



Sunset in Beijing: The Ladies 1995 Summit

Eric Kaba Tah

Media and External Relations Dept.
LAGA



Outline

- Introduction
- Background
- Goals and Objectives
- Analysis
- Conclusion



The Fourth World Conference on Women

- September 4 – 15, 1995 the United Nations convened the Fourth World Conference scheduled in Beijing, China.



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- The three previous World Conferences were in Mexico City, 1975, the International Women's Year, Copenhagen 1980 and Nairobi 1985



Mexico City Conference 1975

- The Mexico City Conference was to focus international attention on oriented goals, strategies and plans of action for the advancement of women.

The following were identified objectives:

- Equality, Development and World



International Women's Year,

- **International Women's Year** (IWY) was the name given to 1975 by the UN. Since that year March 8 has been celebrated as International Women's Day and the **United Nations Decade for Women**, from 1976-1985, was also established



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- Copenhagen Programme of Action called for, stronger national measures to ensure women's ownership and control of property, as well as improvements in women's rights to inheritance, child custody and loss of nationality.
 - An end to stereotyped attitudes towards women was also demanded



The Copenhagen Conference 1980

- There was a general consensus that significant progress had been made as representatives of 145 Member States met in Copenhagen in 1980 for the second world conference on women to review and appraise the 1975 World Plan of Action.



Nairobi Conference 1985

- Review and critically appraise the achieved progress and problems hindering the attainment of goals and objectives set for the UN Decade for Women.
- The themes being equality, development and peace
- Subthemes: employment, health and education



Outcome

- Forward-looking Strategies of implementation for the advancement of women for the period up to the year 2000,
- To proclaim concrete measures to overcome obstacles to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the United Nations



The Beijing Conference 1995

- Achieving greater equality and opportunity for women



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- The resulting documents of the Conference were The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.



The Declaration

- The Declaration is an embodiment of the commitment by the international community in its implementation of the platform for action and the advancement of women.
- All policies and programmes at the national, regional and international levels should reflect gender perspective considerations.



The Platform for Action

- The *Platform for Action* sets out a number of actions that should lead to fundamental changes by the year 2000
- Its implementation is the responsibility of governments, institutions in the public and private milieus as well as civil society organisations.



Themes

Human Rights

- Women's rights are human rights
- Ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.



Poverty

- Women's poverty is persistent and consistent
- As a result of the inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources.



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- In 1995 over 1 billion people lived in abject poverty and women made up the majority
 - Policies need rethinking and reformulation to address such trends. Such policies have focused mostly on the formal sector and are like impediments to female initiatives and invariably fail to consider the differential impact on women and men



Decision Making

- There is inequality between men and women in power-sharing and decision-making at all levels
- Empowering women to participate in decision-making in society
- Popular participation of women in key decision-making as full and equal partners with men, particularly in politics, has to be achieved



Violence against women

- Many women are also particularly affected by environmental disasters, serious and infectious diseases and various forms of violence against women, domestic violence, rape etc.
- Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls



Health

- There are inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to health care and related services
- They often have less access to nutrition, physical and mental health care and education



Education

- Clearly, there are inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to education and training
- Discrimination in girls' access to education persists in many areas, owing to customary attitudes, early marriages and pregnancies, inadequate and gender-biased teaching and educational materials, sexual harassment and lack of adequate and physically and otherwise accessible schooling facilities..



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- Girls undertake heavy domestic work at a very early age. Girls and young women are expected to manage both educational and domestic responsibilities, often resulting in poor scholastic performance and early drop-out from the educational system



The Beijing Methodology

- . In each critical area of concern, the problem is diagnosed and strategic objectives are proposed with concrete actions to be taken by various actors in order to achieve those objectives



Solutions

- Particularly in developing countries, the productive capacity of women should be increased through access to capital, resources, credit, land, technology, information, technical assistance and training so as to raise their income and improve nutrition, education, health care and status within the household



- Sustainable development and economic growth that is both sustained and sustainable are possible only through improving the economic, social, political, legal and cultural status of women.



- Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women, encourage broad-based sustained economic growth, address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality within the overall framework of achieving people-centred sustainable development



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- Develop policies and programmes to promote equitable distribution of food within the household.



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- Restructure and target the allocation of public expenditures to promote women's economic opportunities and equal access to productive resources and to address the basic social, educational and health needs of women, particularly those living in poverty.



- Formulate and implement, when necessary, specific economic, social, agricultural and related policies in support of female-headed households;
- Ensure the full realization of the human rights of all women migrants, including women migrant workers, and their protection against violence and exploitation.



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- Create social security systems wherever they do not exist, or review them with a view to placing individual women and men on an equal footing, at every stage of their lives.



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- Ensure access to free or low-cost legal services, including legal literacy, especially designed to reach women living in poverty;
 - Take particular measures to promote and strengthen policies and programmes for indigenous women with their full participation and respect for their cultural diversity, so that they have opportunities and the possibility of choice in the development process in order to eradicate the poverty that affects them.



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- Create an enabling environment that allows women to build and maintain sustainable livelihoods.



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- Engage in lobbying and establish monitoring mechanisms, as appropriate, and other relevant activities to ensure implementation of the recommendations on poverty eradication outlined in the Platform for Action and aimed at ensuring accountability and transparency from the State and private sectors.



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- In cooperation with Governments, employers, other social partners and relevant parties, contribute to the development of education and training and retraining policies to ensure that women can acquire a wide range of skills to meet new demands.



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- Mobilize to protect women's right to full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies.



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- Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies.



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- Open special windows for lending to women, including young women, who lack access to traditional sources of collateral;
 - Increase funding for programmes and projects designed to promote sustainable and productive entrepreneurial activities for income- generation among disadvantaged women and women living in poverty



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- Creation of an educational and social environment, in which women and men, girls and boys, are treated equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential, respecting their freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, and where educational resources promote non-stereotyped images of women and men, would be effective in the elimination of the causes of discrimination against women and inequalities between women and men.



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- By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children;
 - Closing the gender gap in primary and secondary school education by the year 2005;
 - Universal primary education in all countries before the year 2015.



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- Create a gender-sensitive educational system in order to ensure equal educational and training opportunities and full and equal participation of women in educational administration and policy- and decision-making;



- Reduce the female illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on rural women, migrant, refugee and internally displaced women and women with disabilities;
- Provide universal access to, and seek to ensure gender equality in the completion of, primary education for girls by the year 2000;



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- Develop leadership training and opportunities for all women to encourage them to take leadership roles both as students and as adults in civil society



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- Allow women access to social security systems in equality with men throughout the whole life cycle



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- Design and implement, in cooperation with women and community-based organizations, gender-sensitive health programmes, including decentralized health services, that address the needs of women throughout their lives and take into account their multiple roles and responsibilities, the demands on their time, the special needs of rural women and women with disabilities and the diversity of women's needs arising from age and socio-economic and cultural differences



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- Ensure that all health services and workers conform to human rights and to ethical, professional and gender-sensitive standards in the delivery of women's health services aimed at ensuring responsible, voluntary and informed consent. Encourage the development, implementation and dissemination of codes of ethics guided by existing international codes of medical ethics as well as ethical principles that govern other health professionals;



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- Strengthen and reorient health services, particularly primary health care, in order to ensure universal access to quality health services for women and girls, reduce ill health and maternal morbidity and achieve world wide the agreed-upon goal of reducing maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent of the 1990 levels by the year 2000 and a further one half by the year 2015; ensure that the necessary services are available at each level of the health system; and make reproductive health care accessible, through the primary health-care system, to all individuals of appropriate ages as soon as possible and no later than the year 2015



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- Give priority to both formal and informal educational programmes that support and enable women to develop self-esteem, acquire knowledge, make decisions on and take responsibility for their own health,




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- Pursue social, human development, education and employment policies to eliminate poverty among women in order to reduce their susceptibility to ill health and to improve their health;
 - Encourage men to share equally in child care and household work and to provide their share of financial support for their families, even if they do not live with them;
 - Ensure that medical school curricula and other health care training include gender-sensitive, comprehensive and mandatory courses on women's health;



What is the situation

- **Global Death - Prenatal and Maternal**
- The table below shows the difference between developed and developing countries over time in terms of percentages of death in mothers and infants in the world. Note that developed countries have improved substantially even since 1985, while developing countries have remained unchanged.

Source: <http://embryology.med.unsw.edu.au/Stats/page3a.htm>



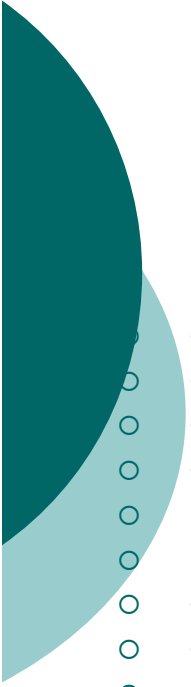
Year	1985	1990	1997
Developed World	5%	4%	1%
Developing world	10%	9%	10%

Source: <http://embryology.med.unsw.edu.au/Stats/page3a.htm>

Literacy > Total population (most recent) by country

Rank	Countries	Amount	Date
= 1	<u>Holy See</u> (:	100%	2008
= 1	<u>Andorra</u> :	100%	2008
= 1	<u>Finland</u> :	100%	2000
= 1	<u>Greenland</u> :	100%	2001
= 1	<u>Georgia</u> :	100%	2004
= 1	<u>Norway</u> :	100%	2008
= 1	<u>Luxembourg</u> :	100%	2000
= 8	<u>Estonia</u> :	99.8%	2003
= 8	<u>Latvia</u> :	99.8%	2003
= 8	<u>Poland</u> :	99.8%	2003
= 11	<u>Ukraine</u> :	99.7%	2003
= 11	<u>Slovenia</u> :	99.7%	2003
= 11	<u>Samoa</u> :	99.7%	2003
11	<u>Barbados</u> :	99.7%	2002
= 15	<u>Russia</u> :	99.6%	2003
= 15	<u>Lithuania</u> :	99.6%	2003
= 15	<u>Slovakia</u> :	99.6%	2001
= 15	<u>Belarus</u> :	99.6%	2003
# 19	<u>Kazakhstan</u> :	99.5%	1999
= 20	<u>Hungary</u> :	99.4%	2003
= 20	<u>Tajikistan</u> :	99.4%	2003
# 22	<u>Uzbekistan</u> :	99.3%	2003
= 23	<u>Moldova</u> :	99.1%	2005
= 23	<u>Mongolia</u> :	99.1%	2003
= 25	<u>New Zealand</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Japan</u> :	99%	2002
= 25	<u>United States</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Monaco</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Germany</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Switzerland</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Belgium</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Canada</u> :	99%	2003
= 25	<u>Iceland</u> :	99%	2003

Source: http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_lit_tot_pop-education-literacy-total-population



170	<u>Gabon</u> :63.2% 1995	188	<u>Chad</u> :47.5% 2003
# 171	<u>Malawi</u> :62.7% 2003	# 189	<u>Bhutan</u> :47% 2003
# 172	<u>Sudan</u> :61.1% 2003	# 190	<u>Mali</u> :46.4% 2003
# 173	<u>Togo</u> :60.9% 2003	# 191	<u>Nepal</u> :45.2% 2003
# 174	<u>India</u> :59.5% 2003	# 192	<u>Bangladesh</u> :43.1% 2003
= 175	<u>Eritrea</u> :58.6% 2003	# 193	<u>Ethiopia</u> :42.7% 2003
= 175	<u>East Timor</u> :58.6% 2002	# 194	<u>Guinea-Bissau</u> :42.4% 2003
# 177	<u>Liberia</u> :57.5% 2003	# 195	<u>Mauritania</u> :41.7% 2003
# 178	<u>Comoros</u> :56.5% 2003	# 196	<u>Iraq</u> :40.4% 2003
# 179	<u>Haiti</u> :52.9% 2003	# 197	<u>Senegal</u> :40.2% 2003
# 180	<u>Laos</u> :52.8% 2003	# 198	<u>Gambia, The</u> :40.1% 2003
# 181	<u>Morocco</u> :52.3% 2004	# 199	<u>Somalia</u> :37.8% 2001
# 182	<u>Burundi</u> :51.6% 2003	# 200	<u>Sierra Leone</u> :35.1% 2004
# 183	<u>Central African Republic</u> :51% 2003	# 201	<u>Benin</u> :34.7% 2002
# 184	<u>Côte d'Ivoire</u> :50.9% 2003	# 202	<u>Guinea</u> :29.5% 2003
# 185	<u>Yemen</u> :50.2% 2003	# 203	<u>Niger</u> :28.7% 2005
# 186	<u>Pakistan</u> :49.9% 2005	# 204	<u>Afghanistan</u> :28.1% 2000
# 187	<u>Mozambique</u> :47.8% 2003	# 205	<u>Burkina Faso</u> :21.8% 2003
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Source: http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_lit_tot_pop-education-literacy-total-population



EDUCATION / LITERACY STATISTICS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA PERCENTAGE OF ILLITERATE WOMEN/GIRLS 15-24 YEARS

- ALGERIA 37.8%
- BENIN 81.7%
- BOTSWANA 49.0%
- BURKINA FASO 93.2%
- BURUNDI 52.0%
- CAMEROON 29.0%
- CAPE-VERDE 13.6%
- CENTR. AF. REP. 65.0%
- COMOROS 45.1%
- CONGO 17.2%
- COTE D'IVOIRE 62.2%
- DJIBOUTI 62.0%
- EGYPT 46.0%
- ETHIOPIA 68.5%
- GUINEA-BISSAU 82.2%
- KENYA 13.9%
- LIBYA 19.7%
- MALAWI 50.9%
- MALI 81.0%
- MAURITANIA 62.0%
- MOROCCO 69.0%
- MOZAMBIQUE 74.7%
- NIGER 90.0%
- RWANDA 55.3%
- SENEGAL 69.0%
- SOUTH AFRICA 15%
- SUDAN 60.6%
- SWAZILAND 15.7%
- TANZANIA 80.0%
- TOGO 64.1%
- TUNISIA 27.8%
- UGANDA 36.9%
- ZAMBIA 29.2%
- ZIMBABWE 15.2%

Source: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2872/is_1_26/ai_62793784/

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- 111 Zimbabwe:90.7% 2003
 - # 128 South Africa:86.4% 2003
 - # 131 Equatorial Guinea:85.7% 2003
 - # 132 Mauritius:85.6% 2003
 - # 134 Kenya:85.1% 2003
 - # 135 São Tomé % 2001
 - # 136 Lesotho:84.8% 2003
 - # 138 Namibia:84% 2003
 - # 139 Congo, Brazza :83.8% 2003
 - # 140 Libya:82.6% 2003
 - # 141 Swaziland:81.6% 2003
 - # 143 Botswana:81.2% 2003
 - # 144 Zambia:80.6% 2003
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 - # 148 Cameroon:79% 2003
 - # 149 Saudi Arabia:78.8% 2003
 - # 150 Tanzania:78.2% 2003
 - # 152 Cape Verde:76.6% 2003
 - # 154 Ghana:74.8% 2003
 - # 155 Tunisia:74.3% 2004
 - # 158 Egypt:71.4% 2005
 - # 160 Rwanda:70.4% 2003
 - # 161 Algeria:70% 2003
 - # 162 Uganda:69.9% 2003
 - # 163 Madagascar:68.9% 2003
 - # 164 Nigeria:68% 2003
 - # 165 Djibouti:

Source: http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/edu_lit_tot_pop-education-literacy-total-population



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- **Two-thirds** of children denied primary education are girls and **75%** of the world's 876 million illiterate adults are women, reported the Millennium Campaign in 2007

Source:


<http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/sites/wfnet.org/files/jenn/Poverty%20Statistics.doc>



Women and Violence

- **Scope of the problem**
- In a 10-country study on women's health and domestic violence conducted by WHO,
 - Between 15% and 71% of women reported physical or sexual violence by a husband or partner.
 - Many women said that their first sexual experience was not consensual. (24% in rural Peru, 28% in Tanzania, 30% in rural Bangladesh, and 40% in South Africa).
 - Between 4% and 12% of women reported being physically abused during pregnancy.

Source: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

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- Trafficking of women and girls for forced labour and sex is widespread and often affects the most vulnerable.
 - Worldwide, up to one in five women. Children subjected to sexual abuse are much more likely to encounter other forms of abuse later in life.

Source:

<http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/sites/wfnet.org/files/jenn/Poverty%20Statistics>.




Women and Poverty

- More people have been lifted out of poverty in the last **50 years** than in the previous **500**; yet more than **1.2 billion** still subsist on less than \$1 per day. Although poverty data is not reported by sex in most countries, it is widely estimated that women make up the majority of the world's poor

Source:

<http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/sites/wfnet.org/files/jenn/Poverty%20Statistics.doc>

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- WFP reports that **7 out of 10** of the world's hungry are women and girls. Of the **37 million** people living below the poverty line in the US, **21 million** are women, according to US Census Bureau figures from 2006. More than **two-thirds** of the world's unpaid work is done by women – the equivalent of **\$11 trillion** or almost **50%** of world GDP, according to a global UNDP study from 1995.



Women and Human Rights

- Forced marriages and child marriages violate the human rights of women and girls, yet they are widely practiced in many countries in Asia, the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa.
- Every year, about 5,000 women are murdered by family members in the name of honour worldwide

Source:

<http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/sites/wfnet.org/files/jenn/Poverty%20Statistics.doc>



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- According to Amnesty International, 1 in 3 women were beaten or sexually abused world wide in 2006.
 - According to the United Nations, around 700 000 to 4 million women and children are trafficked around the world every year

Source:

http://www.actnow.com.au/Issues/Abuse_of_womens_rights.asp

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Women and Decision-making

- UNICEF. The global average proportion of women in Parliament in 2007 is just **17.3%**
- The BBC reports that only **10%** of directors of UK's FTSE 100 firms are women. Women currently hold only **1 in every 10** top decision-making positions in California's 400 largest publicly traded companies. Women account for less than **1%** of directors on corporate boards in Japan

Source:

<http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/sites/wfnet.org/files/jenn/Poverty%20Statistics.doc>



Conclusion

- While it may be true that considerable efforts have been made, the situation is still dire all over the world and is still shockingly appalling in developing countries.
- Do we need another Beijing, talking purely only on what concrete actions to carry out?



Thanks for your patience