

POSITION PAPER FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

The topics before the Commission on the Status of Women are : Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peace building ; Women's Role in Capacity Building within Civil Society Movements ; and Fifteen Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. India emphasizes cooperation between all Member States to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

I. Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Management and Conflict Resolution and in Post-conflict Peace building

India endorses the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights statement that the Human rights of women and of girl-child are a part of universal rights. The Nation also supports the Security Council Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325), which has implications for the protection of women in conflict zones as well as in their involvement in civil society movements. Indeed, women are strategic targets in armed conflicts – particularly through sexual violence – and have the capacity of playing a fundamental role in conflict and post-conflict processes. Recognizing the importance of conflict prevention techniques, the government of India encourages the member States to engage both men and women in the design of early warning processes, by using women and women's networks or organizations as agents for peace ; to express and implement their support towards women's non-governmental organizations in respect of preventing conflict, and more widely towards any form of contribution to fostering a culture of peace from women, as stated in the Beijing Platform For Action Strategic Objective E.4. Pursuant to the Security Council Resolution 1820 (S/RES/1820) addressing the protection of women from sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and in conjunction with the Beijing Platform For Action Strategic Objective E.5 which urges to provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women, India calls upon all Member States for acting in favor of guaranteeing to women living in conflict zones the protection any human being is in right to benefit from. Women have, indeed, a role to play in peace process and mediation, and in peace building, that is recognized by S/RES/1889, to which India expresses its fully support. India hence reaffirms its commitment to the Commission on the Status of Women sixth agreed conclusion calling for “the integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building”, and to the Beijing Platform For Action Strategic Objective E.1 recommending to “increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation”. India is dedicated to fulfill its obligations to tenth agreed conclusion of the Commission on the Status of Women affirming that “full and equal participation and the integration of gender perspectives are crucial to democratic electoral processes in post-conflict situations”.

II. Women's Role in Capacity Building within Civil Society Movements

Pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, India strongly believes that gender equality is a fundamental importance for achieving economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development. We are dedicated to reach the MDGs concerning poverty eradication and equal opportunities for men and women through the support of A/RES/62/206. For us, there is no denying that women's empowerment is one of the keys to development. That is why India endorses the Convention on the Political Rights of Women established in 1952 which claims that women's political right is a fundamental issue to development and to democracy. We call upon all the Member States for being concerned by women's capacity building, which is the creation of a sustainable environment, with appropriate policies and legal frameworks. Capacity building is indeed the main tool to improve women's role in civil society movements and to empower them. To that end, India emphasizes that education is a mean to develop sustainable policies and supports the CEDPA's Global in Management Programs, which gives methods to improve women's empowerment. We draw attention to the Strategic Objectives G-1 and H-2 of the Beijing Platform for Action concerning women's participation in power structures and decision-making processes, integration of gender perspectives in legislation and public policies programmes, and access to high level of decision-making and leadership. India strongly believes that women should be involved in Civil Society : as said in the Commission on the Status of Women, which gives Methods of Supporting Women's role in capacity building within Civil Society Movements, they have showed and continue to show that they are capable of using any available tool on behalf of the needs of their communities or their individuals beliefs and lobby for broad-level change, of leading society movements, of being central actors in poverty reduction and economic improvements.

III. Fifteen Year Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

To fully implement the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations, India affirms "faith in fundamental rights in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women". We strongly believe that economic development and peace are related to women's rights. India reaffirms its commitment to E/RES/2/11 which establishes the mission of the Commission on the Status of Women. We are dedicated to follow the twelve areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in 1995. That declaration is a primordial advancement in women's rights because it gathers all the issues and calls for cooperation and action. India urges the Member States to respect the twelve areas of concern regarding poverty, economy, inequality, violence and politics. All the Millennium Development Goals are related to women, and especially the first, the fourth and the fifth ones, that concern poverty, gender equality and mother's health. India is aware of the efforts it has to make, and strongly believes that the Fifteen Year-Appraisal will help all the Member States to establish their priorities. We draw the attention to A/RES/S-23/2 and A/RES/S-23-3 concerning the attention to the achievements and challenges in the implementation of the twelve areas of concern after the Five-Year Review and Appraisal. India endorses A/RES/54/142 established in 1999 which encourages the regional areas to carry out activities in support of the preparatory process. Indeed, we believe that the sharing of experiences is primordial to settle efficient governance and implement relevant policies. We also call upon for a more important cooperation between NGOs, States and United Nations organizations: NGOs have a crucial role in women's development and they have to be included in the debates. India recognizes that there are obstacles in the achievements of the twelve areas of concern because governments have difficulties to respect their commitments. But India is determined to focus on the full realization of the MDGs regarding the Fifteen-Year Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We will continue to work on improving gender equality in order to strengthen respect for human rights and involving women in decision-making and in peace-building.