

Cyber dialogues summary two
ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Theme: Economy and sustainable development

Panelists: Devaki Jain (a feminist economist and gender activist) and Peggy Antrobus (Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action).

Quote for the day: *"... In many ways globalisation in its current form takes away the reality of survival that is the daily concern of women."* Tournesoldemort

1. How has globalisation impacted on women?

- The domination of western states over Egypt has led to economic deterioration and an increase in poverty, income insecurity and rising costs of living.
- The Internet has been one positive outcome of globalisation.
- The privatisation of public goods has impacted on women in the deprived sectors of society.
- Local farmers cannot sustain their livelihoods because the market is flooded with cheap foods.
- Globalisation takes away the reality of survival that is still the daily concern of women.
- Globalisation further divides societies along race, class and gender lines and enforces the idea of winners and losers in the economy.

2. What does gender budgeting mean and how has it worked?

- It means ensuring that women's interests get incorporated into government budgets.
- It highlights a critical change in mindset in the way budgets are looked at.
- It is a gender audit that examines whether public expenditures are allocated in ways that promote or hinder gender equitability.
- For gender budgets to work you need to know what is important to women.
- There have to be channels of communication opened up with women's groups and networks.
- The Kenyan civil society organisations are in the process of consolidating their work on gender budgeting at national level and grass root level.
- Gender budgeting needs to start in the home.
- In Zambia, 30% of all resources in the economic instruments of government must be allocated to women's economic empowerment with a key focus on rural women.

3. Accountability is a key issue, many governments are presenting reports at the Beijing review, these reports are often not accurate, how can we hold them responsible at country level?

- In South Africa we have a 'perfect' constitution but what happens on the ground is a different matter.
- Women need to organise, create a high level of activism around the issues and hold government accountable.
- We need to assess whether national and local budgets are gender responsive.

- Civil society should lobby and advocate for the gender responsive budgeting.
- Many meaningless words are spoken at these global meetings.

4. What are the main priorities at this time to facilitate women’s economic empowerment? Action points.

Sustainable development

- Sustainable development for women in the south is linked to food security.
- We must invest in women’s access to, ownership and control over resources such as land, income, employment, entrepreneurship, etc.
- In Cameroon sustainable development is blocked by bad governance and corruption.
- Sustainable development is the responsibilities of all sectors not just government.

Budgeting and poverty reduction

- Need to decentralise the processes developing budgets.
- To advocate for a World Labour Organisation that regulates and allows the free flow of labour.
- Need to create awareness and education amongst in communities about globalisation and terms such as economy and sustainable development.
- Women have traditionally been confined to the private sphere hence the belief that they can only manage ‘home’ budgets not corporate or public ones, need to change this stereotype.
- The Beijing review must place emphasis on gender budgeting as a tool to monitor CEDAW and other global commitments.
- We need to go beyond poverty reduction and move towards household capacities and resources to generate wealth.
- There is a need to link the strategies of the African and NEPAD to the BPFA.

5. Results of the poll question

The majority of the people who responded to the question felt that privileged women from the North and South have benefited most through globalisation.

