

**CYBER DIALOGUE: ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**3 MARCH 2005**  
**TRANSCRIPT OF CHAT SESSION (tidied but not edited)**

kubi	Hello everyone, Welcome to the chat on the Economy and sustainable development. My name is Kubi Rama and with my colleague Lydia Levin will be facilitating today's discussion. Our panelists are Devaki Jain, a Feminist economist and gender activist and Peggy Antrobus from the Caribbean Association for Feminist research and Action. Some house rules. I will put questions to panelists and they will respond after which we will have discussion. Lets chat!
kubi	How has globalisation impacted on women?
ibibars	the domination of the western states over Egypt so far has led to a deterioration in the economic status which in fact led to an increase in poverty, income insecurity, and rising costs of living in Egypt. The above mentioned increases have particularly negatively affected women, increasing the number of female heads of households. At the same time, poor marginalized and mostly illiterate women face multiple inter-related obstacles in income generation, in particular to access to credit and access to legal existence
Devaki Jain	in some ways a help and in many ways a hindrance to their lives and livelihoods
claudine	yes salamah i think that women in south are concerned by sustainable development because we also want food security. we in africa we have to fight for it .Salama moi je peux te dire que la lutte doit se faire sur tousles fronts meme dans nos pays ou tout semble prioritaire
ibibars	just a brief introduction. My name is Iman Bibars. I am the chairperson of the Association for the Development and Enhancement of Women (ADEW). ADEW's mandate is to empower marginalized women economically, socially, and politically. ADEW has a committment to promoting the rights of marginalized women and challenging traditional taboos and models.
odile	we can together,share our experiences about women .I hope also,it could be the beginning of a collaboration to help our women who stuggle every day to a sustaineble developpement.
Devaki Jain	women and men have benefited by the IT ie the internet facility which as fatima mernissi has said has really removed the veil, crossed boundaries so it has been enabling if you see globalisation with the internet face, but on other counts especially privatisation of public goods and careless liberalisation it has been a real strain and assault on women especially those in deprived sections of society
oriokot henry	in uganda people move from day to day looking for jobs on foot for more than seven years average without facilitation sleep after eating poridge and we talk of development or it differs from country to country
ibibars	we believe that women are still fighting for their income to feed themselves and their children, however do not see that this cannot take place in parallel with sustainable economic development. I believe that a comprehensive multiple approach works better
ibibars	its true that development varies from one country to the other, that's why projects have to be carefully tailored to the socio-economic context of each country. What's successful in one country, may not be as so in another.
Deepa from India	Devaki, How do you connect globalisation with internet facility? How do the two become synonymous?
Devaki Jain	it has been troubling to be here in new york at the conference, as representatives of governments are saying all that they have done to enable womens advancement, but on the ground as you say, it is really still walking for water and searching for food
ibibars	For example, after 18 years of advocating for women's rights, we have discovered that the western context of women's rights has not been successful with government officials and

	decision makers. This is why our advocacy strategy adopts the notion of protection and survival. Through this approach we successfully managed to initiate legislative changes in the nationality law and the personal status law.
Jane	In our country sustainable development is blocked by bad governance. What does the UN have to offer Cameoon women. This atmosphere is generated by excess corruption and public funds embezzlements?
Devaki Jain	well deepa, you are right., may be i should not , but one of hte ways globalisation is described is the globalisation of knowledge through the internet, it is a connectivity that has globalised communications... but you tell me how and why you find that incorrect
ibibars	but sustainable development does not only fall on the shoulder of governments, all sectors of society must be incorporated to achieve tangible results
Jane	Situation has been more deteriorated because people go free unpunish and sometimes, high ranking ask for proof even if they know the theves. Any remedy for this???
oriokot henry	we are happy that inour country so many women are holding big offices/post that were at first held by men ithink their is some development thou its relative
salamah	i don't if it is the same in the others africa countries in my country it is not easy for woman to be really independant economically
Deepa from India	So globalisation needs to be defined more correctly , don't you think? I think of globalisation as globalisation of trade as the topic today is economic and sustainbale development. I'm sorry if I got it wrong
tournesoldemort	Devaki I agree with Deepa - the description of globalisation as the globalisation of knowledge is very limited in scope.
Gumbo	It is important that all this dialogue on sustainable economic development focus on women and household's capacities and reosurces to generate wealth. In our work with UNIFEM in east africa, it is very evident that we must go beyond the concept of "poverty reduction.
ibibars	Remedy would be a change in the governance sytem and the penal codes, to achive such change , contiuous lobbying and advocacy efforts must be put in action abnd it is definately not a change that can occur ove night
oriokot henry	the development that we see is being brought up by ngo's but of recent they have lost track unless we if we direct them is when we can see some kind of development
Devaki Jain	Jane , there are many examples of systems of accountability that do at least put a hold on corruption, for example in inida we have a movement called the right to information, where we ask for all accounts all govt files to be available to the public, we are now putting government records exp on land etc on the computer so any one can access , in villages we are writing all the expenditures and revenues on the wall of the village council so we can control corruption
peggy	I work on how globalisation affects sustainable livelihoods. Very difficult for poor farmers to maintain their markets when the country is flooded with cheap food. I'm from the Caribbean and everyone knows about what has happened to banana farmers from the Caribbean. how they lost their markets in Europe.
salamah	I am from cameroon
Jane	I don't think sustainable developt is only trade it does comprise any economic activity that has to be sustain for example, industry, art, liberal professions such as lawyers, Md (doctors), etc...
tournesoldemort	Deepa I think the defining of globalisation is a problem. Globalisation in its neo liberal form regardless if it touches on trade, information, health etc. The idea of a sharing and connectivity is not a negative one but for poor countries (and growing) that is not a what happens and women bear the brunt.
Deepa from India	In India, I would say the situation has gone from bad to worse , especially with water.As

	for the Indian govt. doing anything, I'm yet to see anything concrete on the ground. Getting two computers and installing them with fanfare in a village where people don't know how to operate them.is not internet connectivity.
oriokot henry	insome countries the local community is responsible for monitoring their development in the district and can ask how the district people are spending the money
ibibars	i agree withournesoldemort that globalization forces countries to open up trade and their economies cannot withstand the pressure put on it, which effects all sectors, especially women
Deepa from India	So let us define globalisation -- what does it mean to you?
ournesoldemort	Deepa point taken. In many ways globalisation in its current forms takes away the reality of survival that is still the daily concerns of women.
claire	from Lome in Togo, West Africa
peggy	oriokot, which country are you from? it's good that local people can monitor their development and hold officials accountable
bolalima	hello Deepa, how are you? i am from cameroon> how about sustainable development in your country?
salamah	deepa i think like you but the problem of globalisation is competition and we are not ready for that
Devaki Jain	yes deepa and friends, i think we should specify what we mean by globalisation. for the main economists it is really the free flow of capital, of investment and also of goods ...the mncs etc . but similar but separate is the notion of liberalisation and privatisation that goes with it , note that labour is not globalised, ie you cannot have free mobility of labour though you can have of capital , that is the inequity in globalisation ideologies. though an economist called jagdish bhagwati has said we should have a WLO, ie a world labour organisation which regulates and allows free flow of labour
Jane	When you talk about sustainable development and economic growth, do rural women know exactly what you are talking about? I believe they need to train and informed about all this Millenium jargon.
claudine	Je suis journaliste et membre d'une centrale syndicale.dans notre organisation je suis responsable d'un petit projet qui octroie des crédits aux femmes du secteur informel qui jouent un role important dans l'économie de notre pays
ournesoldemort	As an African middle class woman it is very hard for me to define globalisation. In my context I have gained but when I look next women next to me I realise that we are dealing with a force that separates and brings ideas etc to the few.
Deepa from India	I think that would be an interesting start Devaki -- a WLO and a World Workers Union ( WWU) -- just a thought.
oriokot henry	in our country uganda internet or computers can only used by awell to do people and yet in america ithink each and every one has, now to what extent can we diffine development
peggy	Jane, in the Caribbean rural women know about sustainable development and economic growth, and about the WTO and how it has affected their markets for bananas.
ournesoldemort	Devaki - I think we need to seriously challenge the meaning of economics. Yes it has been challenged but not enough. There is a dominant view and this view is patriarchal and eurocentric in scope. The question we need to ask if whether changing the patriarchal norms of economics is possible.
kubi	Perhaps that's the key problem with globalisation, it further divides along class , race and gender lines?
Jane	Globalization brings the world to a small village via all these new technologies of communication and information. Internet and emails are one mean of globalizing the world.

	Now at the grass roots level, do the rural women or even some women in urban areas have the same concerns?
tournesoldemort	I get very worried when women from poor communities can spout all these terms - having economic speak does not do enough. Does this knowledge provide ways to intervene with this form of oppression.
ibibars	Devaki's idea is quite an interesting one. Egypt as a country has a large unemployment rate, as well as a large labor force, as a result if globalization can bring along free mobility of labor, this could counter the negative impact free trade has on an economy that is not well equipped to accomodate it
oriokot henry	ithink we shoud re defin the term economic development because ithought they are suppose to be the same with other countries
Devaki Jain	deepa i agree with you , it has become a farce to have a computer and not be able to handle it, but still i think to get away from those files and bribes, to something that is recorded away from the hands of those umpteen clerks is a step forward dont you think ?
tournesoldemort	Kubi globalisation in this form does divide along class, race and gender lines.
claire	Yes, Jane, it is necessary to inform rural women about what we mean by sustainable development. Even in the cities a lot of women do not understand this Millenium jargon. Most of the economic issues, information , plans are kept out of women area. We need to get the right information for ourselves and for other women.
Jane	We think globalization wants to put African countries at the same level of knowledge and technologies but it is not easy because the gap is too big between the developing countries and developed ones. What does the UN has to offer to bridge this gap and close it?
peggy	Kubi, i agree that globalisation divides along lines of race, class and gender. globalisation has created classes of people and increased the divide among groups already divided. they talk about winners and losers
Deepa from India	Yes, Kubi -- especially along race ad gender. Take the xenophobia that is being lashed out after 9/11 in the US and other countries. Now we are getting fingerprinted like criminals just ot make a visit there. T
oriokot henry	you just imagin even now as iam on the net some people ask how they are gong to benefit is development
tournesoldemort	Jane do you really believe this. Whose form of globalisation wants to put Africa where? Let us be realistic about the intent - it is not to get Africa anywhere but the playground of the North.
Nyambura	I agree that Economic ought not to necessarily be as it is defined by Economists...what about redefining it from the point of view of women's different contexts/identities - race, class, sexuality etc.
Deepa from India	Also they use Smart chips -- that collect your biometric information for visas. It seems like Gandhi in South Africa al over again
Devaki Jain	spouting is not fair, as a word. We the educated have grown and learnt to handle our selves and the computers, it took us also some time so why not let others fumble muddle through? There is now a programme in india funded by the famous bill gates where they are willing to give computers to all womens groups in therural areas, and many of of us with the WOMens organistions are offering our constituencies to receive this benefit and we will then get the orientation to the women on how to use it , you must see theexcitement on rural un educted formally womens faces when they can see some thing on a screen and do something with it , give them a chance !!!
tournesoldemort	Nyambura do we have enough power to redefine? We need to seriously look at economy and power?
salamah	claudine, on constate que l'économie des ménages est tenue par les femmes et ceci s'est

	accentué avec la crise économique. Cette économie est informelle pensez tu qu'on peut valoriser cet contribution des femmes?
claudine	if women dont' know what you call millenium jargon ,i think they know the fact or the reality
odile	je pense que la mondialisation en soi n'est ni bonne ni mauvaise.elle pourrait etre une occasion d'echanges non seulement economique,mais aussi culturelle.elle pourrait etre le moment pour tous et toutes de partager nos savoir et nos savoir faire >malheureusement ce n'est pas le cas,c'est a nous de rester vigilantes et de proposer aussi aux autres.In English,I think that globalisation in fact is neither bad nor good,it might be an opportunity for exchange in economic or cultural domains, we could share our know how and concrete experiences< But unfortunately it is not the case, we have to remain vigilant and make proposals to others, such through these cyberdialogues>
ibibars	based on teh 9/11 issue, and the developed phobias, it is clear that we need to define gobalization in a more of a non-economic context, which is the free flow of cultures, traditions, stereotypes, and misconceptions.
tournesoldemort	Devaki point taken however there needs to be long term benefits and change with the knowlege.
Deepa from India	II live in a semi-rural area and I'm sorry to inform you that no such thing is happeneing here. I live in Tiruverumbur, Tamil nadu
Devaki Jain	Deeps, i agree with you on the xenophobia released after sept 11th ...
kubi	What does gender budgetting mean?
Jane	Devloping countries are the eternal losers despite their enormous potentials. Developing countries ought to manage their own resources at all level without being inclusive but remain masters of their destiny instead of having the winners keep controlling all our resources from all aspects (economic, financial, material, etc...) Example of countries that have oil and they the ones that face wars, civil wars, despite their richness.
oriokot henry	in terms of trade developloped countries have open their markets for the african good and yet to meet their standerds is just alack or if you meet they will atleast create some thing to fail you and yet for them they just enter africa with any thing at any time.
claire	Information is necessary for economic growth. When we know what is going on in other parts of the world in the same field we can try and improve ; we can share experience
peggy	kubi, i think it means making sure that women's interests get incorporated into the budget of governments
Deepa from India	I couldn't agree with you more on that Jane. Natural resources like Water and not just Oil.
ibibars	gender budgeting is a budget that draws attention to gender needs, resources, and status within a nation
tournesoldemort	Kubi I think it is more than just including women's interests - it forces a change of mindset in how we look at budgets.
Jane	Kubi gender budgetting was initiated by S women to analyse budget through a "gender lins" in essence, it is a gender audit which examines whether public expenditures are allocated in ways that promote or hinder gender quitability patterns of revenus and resources.
oriokot henry	yes what you are saying is right but at times we can share our experiences with hopes of you making some improvement but at the end you see nothing has been done
peggy	kubi, but for gender budgets to work you have to know what is important to women. there have to be channels of communication opened up with women's groups and networks
claire	Gender issues must be taken into account in budget planning in countires.Women are good in managing funds, but why are they kept aside when budget and money are dealt with ?

claudine	Salamah oui,tout en étant dans l'économie informelles femmes apportent leur contribue énormément à la vi économique dans notre pays.Ells ont besoin d'etre organisée et c'est ce que nous tentons de faire à travers le projet dont j'ai parlé
Devaki Jain	gender budgeting is now being tried in many many ways in different countries and levels . It was earlier seen as scrutinising the budget and seeing how far the needs of women have been taken note of; but there are other ways it is being practiced now, eg in some villages in Karnataka , we are unbundling the local budget at the village level, de mystifying it for the local women and then engaging them in designing a budget according to their ideas on what is needed in their locales, we call it building budgets from below and it is now an international movement called local level budget making and is catching up and uNIFEM is the lead un agency who is networking these efforts
Nyonang	I agree with you Deepa, it is a sad story to tell since the 9/11 issue. Not only finger prints are being taken, but they go as far as verifying your bank accounts and other documents that you have brought to justify your return (for students) to justify that their parents have enough funds to pay for their fees. Still they will not issue visas for the reason that you can not proof that you will return. Can anyone proof that he will return? Only destiny knows.
lydia-hi	Devaki can you tell us more about gender budgeting at local level
Jane	NO NO but we hope we can start one day and have women MPs supporting the project.
peggy	in the Caribbean some governments have agreed to do gender budgets but its still mostly a token, because its seen as been pushed by the Commonwealth Secretariat
Nyaradzai	Kubi, and what is the difference between gender budgeting, gender respnsive budgeting, gender aware budgets andgender sensitive budgeting.....More often for me, budgets are about power, decision making, contribution, recognition, valuing, they are about politics of development, inclusion and exclusion et cetera.....
Devaki Jain	Yes , and you can access all the various innovative ways this idea is being used as a tool , we are even trying to make it into a critique of macro economics try a website of UNIFEM
odile	it means for me that budgetting is shared by husband and wife, they know each other,s financial ressources, the wife sees the salary sheet of her husband, the wife tells the husband what are the needs of the family,they plan with their means wa t to do on a court or longer term
oriokot henry	women like any thing so its very had for you tell what they need maslaw of hirachy say human needs are never satisfied you give these they some thing else so you can never tell what women need.
ibibars	we need more women in decision-making post i.e. parliament to initiate these gender sensitive budgeting
peggy	Devaki, I would love to hear how you use gender budgets to critique macroeconomics
claire	Decision makers must be sensitized on Gender issues, so they are convinced about the whole matter. This must start in the families.
bolalima	Mwenda, can I please know what we here in Cameroon can do to help women to be understood by their husband, concerning family financial issues. Must of the time men are the one running this without well knowing family's problems
tournesoldemort	In SA gender budgeting has made many strides however there are still many gaps. It is indicative of a situation where you have a perfect constitution but what is happening on the ground is something else.
peggy	ibibars, having women in decision-making posts in parliament does not guarantee that they are supportive of women's interests
salamah	i don't know examples of gender budgetting in my country but i think some women in particular put in place bussness and are able to take care of it.
Nyambura	Kenyan civil society organizations are in the process of consolidating their work on gender

	budgeting at national and grass root level, involving organizations iworking at various levels.
tournesoldemort	Bolalima I think the reality is that we have to start working with men more rigourously. What is the point of working with women without changing their environment.
claire	When there more women in the decision making bodies, things can change and women interst will be considered
peggy	My understanding of S Africa's experience of gender budgets is that its success has to do with the fact that the people promoting it were part of the liberation struggle and still hold themselves accountable to people.
tournesoldemort	Claire I disagree - putting numbers in does not mean that women's concerns will be met. Women need to also be made aware of what is going on because many times women are the patriarchal gate keepers.
Nyaradzai	In Eastern Africa, UNIFEM has been collabroating with partnershs like TGNP, FOWODE, ACFODE, CCGD, and the East Africa Gender Budgeting Network. The experience shows that a multiple entry points from local, national levels and legislative framework is critical to sustained any meaningful transformation through GRB.
oriokot henry	for us in uganda they are very few men/women who can tell their counter parts how much they are earning because women in africa have become somuch materialistic if you are geting some good money then she can come closer
ibibars	True, but if women activist and femminists reached parliment, there is a bigger chance that they woudl better represent women's need. I agree with you that it does not have to be women, but what i menat is more gender sensitively MPs
lydia-hi	Is gender budgeting a matter of government accountability or can / should it be initiated by civil society?
Nyambura	'Tourn' in what way is the reality is different from the legislation(consitution)?
Jane	We all know there's sustainable devpt without women but the women should find a way to empower themselves by practical and concrete actions for example, asking account from our govt such as the Internntional Women Day on March 8 account as activities were concerned for women then take a stock of this activity and carry over from year to year than making this day a rather feast day.
Bruce	My name is Bruce and im chatting from Zambia. I want to respond to lydia-hi 's question on whether we have examples of Gender budgeting in our countries. Here in Zambia in pursuent of the SADC protocal on women empoerment signed in 1997 our government through the Gender in Development component at Cabinet office has enshrined in all economic working instruments that 30 percent of all government resources shall be allocated towards women economic empoerment programmes with key focuss on rural women.
Devaki Jain	We started our work on genderbudgeting by saying we did not think it was worth while to just examine a budget for its allocations to what was considered to be womens needs, we challenged the idea that there was something called womens needs, we said what we were looking for is policies that removed unemployment , provisioned all the usual basic amenities etc so we refused to participate in gender budgeting, but we said we will do something called women design fiscal policy, by inverting the pyramid, ie start by defining a income expenditure plan for a village desinged after focus group discussions with women n a village, then compare it with what was already given asa village budget, critique it Then we summate a ll the women led budgets of all the villages in a district and then the state and see what is really the fiscal policy you need for responding to wonmens choices, it becomes a really participatory way of critiquing the state policies of revenue collection and expenditure choices, peggy
tournesoldemort	Peggy I am not denying that successes were not made. However we have seemed to have

	stopped the work because on paper all the commitments are there.
Nyambura	'Tourne' that's very true, it ought to be about the quality/quantity of women leaders that is, do they understand the issues and how many women leaders are there in a particular setting, otherwise we can't expect women MPs to push for gender responsive policies.
peggy	Claire, it depends on the women. maybe if there were a critical mass they would be encouraged but if you only have a few women in parliament, and if they feel accountable to the men who put them there, and if they are hoping to advance in their post, they aren't likely to be strong advocates for women
Deepa from India	Devaki, in which part of Karnataka is this being used.
tournesoldemort	Nyambura SA has the most advanced constitution in the world. However the violence against women, the marginalisation of women is still high. You must ask yourself why that is when the legislation is in place. I guess is the legislation enough.
Jane	Kubi: How committed is the newly structures African Union and the new partnership (NEPAD) to be applied to the plat of the Africa woman? Dont thin it is time to massively sensitze women in other Africa countries to emulable the SA example by creating NGOs which analyse their country budgets with regard to its differential impact on women and men?
oriokot henry	genderbudgeting an open accounterbility on how much was alocated for the women's development
odile	boalima dialogue is the only answer to gender budgeting,you cannot agree to concertation, consensus in large family circles, governmental or international grounds and live on separate lines in your homes. This is an important one to be discussed before marriage
Devaki Jain	deepa, contact the Karnataka WOmens Information Centre, in bangalore email is ssfb@bgl.vsnl.net.in
tournesoldemort	Peggy the ANC has a 30% quota of women and generally we have high numbers of women in government. However the question arises do these women have power to influence policy. This is the quotas debate. We are trying to do work around helping women parliamentarians to be clear about their agenda. It is hard work.
kubi	Accountability is a key issue, many governments are presenting reports here about how much they have implemented in the last ten years, these reports are often not a true reflection, how can we hold them responsible at country level?
Jane	After cyberdialogues how we dedicated to generate finances or lobby to foster the cost of a woman socio political and economic empowerment?
ibibars	In Egypt, we work to achive this following a two pronged approach, working on the grassroot to empower women economically through microfinance and financial education and in parallel working on the advocay level to make women's needs known to government officials and decision makers. Additionally, we have developed a one year program training for women candiodates interested in running for the upcopmg elections of 2005. During this training we are providing the 30 solicited trainees not only with technical and practical skills, but also we are conducting a gender sensitization course to guarantee accurate representation of women's need once they are in parliment\
Devaki Jain	thier work has been so appreciated that the principal coordinator is going to the phillipines for the next meeting of the local level budgetting experience world wide i hope i have given you the right email, if you fail then let me know ie lcjain @bgl.vsnl.net.in
peggy	Devaki, fascinating! you must send me a paper or article about this. I'm interested in how to connect the top down interest in gender budgets to a bottom up process involving communities - with strong participation of women - defining their priorities
claire	Women must be informed about the economic issues. they must understand what the content is. Education is imprtant for that. Information and communiction are also



	necessary. Then women must be present where the decisions are made, Women representatives, I mean. When women have the means to influence the decision their interest is considered.
Jane	What are the dispositions taken by the UN to empower young girls in order for them to replace women of today?
Nyaradzai	I hope the recommendations of the CSW/ Beijing + 10 will place emphasis on gender budgeting as a tool for monitoring commitment to CEDAW and other global commitments to gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights. This is key for the next decade if meaningful progress is to be made
Deepa from India	How do women in villages participate in your state?
Nyambura	Perhaps then this answers the question of whether GB is a matter of Govt. accountability or an initiative of C.S. In this case perhaps it's a task for C.Society to take up and hold Govt. accountable.
Devaki Jain	would love to peggy, i have brought the flyer of the work being done, and also some papers i have done for the international meetings on gender budgeting, that UNIFEM called. just give me a prod in my blog email and i will send you the papers, and here at the hotel i have a flyer which describes the work, i am glad you like the idea as i sort of challenged the gender budgeting idea as being coopted, ie the old dawn question do we want to eat a piece of the poisoned cake, remember?
tournesoldemort	Nyambura everyone needs to take up the issues.
oriokot henry	the best way you get hold of them is by you sending your representatives to the ground because if you are a good leader some one can not just tell you some thing and you say yes because you have it unless if your also making some difference along that line
kubi	What are the main priorities at this time to facilitate women's economic empowerment?
peggy	it's not enough to have recommendations and plans of action. actually, there are enough plans and platforms and recommendations to last many lifetimes. unless women are organised to hold governments accountable not much happens. i think that women's activism is the key to implementation
Deepa from India	Davaki, is this a govt. of Karnataka sponsored initiative?
claire	Hi Kubi, accountability is important. Yes There are reports which are not true to reality. At country level there must be some control on governments. Democracy is necessary. Decision makers must know that they are people representatives. they are not in office for their own persons.
bolalima	Tournesoldemort, thank you for your answer. Can you explain more the second part of that answer? Women are generally good financial managers, but are not allowed to do so by men. They are stopped by some traditional and cultural barriers
ibibars	why does it have to be the UN, what happened to civic society initiatives, or effective partnerships created between the public/civil/and private sectors. Our Girls' Dreams project, that is tailored for adolescent girls between the ages of 8-20, is one that offers informal education and financial education. After graduation from this program it offers vocational training and a link to the job market. It has proven successful through partnerships between us, the private and public sectors. The UN was no involved in any of this program, which proves that local initiatives can be as successful.
peggy	one of the frustrating things about being here in ny at these un meetings is that there are too many meaningless words spoken
Devaki Jain	deepa, i dont know how you have experienced this but, i really am so moved by rural, especially illiterate women's response to such ideas, it is my belief that they seek ways to reach power, it is power they want, and the old axiom that knowledge is power still works for them, they are so so so enthusiastic to know all about how the numbers are used to fool

	them ...they are so smart .
oriokot henry	capacity building, women are not as yet empowered,educaton
peggy	of course, the un decade for women and the beijing conference helped mobilize women and strengthened their organising but we must continue to emphasise this
salamah	village's women in my country are the one who work in farm and they are the pillars of rural economy
tournesoldemort	Bolalima because women have traditionally been assigned to the home - it is assumed that it is those budgets that they can manage not public corporate or government ones. It is about the scale of the budget. Oh add the stereotypes about women and budgets and craxy shopping etc. There is just a negative attachment to women and money.
claire	Decentralization can help to make women take part in development actions and decisions. at a lower level we can have many women take part in development process.
tournesoldemort	Salamah Africa was built on the backs of African women ploughing our fields however no recognition of that is made and our development programs come and change who was doing what when.
salamah	all the foods come from them but the road is the main problem
Deepa from India	I live next door to villages, and as far as the women are concerned with the 33% quota implementation in the Panchayat level in my state, we do have several women leaders. However, I was asking about gender budgetting.
Nyaradzai	Kubi, we must invest in women's access to, ownership and control over reosurces such as land, income, employment, entpreneurship etc as well as increase women's capacities and access to decision making at all levels from the household. This will contribute to substantive empowerment. But this must be acompanied by an acountability and commitment to address gender inequalities
oriokot henry	almost in all african countries village women work like donkeys thenafter they go and save the men,in india is worse because they even do the building work and the end of the day the money is given to men
peggy	claire, i think you're right in saying that women might have more power at local levels, but even here they need to be organised and to be helped to understand what is happening globally. the international gender and trade network (IGTN) has a trade literacy component in their programme. the programme includes research and advocacy but it's understood that women also need to understand the trade agreements that are affecting their access to markets, water etc
Devaki Jain	deepa , it is a unifem initiative and now being adopted by the govt of india ... kubi and peggy on the frustrations of these meetings, and the gap between the rhetoric and the reality... that is where i think we , ie those sitting here in new york at this time have a role to play . we really need to become a political unified voice to argue for different ways of assessing performance , when i heard the umpteen women reps of govts here ,describe the huge brilliant ways they had strengthened their machineries , i wanted to ask them , but then sisters why is there so much death disease, trafficking in women and unemployment and exploitation of women in your countries, how do we judge the value of such machineries except by mirroring the reality of womens lives on the ground>in these same countries there is no water, no health service , and so on and what are they painting these pretty picutres ??
tournesoldemort	Kubi I think the main priority is an acceptance that we need to radically change the entire system. Women's empowerment will not happen under the current system. Added to that because of gender speak it seems that there is this assumption that we have dealt with women's problems and we are no longer a priority.
Deepa from India	My experiance has been confined mainly with self help groups and sangams -- groups of women in rural areas get together and see how they can improve their economic status.

	many have gone back to old ways -- growing bio-diverse crops and many have gone from being landless to landowners.
claire	Most women know how to manage money and trade and production, even the ones who have not gone to school. It is a question of training. Women must be trained in doing more than the tasks of caring for the family. They are smart and good willing. They can catch up and do useful things for their communities.
Deepa from India	In poor urban classes , women go for the chit fund scheme, so they can save money which might otherwise be used for alcohol by their husbands.
oriokot henry	in africa their is no way you can begin investing in woman just because they do not have a stand today she is here next day some where.you invest her she will use that investment for killing you or she will never consider you that you are the brain behind it.
peggy	then there is also the question of control of land, not just access
oriokot henry	lydia -hinow aman has married a woman, aman has land and he dies who takes that land
Nyonang	Salamah thanks for bringing this up. I believe these women need microfinancing, but will it come from??? Things here are so politicized in a way that you need to be part of the dance. The rural women are never called upon on budgetary or decision making. Whereas most of the food crops are from their hard work. Is it possible for a loan system to be put in place to assist these women WITHOUT INTERESTS? Can we not organize seminars and workshops in their respective rural areas to educate them on budgetary issues? Please let's look into these issues.
claire	Women who are literate, who have the knowledge, who have the information, must train the others who have not had the same opportunities. We need to support each other. There must be solidarity among women.
Devaki Jain	henry, you really are anxious aren't you ? is this your experience that as soon as women regain some sense of power and dignity they KILL??? There always has been a fear in men of women and their power, that is why they burnt Joan of Arc and the whole idiom about witches is to suggest that any powerful woman is a witch and burn or beat her to death, Elizabeth Amoah of Ghana and Fatema Mernissi of Morocco and several others have written about this way of getting rid of women who challenge men with some brilliance and capacities ... do rethink your fears
nabwalya	hi everyone, good to know that people are really interested in women's issues these days, I think women's economic development can only be achieved if the women themselves spearhead the programmes related to them. a lot of funding comes through for the purpose of enhancing the livelihoods of women living in poverty but do they really benefit?
Nyaradzai	the land issue is quite emotive and political in Africa especially in East and Southern. women's struggle for rights to land must be ready to engage in the macro and historical issues surrounding land rights.
Deepa from India	Here is one which Chinna Narasimha -- a single parent, illiterate woman asked me when I visited her village -- why does the Indian govt. offer licenses to MNC channels so quickly but not to us though we are trained and have developed our own resources?
Djabo	Oriokot: what you just said is HORRIBLE!!! Investing in women is very productive for the many many reasons that many people in this chatroom have already mentioned.
Bruce	What we are advocating for is not mere privilege but sound opportunity for women who are marginalized by most of our customs and laws in accessing land yet the burden of raising a family and looking after the sick in a typical traditional setup lies squarely on them.
oriokot henry	in our country we have micro finance institutions but they have done more harm than good you get to day next day they need you to begin servicing it you don't they sell all what you had put as security this is done both in Christian and other organisations.
Deepa from India	Nyongang , it comes from the women themselves. That is how it works in India.

dorothee	how can a woman control her economic when she have a lot off charge? in our country microfinance doesn't work because women use all their money for family needs
doude	doude;in my contry rural women work very hard but they not the rossibility to bring the products to the market because of lack of practical roads
claire	Women know what they want. We can invest in women issues. They are able to do as well as men. If women appear not to deal well with economic issues this is the result of an education that says women aer only meant for domectic tasks. If girls and boys are trained the same way things will look better
peggy	then when you have access to and control of land you need the inputs to make the land productive - credit, water, technology, transportation for produce, markets but for women you have to understand that they are not just farmers, they also need good housing and services. There is a lovely story about an agricultural project where some of the water for irrigation was diverted to the household and this had a greater impact on productivity than any other input because it saved women's time from fetching water and having to go distances to wash in the rivers
Nyambura	Henry, I don't normally respond to men who express such attitudes in a space where we are talking about women, but I can't resist. You really don't know women...manyof us are working so that when our sisters get that power (read education, health care etc.), they will ensure that everyone else also has access - male or female!!. Killing? That is a male agenda and we're not interested. Examine where you are coming from and you'll see that yours is a mind set of one who is scared of change i.e. women as equal, women as (gasp!) human beings.
oriokot henry	Djabo the problem is that women shift from place to place
Nyaradzai	Bruce, I agree with your analysis linking women's repsonsibilities and roles in households and communities and their exlcusion from the critical means of creation of personal security (food, incone, shelter etc). land rights issues are not a privilege to women but a right. In post conflict countries, land issues are part of the settlement package. this is an opportunity for advocacy for women's rights to property and land.
Devaki Jain	land rights is definitely an important base for recasting gender relations in rural areas, but to day , as deepa says , the state acquires land from farmers , displacing them, to build huge broad roads, or give to MNCs , there is really havoc in India just now with our emphasis on rural infrastructure ...
odile	quelquefois,je me demande si lesnations-unies se rendent compte que dans nos pays l'economie dite informelle est celle qui fait vivre la majorite des africains.Or, cette economie est aux mains des femmes,ce qui veut dire que bien avant que la lutte contre la pauvrete ne deviennent un mot d' order a la mode,les femmes africaines,avient deja d'elles-memes imagine des strategies de lutte contre la pauvrete,Ce qui reste a faire,c'est que les N-U et les instances regionales et sous regionalesconsultent effectivement les femmes et creent en leur sein,des structures gerees par les femmes et que les nations unies pensent a travers les bureaux du PNUD,a fournir directement aux femmes des couches sociales faibles ce dont elles ont besoin pour creer leurs petites entreprises Informal economy is in the hands of women UN should know, this is the way African women have found by themselves to fight against poverty< need they help the governments through always not and directly women receive so that consideration them into take needs their know should agencies UN>
oriokot henry	how are we to promote womens development without them interfearing with men
doude	claire:WOMEN CAN AS MEN BUT THE PROBLEM IS SHE HAS NOT THE SAME BIOLOGYCAL CONS TITUTION LET MEN DO HARD WORK
salamah	i can send women to the islam law which give women the right to economy
kubi	Promoting women's development is a commit ment that every society has to make, men and women.

christel	In Africa especially in Cameroon, rural women play a very important role in the economy, she cultivates the farm plant, weeds and harvest. She carries to the market but she is always seen as secondary in the society. Is this really fair for her not to take part in decision making?
peggy	women's development may well challenge male privilege but it's not AGAINST men, and in the end men too benefit from less oppressive relationships
oriokot henry	Doude -why should men do hard work and yet women are talking of equal rights don't you think you are infringing on men's rights?
tournesoldemort	Kubi you are right but we live in a world where it seems that issues have popularity cycles. People are always saying to me 'oh you are still doing that - is that not tired?'
salamah	doude, je pense que tu as raison car les femmes devraient refuser de faire les travaux durs (maçonnerie, mécanique, etc...)
nabwalya	well, i really think it's not about creating a conflict between men and women i think we have for a long time forgotten to look at the aspect of opportunity, to me that's what this whole gender debate comes to. a man will never be a woman in terms of traditional roles...but now that we are an ever changing society it's vital to create opportunities equally.
claire	yes, a woman is different from a man biologically, but they must have the same opportunities in society for them to lead a good and responsible life. Each of them has specific biological roles, but both have the same social role to make our communities improve, grow, advance.
oriokot henry	thank you KUBI you are very right if all people were thinking along these lines things would be moving well
kubi	Another important issue that is emerging is the effect of natural disasters on women? Comments, questions?
Nyambura	'tourne' I get what you're saying. I was scrolling through some websites today looking at feminists all over the world - many of us had weary looks on our faces. By the afternoon I didn't want to see any more. Then I came across a website of one woman who started a foundation that has impacted on women's lives worldwide...and I realized that we will only win by sheer persistence. Then I could smile, and confront men and women who think that gender is about taking from one to give to the other
claudine	salamah I'm also interested by the law can you send it to me? regledor_jetaime@yahoo.fr
oriokot henry	Claire you are very right but why don't women adapt to our biological natural setting?
nabwalya	ok claire really good to know we share an opinion here, now that opportunity is the key word. would you tell me how women are being denied these opportunities maybe give an example of your country.
Deepa from India	Henry -- I have a quote for you -- If men think women with equal worth are stealing their space, then something is wrong with the men
peggy	Claire, I agree with you I'm FOR more harmonious relations between men and women, and this can only happen if men treat women with respect.
peggy	I have to go now. this is a great way to communicate!
tournesoldemort	Nyambura it is good to hear positive stories like that because this is hard hard work. Sometimes I do just want to quit this work however I just have to look next to me and it is impossible to quit. I do get mad though because pop culture presents such a skewed picture of where we are as women.
bolalima	Doude, in villages women work hard but don't have facilities to advertise or to sell what they produce. They all produce the same kind of goods and the local market can not satisfy them. How can we help them
doude	KUBI: I THINK WOMEN HAVE TO PUSH MEN AHEAD TO WORK FOR THEM

	SPECIALLY IN THE FARMS. A WOMAN IS A PRINCESS IN MUSLIM SOCIETY WY NOT IN THEY OTHERS ?
mwiika	I have just logged on but can always agree with what Kubi is saying, and on issues of disaster and its effect on women, i think it can be taken from the comparison of HIV/AIDS and its continued effects on women. But Natural disaster leaves many women even in more poverty. It has the ability of depriving them all that they have at once and compund it with what poverty they already face
claire	It is some time now that gender awareness is mentionned. Do we think things have improved significantly? people who speak on women behalf do they mean it really ? What mus t women do to assert themselves and make decision and gain from this gender awareness and women empowerment?
tournesoldemort	I think it is awful that whether it is natural disasters, economics etc women always bear the brunt of whatever is going on.
oriokot henry	Deepa-men are not wrong but awoman is a subject to aman according to creation
mwiika	Deepa, it is good to hear from you again how are you and lets talk more
Nyambura	Claire, on gender awareness...I think you might want to look 'around' in this space! some of us activists get it and others just don't.
Nyaradzai	I have been been invloved in the Tsunami response in Somalia. At times it was just a hard negotiation to include a gender indicators in the inter-agency assessment. The rationale, is that disasters affect women, men and children the same. we need to advocate for more commitment to gender issues in humanitarian erpsonse and recovery phase
Nyambura	Mwiika - perhaps natural disasters can be 'opportunities' . Women taking on roles that now absent (dead/missing) male household heads were playing previously. ...with support of rebuilding projects they can learn new skills and begin supporting their families...
oriokot henry	gender issue should be handled in abalanced way but not one sided
doude	BOLALIMA: INTELLECTUAL WOMEN HAVE TO LINK UP THEIR INTELLIGENCE AN CONVINCERURAL WOMEN TO SEE THE BENEFITS THEY WILL HAVE WHEN THEY DIVERSIFY CULTURES
tournesoldemort	Nyaradzai I am sure that most of the world did not even know that the tsunmai affected Somalia.
claire	The same opporuniites must be given to girls and boys rght from the family. equal treatment , equal rights , same social duties adn rights mus t be taught to girklks and boys early in life, so they grow with these values.
Deepa from India	We did as we were affected too.
oriokot henry	its in the bible read Genesis the whole chapter two
christel	Henry, In Camerom for example, women work more than men. She is regarded as a machine that is put on at 5am and put off at 10pm. Even when a husband and wife work in the same office, the woman gets up to prepare the children, make breakfast, get up the husband to bath and eat, while she prepares the husband's cloths. They both go to work and when they come back, while the husband is resting or reading news paper, she is back to prepare lunch. We can get on and on
tournesoldemort	Nyambura that is hectic but true in a sense. Is it not sad that change must come out of a disaster?
doude	BOLALIMA  IT IS YOUR ROLE AS AN INTELLECTUAL AN KIND WOMAN
oriokot henry	how can we link women and enviroment development in the nutural setting of africa
Nyambura	Yeah, but, think of it perhaps it's a way to 'sneak' in changes to the gender status quo...
salamah	it is women who are the first victims of natural desaster because it is them who are in the village to take care of theirs homes while men migrate. I think they can teach them how to

	live in the regions where the risks are high
Nyaradzai	Tourne, yes, the media coverage did not generally cover the Somalia story. However, South Africa Broadcasting did a wonderful coverage interviewing Somali women who talked of the loss of their petty trade, poultry and how women's groups are organising to re-build their lives and contribute to the community reconstruction efforts.
tournesoldemort	Nyambura tongue in cheek yes but it is still extreme
Nyambura	In Kenya the coverage was on men's livelihoods as it is mainly them who go to sea to fish. I wonder though the impact of the women who are the care givers - now having limited resources to cover the household budget. ....
salamah	kubi please can we have the summary of the subject of yesterday
oriokot henry	women bring development if they near men but a problem is with men who fail to understand women
tournesoldemort	Nyaradzai you are correct but how many people saw that. Most of the world does not even know that countries in Africa down to Tanzania were affected - what about those women.
oriokot henry	Salamah I think we shall ask for it after the summit
kubi	We are just finalising the section on the website and we will post the summary. Thank you for chatting with us today. Tomorrow's discussion will be on women and governance. Our panelists include Gertrude Mongella, Julie Ballington, Elsie Alexander and Ana Elena Obando. See you in cyber space at 8h00 New York time. Please post where you are from before signing off.
tournesoldemort	Nyambura true that is always a reality and a factor. I did some research around young women and African Feminisms. A strong point that came out was how can I worry about not having a computer in my village when my brother in the same poor village does not have one either. The links are always important to look at.
mwiika	Gender parity fight is as much about women as of men too, the defining of roles responsibilities and allocation of resources from the domestic level has a bearing on the attitudes that the men dominated policy making institutions embrace. And Nyambura, I agree with you and can only add that let resources and more opportunities happen for women in such situations there has been so much disparity even in provision of physical attainments for women
daisy	hi Tournesoldemort it's true that most people didn't know about the tsunamis effect on Somali because nobody even talks about it
tournesoldemort	Daisy it is a sad state of affairs. It speaks to how much the world values a black life.
lydia-hi	Before you leave the site <a href="http://www.cyberdialogues.org">www.cyberdialogues.org</a> , don't forget to respond to the poll question on globalisation. See you tomorrow in cyber space
gahsiena	hullo everyone...i have been following the discussions...thanks for the opportunity...let's start the over on a clean page, a new book...chapter number 1- GOING BACK TO BASICS..WE ARE ALL EQUAL...
Nyambura	I hear you Tourne, we need to also examine how we imagine our own 'worth'. Sister's have a 'worthwhile' day - for those in NY, keep the fire burning don't let the rhetoric get you down, link up with another sister with 'fire'. For others around the world, adios see you hopefully tomorrow. I'm in Kenya.
Nyaradzai	Tourne...I agree, very few people could have seen it, but at least there was an effort to have a women's perspective. The role of the media is critical in bringing the voices, the issues and the story. Because women's issues and gender issues are invisible, even the financial and technical support provided for response does not often target women, their initiatives more address issues of protection from rights violation that could arise as a result of the disaster. The situation was grave for communities in Hafun, Somalia who had lived in a country in conflict for last 14 years, have endured droughts and had to now face the

	Tsunami.
doude	ORIOKOT HENRY: A MAN OR ANY PERSON HAVE TO BE TAKEN WITH PHILOSOPHY WHEN WE WANT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM
Deepa from India	For those interested <a href="http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/2203">http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/2203</a>
claire	natural desasters affect women. any desater is a hard deal for women because they care for the family. the family need water , food. In west Africa drought makes women walk long way to get water and fire wood. They can use this time to do something else for development .
mwiika	Let us then lift the profile of Africa and send loud messages of what is going on here, not just so much as of bad things but what good things can come out of them. The Tsunami issues is truely devastating and we can only hope the west and others can percieve us from what face as they be natural to us too.
oriokot henry	Daisy- people from somalia them selves never talked about now how would you expect an out sider to begin they say God helps those who them selves or pray while runing if from uganda had little information about what about aperson USA
lydia-hi	Salama - on the right hand side of the page, there is a box which says: Opnion Polls. The question is there
Deepa from India	It is on the homepage Salamah
Nyaradzai	For more information on gender issues and Tsunami in Somalia, you could get in touch with <a href="mailto:hendrica.okondo@undp.org">hendrica.okondo@undp.org</a> , UNIFEM programme manager for Somalia
lubi	hai salamah it was a good suggestion that you made but how about the men you not realise that its the men who are affected.so what do you suggest we should do with the men because i feel that at times its the who are affected.
mwiika	Deepa i will talk to you more but i have to leave now, by to you all looking forward to more interesting discussions sooner.
salamah	lydia-hi it is the same question on girl pregnancy, the question is not change?
oriokot henry	SALAMAH-in uganda girls become pregnant in looking for what to eat stuation is not good at all people have no jobs money.
salamah	i talk about women because they are mojority in the village but there will educate either men or women
lubi	claire you seem to be so concerned about the women only .how about the men are'nt the men also affected.because when a disaster comes it affects every one ,both men and women boys and girls.
oriokot henry	thank you for to day iam oriokot henry from uganda by-ye!!! <a href="mailto:henryoriokot@yahoo.co.uk">henryoriokot@yahoo.co.uk</a>
doude	ORIOKUT HENRY: IT A PROBLEM OF EDUCATION
daisy	Salamah i think the issue about girl pregnacy is very important though it is normally left hanging.there is a saying which goes like if u educate 1 woman u v educated the world lets fight more fo this.
salamah	i think those girls must have confidence of God this mean that they have to know that they can live without going out with men.
Deepa from India	Another thing about girl pregnancy is that it takes two to get a girl pregnant. Why is there no focus on the boy/man and all shame on the woman?
daisy	Ok but Salamah confidence in God without building a solid value system is extremely in effective
Nyaradzai	Girls pregnancy??? where is the accountability and responsibility of the MEN
salamah	daisy that is true and i think education is very important



oriokot henry	Doude iwas going away we are promoting girl child education but the issue is what to eat and poverty but not education . First of all you can not go to school when you have not eaten for two days its better for you to get aman who can buy for other sisters and brothers what eat so that they can go to school
Deepa from India	We have mid day meal schemes for children in schools
Deepa from India	The surety you would be fed at least once definitely , makes many parents send their children to school. This started way back in the 70s.
Deepa from India	Sorry late 60s
lubi	women are believed to be peace makers even at the household level and therefore should be given positions in society where they will meaningfully contribute.we need to make every effort to empower the women at all levels in society.
salamah	henry, it better for girls to walk necked rather than going out with men.
doude	ORIOKOT HENRY, IN ISLAMIC SOCIETY PEOPLE GIVE ZAKAT WE COLLECT IT TO HELP POOR PEOPLE. THIS CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM IF WE ALL DO THE SAME.
daisy	It is not only the responsibility and accountability of men it is the womens responsibility as well . no one should bleme the men for girls pregnancy . the woman has the right to say no remember
Deepa from India	But not all pregnancies daisy are by consent. Rape and sexual abuse by neighbours play a huge role
Deepa from India	In India, rape and sexual assault by strangers account for only 20% , 70% of the rape related pregnancies are by people whom the girls know
christel	doute; bonjour je suis chritel > En Afrique et plus pre cisement au Cameroun, la femme rurale joue un ROLE TRES IMPORTANT DANS LE RAVITAILLEMENT DES VILLES EN PRODUITS VIVRIERS ,CAR C EST ELLE QUI LABOURE, SEME, RECOLTE, CONSERVE LES ALIMENTS, TRANSPORTE VERS LES VILLES ET ASSURE LA COMMERCIALISATION. MAIS CELLE-CI EST RELAYEE AU DERNIER RANG DANS LA SOCIETE ACTIVE. PENSEZ-VOUS QUE CELA SOIT JUSTE DANS LA MESURE OU C EST ELLE QUI ASSURE LA SUBSISTANCE DANS UN PAYS OU 80% DE LA POPULATION DU PAYS EST ESSENTIELLEMENT AGRICOLLE?
christel	DEEPA:I AM CAMEROUNIAN
Deepa from India	Hi Christel, I just saw the French translation of your post. In India 70% of it is agriculture. We are said to have a good economical year if the agriculture does well thanks to good rainfall or water. Otherwise India 's GDP rate falls .
Deepa from India	So economic development , at least in countries of the South are dependent on agriculture and if govts. fail to address the issue of rural areas, then they are not using sensible economics. What do you say?
agibanda	hi ladies or is it women,peace is meant to bring people together so i believe because of this i think we must build it in ourselves then bring it to our homes,neibours and countries.men please give womem equal opportunities for all at all levels of developmen.
Darling	I am from Zambia and ifeel this discussion will establish vital platform for the acceleration of gender parity with more effective networks.The role of a literate womenfolk is vital if ever the quest to have sound economic and social systems that can enhance access to agricultural land and subsidies especially for our women in Africa.
Darling	My Concern especially to my friend DEEPA is what is it that can be done at a global level especially to enhance the understanding of the Gender concept among our policy makers who often times shoot down legislation aimed at women empowerment due to this ignorant.