴⁹ Ibid, 15

3.3.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)

The *National Policy for Gender Equality 2011-2015* promotes human rights of women and gender equality. It does so in particular in its function to inform the civil society about the *Gender Equality Act* as well as other anti-discrimination laws. Doing so, it aims to improve the social position of women who are from minority groups, such as women with disabilities, women in rural areas and organisations promoting the equality of LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex) people⁵⁰. The *National Programme for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, 2013-2016* is another important instrument which protects and promotes the human rights of women.

On the 30th anniversary of CEDAW in 2010, the *Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Research* and the OGE organised an International Conference entitled "Women's Human Rights - Developments on an international and national level, 30 years after the adoption of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women". The documentation of the conference with the same title was published and utilised⁵¹ receiving public and media attention.

The Republic of Croatia translates, prints, promotes and distributes national as well as international documents in regard to human rights of women continuously. Among the important ones are the *Gender Equality Act*, the *National Policy for Gender Equality*, the *European Commission Strategy for Equality between Women and Men, 2010-2015*, the *Strategy for Gender Equality of the Council of Europe 2014-2017*, the handbook of good practice *Gender Equality in Sports - Access for Girls and Women to Sport Practices* and the handbook *Gender Budgeting: practical implementation*, and *Women and Journalists First*⁵².

Many activities are regularly held on a national and local level to mark International Women's Day – 8 March, the International Day of Rural Women – 15 October, the National Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – 22 September, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – 25 November, the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia – 17 May, International Women Entrepreneurs' Day⁵³.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 34

⁵¹ Ibid, 34

⁵² Ibid, 34f

⁵³ Ibid, 34

In 2014, the *Office for Human Rights and the Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Croatia* called for tenders for the allocation of grants to NGOs to implement projects in the area of the protection, respect for and promotion of human rights. Priority areas within the tender included activities dealing with the promotion of the inclusion of women and young people with disabilities in public and political life, the raising of awareness of women who are members of national minorities of their human rights, and the prevention and suppression of various forms of domestic violence. In cases of violation of their human rights, women are entitled to send complaints to the Ombudsperson for Gender Equality and the Ombudsperson of Croatia who then proceed in accordance with their legal responsibilities and scope of work⁵⁴.

3.3.3. Emerging Priorities

Starting from the established progress, a broad public debate has to be conducted in cooperation with NGOs and other interested stakeholders on the basic strategic goals and national priorities in the area of gender equality. In this, the key activities aim at raising the level of knowledge of antidiscrimination legislation, the recognition of discrimination and the possibilities for legal protection against gender related discrimination. This is particularly important in rural areas as most citizens do not know about the *Gender Equality Act* and that gender discrimination is punishable by law.

The priority remains to undertake activities aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, especially in the area of prevention, provision of optimal protection for victims and offering support through activities and programmes for their social inclusion.

Another priority is the elimination of discrimination against women on the labour market and achieving the equal economic independence of women and men, by reducing unemployment and strengthening female and male entrepreneurship. At the same time, further work is needed to make it possible to balance private and professional obligations. It is also important to implement a large number of measures to increase the proportion of women in political and public decision-making processes.

⁵⁴ Ibid, 35

According to the *National Action Plan for Gender Equality*, further goals are to combat widespread gender stereotypes, including the improvement of gender sensitive education, further financial and staffing reinforcement of mechanisms for gender equality and the introduction of the gender dimension in the state budget.

Within the Post-2015 debate, Croatia strongly supports gender equality and the empowerment of women as a stand-alone goal which should be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of the new development framework⁵⁵.

3.4. Ethiopia (Economic Commission for Africa – ECA)

In general, Ethiopia has made impressive progress despite starting at a lower level in several areas. Some of the positive developments can be shown in numbers, such as the women's participation in parliament which has increased from 2,83 % 1995 to 27,9 % in 2010⁵⁶, Women Land Certificate Holders increased from 19,4 % 2000 to 60 % in 2011⁵⁷, FGM decreased from 80 % 2000 to 23 % in 2011 and early marriage from 33,1 % 1997 to 8 % 2012⁵⁸.

3.4.1. Implementation of Area of Critical Concern A (Women and Poverty)

Unfortunately, there are no gender-disaggregated data on poverty among women and men. The overall decline in poverty levels about 38,9 % over a 16-year-period which is assumed to lift women out of extreme poverty⁵⁹. Particularly the higher level of decline in rural areas, where the phenomena of feminisation of poverty is likely to be acute, has benefited women to a large degree.

3.4.1.1. Gender in Macro-Economic Policies

Various actions have been undertaken by the government to reduce poverty. Efforts have been geared towards engendering macro-economic policies so as to

⁵⁵ Ibid, 44ff

⁵⁶ The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2014: National Report on the Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and The Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of The United Nations General Assembly (2000), Addis Abeba.

⁵⁷ Ibid, 10

⁵⁸ Ibid, 8

⁵⁹ Ibid, 16

address the needs and interests of women and men. To this end, two of the major national development plans of the country PASDEP and GTP (spanning 2005/6 – 2009/10 and 2010/11- 2015 respectively) have mainstreamed gender and further identified women’s issues as standalone areas of action. Further, the national action plan for gender equality (2006-2010) has been fully integrated into the former national development plan where job creation stands as one of the major pillars.

The national development plans have a particular focus on pro-poor sectors, namely education, health, agriculture, water and roads. These increased levels of public expenditure on these pro-poor sectors have particular importance from a gender perspective because investment in health, education and agriculture tends to ease the burden of women in the reproductive sector and increase their access to productive resources⁶⁰.

The government has further earmarked expenditure to promote women’s economic empowerment through several women specific projects, funds and packages focused on urban and rural women and pastoralist and semi-pastoralist development⁶¹. These targeted expenditures are used both as a mainstreaming and mobilisation tool. It provides opportunities for rural women to be organised into various cooperative societies to ensure their economic benefits.

3.4.1.2. Legal and Policy Framework to Empower Women

Legal reforms have been adopted by the government on the basis of the constitution which guaranteed fundamental human rights as principles of equality and non-discrimination to ensure women’s equal access to and control over productive resources such as land and property. The *Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation* (2005) provides women with the right to use rural land through the issuance of certificates. This has improved the status of women and their bargaining power vis-à-vis their husbands and the community at large. In 2011, 60 % of rural women owned land either alone or jointly with their husbands⁶². More than 2 Billion rural women have been granted land-holding certificates in 2013⁶³.

In addressing the needs of women engaged in agriculture, the *Technical and Vocational Education and Training Program* (TVET) of the *Ministry of Agriculture* has

⁶⁰ Ibid, 17

⁶¹ Ibid, 17

⁶² Ethiopian Demographic Health Survey (EDHS), 2011

⁶³ Ibid, 17

adopted a gender sensitive approach in its training of development agents. Further, affirmative measures in terms of recruitment and increased support during their studies are put in place to increase the representation of female development agents. These measures increased women's access to services: In 2011/12 nearly 9 billion female farmers benefited from extension services in pastoralist areas, 148,000 female household-heads became beneficiaries⁶⁴.

3.4.1.3. Property

To make women property owners, the housing scheme provides 30 % of constructed houses for women and the remaining 70 % are given equally to both men and women. 11 % of women own a house alone⁶⁵.

3.4.1.4. Social Protection Schemes

The Ethiopian government has put in place various mechanisms to protect the most vulnerable sections of society, especially women. The food security program of the country has devised various ways of addressing women headed households. The program aims at creating employment opportunities and provides direct assistance to vulnerable sections of society, particularly women. Other social security schemes focus on facilitating access to basic social services, which is particularly important for women as they significantly contribute to ease their reproductive burden. Measures such as school fee waiver and school feeding in some areas, waiver of medical fee and a free package of health services or mobile clinics provided in pastoralist areas or water supplied at subsidised or free rates, occasional grain subsidies in urban areas, low-cost urban housing and alternative care services are notable⁶⁶.

3.4.2. Implementation of Strategic Objectives and Actions in the Area of Critical Concern I (Human Rights of Women)

Ethiopia has developed a *National Human Rights Action Plan* with a special section for women and children. Its implementation is overseen by members of relevant ministries and the *National Commission on the Status of Women*. The government has undertaken actions towards familiarising relevant bodies, such as

⁶⁴ Ibid, 18

⁶⁵ EDHS, 2011

⁶⁶ Ibid, 18

parliament and members of law enforcement, with the content of CEDAW. In order to make these instruments accessible to the public, the instruments have been translated into five local languages and made accessible to justice administration bodies in the country⁶⁷.

Ethiopia has undertaken a review on its legislation to ensure the conformity of national laws with the commitment to gender equality as signed in international and regional treaties. The family law, criminal law, pension law, inheritance law, land law, nationality law and employment related laws are among the important ones. Ethiopia has taken a stern stand on customary laws limiting their applicability only to instances where such laws do not violate human rights of women as entitled in the constitution. Furthermore, national strategies and action plans have been adopted to address the widespread problem of violence against women.

Measures are being taken to improve women's access to justice through free or low-cost legal services as well as legal literacy programs. The *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission* has established 111 free legal aid centres across the country. The centres target vulnerable groups of society such as women that cannot afford legal counsel and hence cannot have fair access to justice. The program has reached over 12,000 vulnerable sections of society since 2010 through its free legal aid scheme⁶⁸. A number of higher educational institutions of the country also partner with the *National Commission of Women* to deliver the legal aid support. Further, various innovative measures are being taken to ensure women's access to justice. Mentionable in this regard are: circuit courts that travel to difficult-to-reach locations regularly to dispense justice and plasma courts where justice seekers are accessed in their own locations. Women's associations at various levels - federal to regional - have been established with objectives among others to protect the rights of women. The associations are used for the provision of free legal services for women. Legal literacy and advocacy work is also undertaken by these associations.

The education of human rights is an important method to implement human rights. Therefore, human rights education is part of a regular curriculum where students from primary to higher educational institutions learn about human rights. Those curricula promote the principles of equality and justice. This educational set-up

⁶⁷ Ibid, 39f

⁶⁸ Ibid, 40

is one of the mandate areas of the *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission* which has promoted a commissioner for this particular purpose⁶⁹.

The *Ethiopian Human Rights Commission*, furthermore, has set up mechanisms which enable citizens to directly file cases against human rights violations and maladministration nullifying their human rights. In addition, the police and the judiciary are summoned to safeguard women's rights. Each of these institutions have a dedicated gender directorate which is responsible for the implementation of women's rights and gender equality on all levels⁷⁰.

3.4.3. Emerging Priorities

Ethiopia has identified priority areas towards strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the current discussions on *Sustainable Development Goals* and the post-2015 development agenda.

The emerging priorities generally fall into the economic and social sector, which are:

- Empowering rural women through improved access to and control over productive resources and extension services,
- Increasing the integration of women into the formal sector,
- Reducing maternal mortality,
- Narrowing the gender gap at secondary and tertiary educational levels with special emphasis on science and technology,
- Reducing violence against women,
- Strengthening women's associations,
- Building the capacity of the women's machinery,
- Sensitising the media and
- Supporting the girl child⁷¹.

⁶⁹ Ibid, 40f

⁷⁰ Ibid, 41

⁷¹ Ibid, 40f

4. Efficiency of Austria's Gender-Oriented Development Cooperation with Countries in the Global South⁷²

When looking at countries of the Global South, it is also important to highlight the position of the Austrian Development Cooperation in regard to gender equality and women's advancements, especially related to Ethiopia and Georgia, two countries which receive funds by the *Austrian Development Cooperation*. In the internal evaluation process of the *Austrian Development Agency* on its gender policies, the outcome that the implementation of gender mainstreaming within the institution as well as in its programmes is lacking behind needs to be addressed and implemented further. In addition, the *Austrian Development Agency* requires to address gender goals and adapt strategies in key regions und priority countries. WIDE has identified the following key demands for a gender-just Austrian development cooperation:

- All strategic decisions in the development cooperation sector need to be based on human rights.
- The Austrian Development Agency needs to focus on the least developed countries and include the social situation of women in all their processes and analysis.
- WIDE demands an advancement of rural areas, subsistence farming and food sovereignty with a strong consideration of the role of women and gender aspects. It needs a strong position in favour of multi-functional farming and a focus on topics such as land grabbing, which is particularly threatening for small farmers.
- The Austrian government needs to increase the funding for bilateral development cooperation, which can focus on gender-sensitive programs, and include a plan by stages to fulfil its long lasting promises.
- The strong expertise by women's organisations and activists on women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, elimination of all forms of violence against girls and women and gender budgeting need to be supported.
- This expertise needs to be financed. Activists and organisations working on

⁷² WIDE 2014: Von den Millenniumsentwicklungszielen zur Post-2015 Agenda. Blick(e) auf den österreichischen Beitrag zur Gleichstellung von Frauen in der Entwicklungspolitik, Wien

women and gender equality need to be seen as equal parts in all political dialogues.

- Networking between national and international women's NGOs needs to be supported and strengthened.
- Strategies on limiting climate change need to be addressed and implemented.
- The tendency to promote export and economic development needs to be questioned as it promotes the private sector rather than the local economy.
- Last but not least: the *Austrian Development Cooperation* needs to raise the funds for gender-sensitive development aid and foresee it in its budget plans.

5. Recommendations For Change⁷³

The key objectives of the Beijing+20 review process were to review progress in the implementation of the *Beijing Platform for Action* in all 189 involved countries, identify current challenges and provide directions for further action for gender equality and empowerment of women. Notwithstanding considerable improvements in many countries, gender gaps remain. It is obvious that there is a great variation within global regions as well as within nation states. States must respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all women and girls, end discrimination and recognise the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all rights. All stakeholders should ensure sustained funding for women's movement building, especially considering that autonomous women's movements and organisations are critical in advancing women's rights and gender equality.

For the selected areas of concern, poverty and human rights, and related fields, giving gender equality as precondition for sustainable societies, we list the most important general recommendations⁷⁴ below.

Certainly in all countries there are notable positive developments but gaps remain to the disadvantage of women.⁷⁵ Empowering women and striving towards gender equality have to be in the focus of forward-looking policies.

⁷³ For this chapter, Country Reviews Beijing+20, UN-ECE and NGO-Forum Beijing+20 outcome documents, UN CSW 2015 preparation documents were used as basic resources.

⁷⁴ Com. Geneva Declaration, 1 and 3

Women face specific poverty risks regardless of overall poverty rates. Women's care responsibilities cause vulnerability, mainly because of labour market implications, such as being forced into part-time work or facing career interruptions and discrimination based on family status.

A rise in gender equality was achieved in ECE-countries but on the other hand women's employment decreased compared to men's in the years of several crises.

The recent economic crisis drastically exacerbated gender inequalities⁷⁶. The share of women in poverty has increased, strongly affected by the economic crisis.

Women's employment rates remain much lower than men's. Furthermore, women's wage rates are lower. Women remain under-represented among managers and parliamentarians.

Policies should target the elimination of existing gender gaps and the prevention of new ones. Economic regulation and labour market policies should promote equal pay and decent work for all. Access to credit, to decision-making posts and to all occupations should be facilitated.

One specific point, which is often mentioned and which is essential for making gender inequality visible, is sex-disaggregated data. Although the improvement of gender statistics over the last decades has been achieved, more indicators and data are necessary for a good understanding of a country's gender equality situation, for e.g. country coverage remains weak on employment rates of population groups targeted by gender equality policies. Therefore, it is necessary to continue building national capacity in gender statistics and to emphasise the importance of the evidence base and monitoring of policy initiatives on gender equality⁷⁷. The collection of good quality sex-disaggregated data must be ensured so that gender sensitive initiatives and policies can be reliably monitored and subsequently adjusted, if necessary⁷⁸.

In the section below, we identified the most important recommendations for the critical areas of concern, poverty reduction and human rights.

⁷⁵ Com. ECE/AC.28/2014/3-8

⁷⁶ ECE/AC.28/2014/5, 29

⁷⁷ ECE/AC.28/2014/6, 17

⁷⁸ ECE/AC.28/2014/5, 29

5.1. Poverty Reduction

- Develop an alternative macro-economic framework, based on women's human rights approaches, which institutionalises feminist economics at all levels and in all policy domains.
- Ensure its transparency and facilitate monitoring by women's organisations.
- Reform all national and other fiscal systems to provide progressive redistributive tax revenues that generate annual revenues sufficient to finance the progressive realisation of women's equality rights.
- Eliminate all gender discrimination and sex role stereotypes embedded in tax and spending measures.
- Eliminate the gender pay-gap and take necessary steps to ensure equal pay for work.
- Recognise the social and economic value of unpaid care work and reduce the negative gendered impacts on women through redistribution of care services within and between households and adequate government services⁷⁹.
- Ensure women's access to safe, secure and adequately paid work, free of intimidation, harassment and violence.

5.2. Human Rights

- Ensure full commitment and implementation of CEDAW, the BPfA, UN Resolution 1325, and all human rights instruments as the global policy framework for women's rights, empowerment, and gender equality.
- Ensure mainstreaming these issues across all post-2015 *Sustainable Development Goals* and define them as a stand-alone goal with generously resourced indicators.
- Partner with adequately fund women's organisations and civil society for advancing and implementing the commitments of the BPfA and the post-2015 agenda.
- Implement existing laws and policies that protect human rights for all women, especially for girls, young women and elderly women, ethnic minorities, indigenous women, Roma women and girls, women with disabilities, rural women and LGBTQI people.

⁷⁹ Ibid, 3f

- Ensure that all gender-mainstreaming is ‘twin-track’ with provision for special programmes for women and girls including women - only spaces.
- Ensure robust financial and human resources for national machineries and entities for gender equality, including bilateral and multilateral institutions such as the UN.
- Ensure comprehensive monitoring frameworks for gender equality through well-resourced national machineries, independent human rights institutions and comprehensive disaggregated data.
- Ensure access to justice redress and remedial actions in cases of violations of women’s human rights.
- Ensure full civil and birth registration for all.
- Develop, implement and fully fund legal aid systems, accessible to all women, especially in rural areas and vulnerable situations, ensuring competency of legal consultants to provide legal assistance, including in economic, family, civil and criminal matters.
- Support the legal literacy of all women and girls.

Overall we assert that the promotion and protection of women’s human rights is the responsibility of all - governments and society, including men and boys. Gender equality and empowerment of women is necessary for inclusive and sustainable societies.⁸⁰ Therefore,

- Encourage to implement the commitments undertaken in Beijing 1995.
- The current pace of change is too slow: Implement well-funded strategies to accelerate change, to redouble the efforts at all levels.
- Reaffirm that gender equality is a pre-condition for sustainable development.
- The post-2015 agenda needs to ensure a human rights-based approach and has to have a strong focus on the empowerment and rights of women and girls and gender equality.
- Gender equality has to be a priority for the allocation of public budgets.

⁸⁰ Com. ECE/AC.28/2014/2, 13-14, § 37-49

- National gender machineries have to be strengthened to ensure that they have proper authority, capacity and resources to effectively mainstream gender in governmental work in all twelve critical areas of the BPfA.
- It is crucial to ensure human rights for all women and men.
- Preventing and combating violence against women and girls is an essential precondition for equitable and inclusive sustainable development.
- Increasing women's economic participation is a precondition for their empowerment and economic independence and overall positive economic impact.
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights remains an area where there is a critical need to carry out more effective actions.
- Legal frameworks and instruments to protect women's rights have an important role to play, including the implementation of the CEDAW and the *Istanbul Convention*.
- The implementation of the *Security Council Resolution 1325* is crucial to address gender-based violence in conflict situations.
- In order to speed up the much needed change, it is essential that more men and boys are getting involved and engaged in the named issues.

7. Conclusion⁸¹

Although there have been many changes undertaken in the past 20 years and in spite of or especially because of backlashes, the BPfA is still relevant and provides a framework for the implementation of women's rights. Patriarchy deeply embedded in all our systems has often prevented social change and undermined efforts to resist dominant power structures. Therefore, accountability of governments is needed to close the remaining gap between women's rights' agreements and their implementation and to overcome the growing economic inequality: "One of the key challenges today is the growing gap between women whose economic and social status has improved and those who have been further marginalized as the gap between rich and poor, connected and powerless has widened and deepened."⁸²

⁸¹ Country reviews Beijing+20, UN-ECE and NGO-Forum Beijing+20 outcome documents, UN CSW 2015 preparation documents

⁸² Ibid

In her paper “Envisioning women’s rights in the post-2015 context” to the Expert Group Meeting in preparation of the CSW 2015, Charlotte Bunch outlined the following important aspects:

- “1. The BPfA affirms that women’s rights are human rights and universal to women everywhere. It assumes global action on the rights of women locally is a legitimate interest of the international community.
2. The strategic objectives and action plans in each of the critical areas of concern still provide concrete agreement by governments on the types of actions needed by governments and relevant stakeholders at national, regional and global levels.
3. The BPfA reminds us what women’s rights advocates can achieve when networking across geographic and issue boundaries, working to bring in influential civil society allies, and collaborating across lines of civil society, governments, and international organizations. ... The strategic challenge and in other arenas, that will take this historic struggle for gender equality and the realization of the full human rights of all forward.”⁸³

As a next and important step, it is inevitable to collect NGO responses to the national reviews post the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarter in New York in March 2015 and to engage in a global movement towards women’s advancement and gender equality. Without a doubt, the world has seen an improvement towards gender equality and women’s advancements. Nevertheless, national governments are aware of gaps and civil society organisations demand that more has to be done to create gender-just and sustainable nations. The full implementation of the BPfA is still a faraway dream. Therefore, additional financial resources need to be dispatched and gender equality and women’s advancements need to be addressed as stand-alone goals in all national and international policies and agenda.

Make gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls a reality!

Act now!

⁸³ EGM/B20/EP.3, 3

Literature

Bunch, Charlotte 2014: Notes, EGM/B20/E.P.3, New York

Federal Minister of Education and Women's Affairs 2014: Status of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Austrian Report, Vienna

Georgia 2014: Georgia – Beijing +20 National Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Tbilisi

Kabeer, Naila 2014: Gender equality and economic growth: a view from below 2014, EGM/B20/BP.4, New York

India 2015: India's Report On the Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action In Context of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Delhi

Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia, State Department of Statistics, Women and Men in Georgia 2008: Statistical Booklet, Tbilisi

NGO-CSW UN ECE Geneva 2014: Geneva NGO Forum on Beijing +2, Declaration and recommendations: <http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Outcome-Document-NGO-Forum-Beijing-20-FINAL-21Dec2014-clean.pdf>, 27/1/2015

The annual Report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The Situation of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/1/1350.pdf, 17/1/2015

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 2014: National Report on the Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and The Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of The United Nations General Assembly (2000), Addis Abeba

The Republic of Croatia 2014: Report be the Republic of Croatia on the Application of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the Results of the 23rd Special Session of the UN Genderl Assembly (2000) – Beijing +20, Zagreb

UN ECE 2014: Gender-sensitive economic and social policies to support the empowerment of women and girls in the ECE region, ECE/AC.28/2014/5, Geneva

UN ECE 2014: Regional review of progress: regional synthesis, ECE/AC.28/2014/3, Geneva

UN ECE 2014: Report of the meeting, ECE/AC.28/2014/2, Geneva

UN ECE 2014: Trends in gender equality, ECE/AC.28/2014/6, Geneva

UN Women 2014: Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Envisioning Women's Rights in the post-2015 Context, EGM/B20/Report, New York

STEM Education Programs and Occupations in Georgia, Georgia 2014

WIDE 2014: Von den Millenniumsentwicklungszielen zur Post-2015 Agenda. Blick(e) auf den österreichischen Beitrag zur Gleichstellung von Frauen in der Entwicklungspolitik, Wien

ECE- B+20, NGO: <http://beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch/2014/11/geneva-ngo-forum-beijing20-declaration/>, 20/1/2015

ECE-B+20, GO: [http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35329#/,](http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35329#/) 20/1/2015

GEOSTAT, http://geostat.ge/index.php?action=page&p_id=146&lang=eng; 9/10/2014

UN CSW Preparation Documents 2015: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015/preparations>, 20/1/2015

http://www.ungeorgia.ge/eng/millennium_development_goals/MDGs_and_georgia#.U0vOwfmSzal, 7/1/2015

The annual Report of the Public Defender of Georgia, The Situation of Human Rights and Freedoms in Georgia, www.ombudsman.ge/uploads/other/1/1350.pdf, 17/1/2015

Documents preparing the 59th session of the CSW 2015:
www.unwomen.org/en/csw59-2015/preparations, 26/1/2015

Documents regarding the Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting – Gender UNECE of the Economic Commission of Europe of the United Nations Economic and Social Council: www.unece.org, 27/1/2015

Documents of the Geneva NGO Forum Beijing+20: www.beijing20.ngocsw-geneva.ch, 26/1/2015

United Nations 2014: World Survey on the Role of Women in Development 2014. Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, New York:
http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2014/unwomen_surveyreport_advance_16oct.pdf (18/2/2015)

United Nations 2015: Political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Draft of political declaration

CSW59, New York:

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/declaration_draft_20_jan%202015.pdf (18/2/2015)

<http://www.equalitynow.org/Beijing20> (18/2/2015)

Abbreviations

BBBP: Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

BPfA: Beijing Platform for Action

CARA: Central Adoption Resource Agency

CSWB: Central Social Welfare Board

ECA: Economic Commission for Africa

ECE: Economic Commission for Europe

ESCAP: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

ESCWA: Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
CDS: Integrated Child Development Services

MDGs: Millennium Development Goals

MGNREGA: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

NIPCCD: National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development

NRLM: National Rural Livelihoods Mission

PIP: Identification of the Poor

RMK: Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

SHGs: Self Help Groups

SoRs: Schedule of Rates

TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training Program

UN: United Nations

About the Authors

Gertrude Eigelsreiter-Jashari, sociologist and a cultural- and social anthropologist, is a lecturer at the University of Vienna and Innsbruck and at the college for higher education in St. Pölten. She is the managing director of Südwind Niederösterreich St. Pölten. Her research focus is sociology of the Global South and globalisation from a gender perspective. She was a member of the official Austrian delegation at the UN World Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995 and is one of the founding members of the WIDE working group *Beijing Follow Up*.

Julia Günther is a sociologist and Ph.D. scholar at the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna. Her research focus is on resistances and subjectivity formations of women in South India from a feminist and post-colonial perspective, with a special emphasis on biography studies. She is a member of the WIDE working groups *Beijing Follow Up* and *Fem.in.Sicht*. She represented WIDE Austria twice at the annual *Commission on the Status of Women* at the UN Headquarter.

Brita Neuhold is a political scientist and has versatile experiences as an author, editor, journalist and university lecturer in the fields of international development and women's rights in the countries of the Global South. She is one of the founding members of the WIDE working group *Beijing Follow Up* and participated at the 4th UN World Women's Conference in Beijing. She has been cooperating with WIDE International since 1993.