

CYBER DIALOGUES 10 MARCH 2005
LOOKING AHEAD
TRANSCRIPT (Tidied but not edited)

Leticia Shahani :

Hello. Am in New York where I was invited to participate in the 30th anniversary of International Women's Year which was initiated by the UN. Some of you may remember that I was the Secretary General of the Third World Conference held in Nairobi in 1985. Very happy to be in your company.

Lydia: Good morning and welcome to this chat where we are going to discuss "Looking Ahead". I am Lydia Levin and I will be facilitating together with Jenny Radloff. I will put the questions and ask our panelists to respond and for everyone to join in the chat. Today's panelists are:

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, UNIFEM who will come online from Kenya

Leticia Shahani, S-G of the Third World Conference on Women

Barbara Adams, Chief of Strategic Partnerships and Communication for UNIFEM

Elsie Alexander, Botswana National Council of Women

Lydia: Let's start with our first question today: How can grassroots women, community-based women's organizations and NGOs be involved in reviving and building the women's movement, and if so, how can this be done?

Leticia Shahani :

This has to be done at several levels. Ngos must help grassroots women organizations to organize and sustain their efforts. In addition, the national government must help ngo's with support services especially in the rural areas. The important thing is sustainability. In the Philippines, we are good in beginning activities but sustainability and integration with other local economic and social activities must be done in a spirit of mutual support.

barbara joined the room.

lydial :

Welcome Barbara - another panelist

Camer :

i think urban women who are involve in women organisations must help rural women by their experiences

lydial :

Leticia, can you explain a bit about the sustainability issue

birabwa :

The grassroots women have to be provided with up-to-date information regarding the key priority areas that are being focused on nationally, be helped to develop their own local priorities and agenda and tools, tactics of implementing their local agenda

oriokot henry :

the best is to empower the community based organisation so that they can educate the local women in the villages about their rights and help them organise work shops

Leticia Shahani :

It is easy to begin organizing after big events like UN Conferences or regional seminars etc. But to sustain economic activities needs funding which must be honestly administered. Not easy to find good administrators at the village level. Then the women must be trained and disciplined to follow regulations and the code of conduct of the organization or the cooperative. A lot depends on quality and unselfish leadership and this is not easy to find. Women are usually very busy and they are tied down to household chores. However, there are potential leaders and they must also be trained. The support of village and town officials is also necessary since it is mainly government at the grassroot levels which has some organization and capacity to mobilize resources and people.

alexander joined the room.

lydial :

Welcome to our panelist Elsie Alexander who has joined the chat

alexander :

goodmorning

Camer:

the grassroots women must start be in association, then after share what they have together, theirs experiences, ideas, and they can create inside those associations the work commission concerning their different actions like economic, development, marketing, agriculture, finance



oriokot henry :

we should also help this groups on the side of funding indeed they need to reach more communities but they can not due to funding problem some of them have tried to look for funding but in vein so if UN can find ways of sustaining this groups the better,we also have to get some of this women from diffent countries in the villages to atend some of this conferences so that we get what is really on the ground

lydial :

Camer can you share with us your local experience

alexander :

Community based organisations are very significant as grassroot level organisations. They have direct contact with grassroot women thus they are the best vehicles to mobilise women at that level so that there is added value to the women's movement. This has been done in most parts of Africa but major challenges such as outreach capacity, resources to persistently mobilise and disseminate information and engage rural women makes it difficult for NGO/CBO's. Organisations such as the YWCA Botswana Chapter have branches in most parts of Botswana and they have successfully organised and facilitated input and contributions of grassroots women.

Inika :

I have been looking at the chat transcripts for past dialogues and this might not be a popular view but we have been talking about other women as separate and different from us. We might be in different places but ultimately women's rights is a responsibility of all of us. Perhaps the first priority of empowerment is to look at what we as a collective are wanting to achieve and then address how we do that in different contexts.

Welcome our panelist Nyaradai

lydial :

We are discussing the question: How can grassroots women, community-based women's organizations and NGOs be involved in reviving and building the women's movement, and if so, how can this be done?

oriokot henry :

in my country they are some good community based organisations in the villages that are doing alot of good work in empowering women on their own without funding but can never be considered by big ngo's with fundings found in towns assuming things that are not on the ground.why dont we look for ways of promoting such groups.

alexander :

As a collective we need to appreciate difference and diversity amongst women as we are positioned in society at different levels based on age, class, ethnicity etc. Thus we need to collectively empower each other using our different experiences and knowledge. We need to use a human rights perspective based on respect and recognition of our differences so that as a collective we could jointly promote the empowerment of women and gender equality.

lydial :

What is the role of young women and how can they be mobilised around gender issues?

mic :

As we are addressing the issue of women's rights, we need to transform the set up policies to local community languages so as to capture the women at grassroots level.

Deepa from India :

I think Inika made a good point -- we need to define in concrete terms what we want to achieve. So would the panelists tell us exactly what

Deepa from India :

Also how do you think Henry, the big NGOs and rural NGOs can work together?

Nyaradza :

Hello to everybody, and its good to link with you again! Real sustainable transformation for women's rights and empowerment lies in women's agency at the household and community levels. The existence of women's groups, networks, associations, self help groups and others is a strong basis for us to move forward with the mobilisation of women and strengthening of the women's movement. Upstream policy work must be grounded on the knowledge and analysis emerging from communities. Poor urban and rural women are marginalised from the centres of formal public power and centres of distribution of resources. The next decade must invest in strengthening the connection between women's community grassroots movements and actions and policy reform

oriokot henry :

can we find ways of sharing up to date information with the grass root organisations since its this women in the rural areas who can tell/know the real problems they are facing, because a woman in town can tell you some thing which is not in the ground that is why some policies have failed but village woman can tell you the truth

chunkyrice :

i think it's undeniable that a lot of work is being done in the grassroots, community and NGO level. but while the women involved are doing the work, there are also other women who are documenting the work, whether they are journalists or writers committed to their cause/s. but even after 100 years of feminist history, not a lot of young Filipino women are actually clued into what's happening with the women's movement, or that we're actually celebrating the centennial. women's stories are scattered everywhere, and it takes someone with the eye for looking out for these stories (whether print or film/documentary) and who is at the same time attuned with the concerns of her generation to reconcile the work that's been taking place with the kind of feminism that means something else to young women of today. there should be a way for young women to be pointed out to these resources.

jennifer2 :

I agree Mic. Translating information into local languages is critical in order to include and inform women at grassroots level. Otherwise a large number of women will be excluded from debates which then renders any policies unrepresentative. Translating documents such as Millennium Development Goals, Beijing Platform etc etc as well as organisational information is crucial. And then of course that information needs to be disseminated using appropriate communicative channels e.g. radio. Making sure that women at the grassroots have channels to intervene is also important.

Camer :

Lydia, in my locality women start by familial relationship, friendship between communities, one person who are experienced invite everybody with a development program that she saw somewhere and want that they should copy in the area. When everybody is there, she explain the idea, goals what brought her to put them together, and ask who want to adhere to the idea and then if it is interesting, together we create the association which would have many objectives like helps, development, credit and savings, discipline. It is like that they take the initiative to choose they day that they can meet together.

from India :

We have Self Help Groups (SHG) in my state in rural areas and urban areas. As you may know -- in India both exist side by side. However, the problem comes when political parties try to use the SHG for their own ends.

lydia :

Morning Sylvie - welcome to the chat

oriokot henry :

Deepa- by involving them in their work shops, capacity building, educating them sharing information etc by doing so they will be able to get what is on the ground you know there are some ngo's who also want to use the small ones for their own gains.

Deepa from India :

[Have you found politicians intervening in funding or trying to use the rural women groups as votebanks in your countries?](#)

Leticia Shahani :

Town and city women must spend some time in the villages and know the actual conditions of village life. Otherwise, they will not be taken seriously by their rural sisters, no matter how well meaning the former might be. On the other hand the city or national ngos must bring in the technical and managerial knowhow to make these rural groups move forward more quickly and take advantage of national initiatives and programs. In countries where agriculture remains an important sector of the economy, there must be attention to rural development both from ngos and governments

mic :

lydia young women are energetic enough for mobilization at grassroot level given chance on policy awareness concerning women rights.

Nyaradza :

Mic, I agree with you on the issue of language and its growing sophistication. In most of our documents at times you even have a sense that we are talking about other things and not about every day lives of women, men and children in poor communities such as hunger, disease, exclusion

birabwa :

Lydia It is good you raised the question of how to mobilise and involve the young women in the movement, because my experience has shown that the movement has over the years been dominated by the older women and the generation gap has been widening where the young have looked at women's issues as a realm of their older counterparts. The young women in school can be mobilised by first educating them about the women's movement and its importance, relevance to their well being and for their future. This can be done around such areas like career development-- to let them know that they too can take own careers that were traditionally dominated by men, let them see the importance of studying subjects like sciences-engineering, architecture, medicine etc that were traditionally the preserve of men. Encourage the young women to form associations where they address issues affecting them

Deepa from India :

[Mic makes a good point about creating awareness among young women to get them to join](#)

alexander :

I agree with Jennifer Nyaradza and chuckyrice. In order to strengthen rural and low income urban women's perspectives we need to translate and simplify (user friendly) documents so that they are also informed and can act from an informed basis. I support the notion that action need to be driven from the grassroots facilitated by NG/CBO's. I agree with Leticia that most women are struggling with survival strategies thus we need to mobilise around their livelihood initiatives. The experience from the Green Belt in Kenya is a good lesson as explained by the minister mathaai. The feminisation of poverty is a major challenge for the women's movement thus a collective critical issues for mobilisation for empowerment.

Deepa from India :

Leticia, This is the problem we face in India. I live in a small town surrounded by villages and it is pretty far off from the state capital, Madras. However, the NGOs are mostly based in the capital city and they get funding and attend conferences. Here we use SHGs to improve ourselves. One of the major problems we face in our area is drought and the resulting poverty and water issues. I come from the Rice Belt.

birabwa :

The interested young women should be allowed to participate in decision making in the existing women's organisations so that they can feel more involved and that their own ideas, contributions and views are valued. Involvement should not only stop in participating in activities but in making key decision. I think It is also high time that some of the old guards start giving way for the younger women to raise up the hierarchy of the women's movement. This will motivate other young women to join and participate actively other than mere passive observers.

Nyaradza :

Lydia, on young women, there has been easier outreach towards those women who are in school, colleges and other such training institutions. In our experience in Africa, there must be special targeting of the young women who are out of school, and especially those in poor rural and urban communities, who are either married widowed. Real strategies must be evolved to reach out to this group of young women which at times is more vulnerable and has less support networks

mic :

Deepa, its so interesting about politicians. I have found that politicians use uninformed women for their personal gain but not to profit grassroots women with their personal rights.

Lydia :

How can your organisations work better with donor agencies in furthering gender equality? What suggestions would you like to make to donors?

Deepa from India :

MIC :Here SHGs are gaining power because they are able to influence other women. Politicians try to use/ influence the SHGs to support one particular party or the other as they are sure this will get them votes than if they campaign!

Oriokot Henry :

Deepa -what you are saying is true it was in India Hyderabad NISIT. but what I saw was only poverty and abuse of women rights when I commented they said it was taking another doctrine to their state I even talked UN officials about it.

Alexander :

Getting young women into the movement is critical for capacity building and succession. But young women need to come on board with a passion to contribute sometimes under difficult circumstances. My experience in Botswana is that most young women have different priorities and some do not see activism as a priority. The pioneers of the women's movement came in as activists and willing to struggle with a passion. We need more innovative strategies to bring young women on board around their interests and they need to take the lead so that we hear their voices and concerns.

Camer :

In the rural area young women are submissive to custom and sometimes they are again evolution of they right because of poverty. They used to tell urban women that they are eating and came and tell them robish

Deepa from India :

Henry, that is why that particular govt. lost the election recently. You see they were so busy trying to make an IT city in Hyderabad, they ignored Agriculture and the villages which is the field that still runs the economy.

Nyaradza :

The Resource issue and role of donors is very critical to the whole agenda for women's empowerment and gender equality. First, the donors are countries and institutions who through their raitification oof CEDAW of commitment to BPFA do commit to taking concrete actions towards implementation. The International Conference on Financing for Development made specific commitments to gender equality. Again through the Millenium Summit and Millenium Goals 8, there is a commitment to global partnership. Such global partnership should include financial resources towards achieving the women's commitments. Through the Rome Declaration, the donors are also strengthening their coordination and harmonising approaches to gender. It is the application and implementation of these international and institutional commitments that must be translated to funding support at the national and community level to actions that promote gender equality. In Kenya about 5 donors established a basket fund for engendering democratic governance.

lydial :

Can UNIFEM play a role? What role?

Leticia Shahani :

Il agree with Deepa that the rural areas have to be given aqttention because that is where poverty is deepest and wherre women are difficult to mobilise for activities beyond their families. This is where we need leaders and they can come from the towns who may have the larger perspective and the generous spirit. I would emphasize again that the sustainability of activities, whethere economic or social, is a very important question for women who are committed to social mobilization and transformation. By the wau, I have been a politician. I served as a senator of my country for twelve years. I agree with you that many politicians are self-serving, greedy and egomaniacs. But we should begin to distinguish between politicians who do not give any hope and politicians who can be allies in the women's movement. I took my job very seriously as an advocate for gender justice when I was a lawmaker in the Senate and I believe I made a difference in the Philippines. The more positive step is to help elect politicians, men and women, who are gender sensitive not only because tyhere are votes in women but because overall devellpment would advance faster with the active participation and contribution of women. Also learn to oppose the politicians who manipulate women and show that they cannot do that without suffering in their political career. But for this, we must have political strategists who know how the political game is being played in uour communities and countries.

barbara :

Nyaradzai, I'm interested in your comment about the Rome Declaration and gender. A recent study by bilateral donors in the context of OECD-DAC has shown not only how little of total aid is going to gender equality but how difficult it is to track this money. And the way the "aid

architecture" is developing suggests it will be increasingly difficult unless we insist on the use of some "gender markers".

mic :

deepa my interest is i want to see women at grassroots empowered.

isabella joined the room.

Deepa from India :

"But for this, we must have political strategists who know how the political game is being played in our communities and countries." Good point Leticia

lydial :

If you use abbreviations could you spell them out so everyone is on the same page

oriokot henry :

lydial;how can your organisation help the grass root organisations to lobby for funds

mic :

isabella you are welcome to the chat room.

Deepa from India :

Mic, by grassroots women -- are you talking only about the rural illiterate class or the urban poor too for in India they are both in the same boat, they just live in different places.

lydial :

Henry - perhaps we can look at this a different way as Gender Links is just one small NGO trying to make an impact in the area of gender and media. Maybe the question is how can organisations work together in dialoguing with donors?

Nyaradza :

Barbara and Henry, UNIFEM through its extensive work on gender responsive budgeting has developed tools and analysis of tracking resources. It should be possible and critical at this stage to equally do gender budgeting audits for development aid. This would imply a greater coordination, information sharing and consultation between OECD-DAC Gender working group and other such institutions with institutions in developing countries. At the country level women's organisations, the national machineries for gender and institutions like UNIFEM must be actively engaged in government donor coordination forums. It is in such forums that the governments negotiate partnerships and funding from donor governments.

mic :

deepa there is being in urban when you are not informed where do you classify those ones.

Deepa from India :

Lydia, as I suggested yesterday, we could start an international e-group to stay in touch and share the information (which I offered to do). Then we need to network within our own countries regionally and locally.

alexander :

There are donors that have supported the women's movement over the years, and have programmes that support such as, UNIFEM, UNICEF, SIDA, etc but it is not sustainable as their priorities change all the time informed by global neo liberal economic policies and politics. Donors need to support NGOs separately and not through their bilateral program with governments. In Botswana there is donor drought as Botswana now occupies a middle income status. The government has resources but NGOs do not thus donors should continue to provide some support to NGOs. We need to invest more in poverty alleviation strategies using a rights based perspective thus linking issues of poverty to politics and hold politicians accountable to their constituencies. NGOs should collectively dialogue with donors to influence their priorities. Donors' global priorities are at times not relevant to specific situations. UNIFEM should continue with the gender budgets strategy as a tool of linking women's informal and small scale economic activities to macro economic policies. We need to unpack the nature of macro economic policies in our countries and make them respond to the needs of poor women.

oriokot henry :

Lydia: I work with NGOs promoting women's empowerment but I have tried to get links with some international NGOs not in my country with the same vision and I have failed. Can you create a directory for such NGOs?

Loga3 :

I think networking is a grand idea. We did that during the 16 days activism campaign and it really worked. And now each time we organise something we invite members of the other network. It is a good way to share ideas and to help each other. If we can do the same with all those who have been with us during the past few days I think I will be great. Our problems might not be the same but we have so many things in common and we have to learn from each other.

jennifer2 :

Oriokot Henry - why not try the DIMITRA database at the website

http://www.fao.org/Dimitra/servlet/controller?x_servlet=authServlet&x_function=auth&x_action=login&

jennifer2 :

The **Dimitra database** is freely accessible here (in English and French).

It contains profiles on organisations based in Europe, Africa and the Near East which have projects or programmes involving or concerning rural women and development. The database does not claim to be exhaustive, but aims to show the trends in the different countries, with descriptions drawn from information provided by the organisations concerned.

Lydia :

Deepa this is probably a good forum to start building an e-group, especially if you have the resources to do it. Can you give contact information so people can get in touch with you. Jenny Radloff, my co-facilitator, is with the APC (Association for Progressive communications) and is happy to share experiences with you. Her email is jenny@apcwomen.org

Camer :

The problem of good governance is still there sometimes, we see women associations coming out because they need money after attending their goals (which is to collect money for themselves) the

associations died. What do you think rural women must have confidence on the new associations ?

lydial :

How can women from your country engage with the Millenium Summit in September 2005, when the UN General Assembly reviews the Millenium Declaration and the Millenium Development Goals (MDSs)?

Deepa from India :

I'll start the group tonight and send invites to all that are in the contact list that you had provided. Then they can connect it to their local mailing lists and we can get the word out. I feel sustaining this forum for the years to come is the only way.

Nyaradza :

Alexander, I agree with you that funding women's organisations, groups, associations and networks is as important as supporting the public institutions and machineries for gender. The various players are part of a collective whole. Therefore, it becomes important to develop resourcing and financing strategies which supports accountability to women's agenda, invests directly in women's organising and in institutions that monitor implementation

birabwa :

The donors can be tapped best if Ngo's network, but it is important that these networks share information openly about the donors they are working with, the areas they are interested in,. It is important that NGO's support one another in terms of how to mobilise resources from donors-help those who are not good in proposal writing develop proposals that can attract donor support.

jennifer2 :

Oriokot Henry - other useful websites for information on African development NGOs and information are www.africapulse.org.za and <http://www.comminit.com/>

Loga3 :

What we need also is something like GEMSA where we can take collection action. For example when we had our major problem with the Mauritian Government who accused us of not being apolitical because we invited all political parties to talk about the low representation of women in politics and what the parties plan to do for the on coming election. The workshop was organised by Media Watch but under the aegis of Gender Links and yet the Government sent a press communique to all print and electronic media to accuse us of playing the game of the opposition. An organisation like the one I am suggesting could have sent a counter communique to all our countries. This is a way not only to keep the gender activists informed but concrete action to show that there is a force behind all NGOs.

alexander :

UNIFEM in collaboration with regional women's networks should organise a donor dialogue once a year so that a common agenda could be developed specific to each region. This will give an opportunity to NGO's to influence donor priorities.

Deepa from India :

I plan to call it the international e-group Women's Lobby or The Lobby and we can continue to inform, discuss after today. If Jenny or others have any other names to suggest, it would be most welcome.

Leticia Shahani :

Should we not add the South-South perspective in terms of funding. There might be some ngos, business groups or even governments from the South who might want to help UNIFEM. The Philippines, for instance, has a UNIFEM National Committee which raises a minimum of \$10,000 US dollars annually for UNIFEM, New York. This might look like peanuts to those from the North but it makes a group in my country feel good that because they have the means and the contacts to raise some funds they are helping in the global effort for the women;s cause and makes them understand in a concrete way what is the solidarity we share. Also, this group can indicate what one priority program UNIFEM could assist in our country. While the pressure must be sustained for the North to give funding for programmes for women, efforts at fund raising should not be solely directed to the North for this can be frustrating and the possibility of looking for funding sources in the South should not be neglected. In fact the North-South divide is beginning to break with emerging economies like China, Brazil and India now beginning to challenge the economic primacy of the G7.

Loga3 :

I agree with Birabwa. We have the ideas but do not know how to write the proposal and where to go for funds. right now I have three ideas on gender discrimination in school manuals, gender discrimination in the sega song and training women politicians in the electronic media

birabwa :

In Uganda the Beijing +10 has not been given much publicity in the media and as a result not many women know that it has been taking place, therefore to create a strong lobby and awareness around the Millenium summit women's Ngo's have to engage the Media early by providing them with the targets and goals that affect women, and in the process there can be public debate of these issues in the media early enough.

Deepa from India :

There are grant writers and courses on grant writing if you are interested.

<http://www.fundsforwriters.com>

Loga3 :

It's the same in Mauritius Birabwa. I wrote an article but it was not published. Even journalists do not know about the New York conference. Can you imagine.

Nyaradza :

Leticia and Alexander, this is a brilliant idea of a donor dialogue, with a strong south-south component. This could be planned as part of the review of the Millenium Summit +5, direct linkages could be made between the CSW Beijing + 10 review and the women/gender agenda in achieving the MDGs. The cyberdialogues on the 7th of March also came up with a strong recommendation on such donor policy dialogues which could pitch issues of poverty, HIV & AIDS and conflict. The downstream, upstream funding options will be a critical dimension because of the issues raised earlier on supporting women's organising and actions at community level

Deepa from India :

You are not alone birabwa. In India, the English media has been covering it but mainly the US opposition, etc. The local media has not been covering it at all.

Alexander :

UNIFEM could also ensure that the UNDP programmes at country level do respond to the needs of women as in most cases UNDP programmes are gender neutral. A dialogue at national level with donors periodically is also important to monitor their response and the impact of their programmes.

birabwa :

The rural women can be involved if the community based organisations can organise small fora's within their localities where women, local authorities, private sector discuss the Millennium Development Goals, whether they are to be achieved? If not why? In other words there is need to create avenues where women can start early to share their views on the MDGs

sylvie2005 :

do you think that African women can

Camer :

We think after these discussions, we must relay it to the other women and it is good for us here in Cameroon to sit again and discuss about all the items with the rural and even urban who are not involved with the program

Deepa from India :

Thanks Loga. I'll have to thank Lydia and Colleen for giving me the opp.

Loga3 :

Deepa, Taking your idea a bit further. What about "International Lobby Group" for a name?

Oriokot Henry :

Deepa from India- thank you for the sitescan you take my e-mail henryoriokot@yahoo.co.uk for more detail

Nyaradza :

Alexander, in some countries like Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Tanzania, there are gender donor forums in which the UN including UNDP and other agencies do participate. These nascent spaces for dialogue must be strengthened and greater space be created for engagement with civil society.

Mic :

I am offering the way forward like this, national women organizations should widen their scope of service at regional & international level to help bridge the gap of the left out women society otherwise I will campaign more for your cooperative forum.

Lydia :

As a way forward, what is the best way for us to put gender firmly on the agenda of the MDGs being discussed in September?

Leticia Shahani :

Before I go, I am curious to find out from Deepa how she looks at the growing economic power of India even if there are still about 250 million poor in your country. Since India could probably become a permanent member of the Security Council in the future and could also join an enlarged G7 aggrupation, how will this affect the feminist dialogue among developing countries. Will Indian ngos be affected by a changing economic policy of government?

Loga3 :

Deepa, I don't know if you are aware that our Prime Minister who is also the actual President of SADC is making a move so that India can join the SADC

sylvie2005 :

do you thing that african women are able to chat without ordinator

alexander :

It is also important that we continue to strengthen national structures as they do not seem to be as strong and as effective as they were. A reflection/assessment of the national machineries/structures to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality need to facilitate mainstreaming of gender and women's rights in the MDG's but in most cased they are excluded from these discussions and do not have capcity to fully engae the governments and UNDP agencies. We need more effective and innovative advocacy and lobbying/networking strategies. Maybe UNIFEM could assist in this area. Deepa your idea of a international dialogue is a good idea. Lets continue to dialogue and share experiences lessons learnt and strategies that work. Good luck. I enjoyed the chat, all the best. Bye

oriokot henry :

Nyaradza -what you are saing is true but this organisations will never help if contact them they will tell you its not in their budget.

Deepa from India :

Leticia, I don't think the feminist dialogue will be affected. However, I don't think India will get the chance to be a part of the SC5 with veto powers as China and US are opposed to it. Much as we talk about the GDP groth rate and the new economic power that is India, the failure of a monsoon will set us back. India needs to get its priorities straight and so far the govt, hasn't

mic :

sylvie african women hold apontencial to make adifference for african women liberation dont be negative.

Loga3 :

I sincerely believe that big organisations like UNIFEM, UNDP, MISA and others should write to Government and tell them how important it is for them to give space to NGOs and to work with them. We are the grassroots. We are doing the work. Implementation of laws are being done by us. Media Watch in Mauritius is the first organisation to have put gender in the media on the agenda. This was not heard of before

Deepa from India :

There is a lot of fluff about the IT giant that is India. Here are a few facts. Less than 5% of the Indian population pay income tax. The alternate economy -- the black money is huge. Money that can be put to good use if only it is declared. Less Than 2% of the employed are in the IT sector.

birabwa :

To affirm gender on the agenda of the MDGs we need to know who is responsible for developing the agenda, who are the influential persons/organisations involved in the process and what their stand on gender issues is. Having established these then we can start lobbying them. However, to borrow from the experience of the World Summit for sustainable development we can have women organise working groups at the National, regional and international level that carry out independent reviews and consultation processes that can feed into the main summit. It is also pertinent that we start thinking of a side event that will run alongside the established summit to continue to air our views even during the summit.

Loga3 :

My e-mail address is gonaz@intnet.mu. Would love to keep on discussing with you all. We have so many ideas to share

oriokot henry :

how can we involve the church to help in this campaigns

lydial :

If anyone would like to exchange e-mail addresses, please feel free to do so
alexander Connection Expired.

Inika :

This is Kubi from Gender Links. Want to say thank you to all for joining us everyday for a chat. It has been an amazing experience. See you soon in cyber space. If you want to stay in touch my e-mail is kubi@genderlinks.org.za. Goodbye for now.

Nyaradza :

Henry, and Loga3; I agree that at times the issue is reduced to immediate funding available. The relationship with UN agencies must go beyond funding because it should be about partnership, about information, sharing expert knowledge and even joint fundraising. I am sure with the example of Mauritius, the organisation's impact is felt on women and the media and the governance institutions would recognise this resource. It is critical to continue knocking, insisting on participation and also sharing some information. I know the great work that community organisations and NGOs are doing, but at times this knowledge is not public and visible.

Deepa from India :

Involving the church in India will take on a political -religious dimension that should be avoided.

mic :

sylvie establish a research base for proof about what african women have so far done.

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Deepa from India :

Kubi, I tried mailing you at this id but it kept bouncing

Inika :

try kubi@mweb.co.za

Deepa from India :

Thanks, I will.

Deepa from India :

Also thanks for the opp. folks , especially to Kubi, Lydia, Colleen

birabwa :

This is Birabwa from the World Bank Uganda Country office saying it was nice meeting and sharing with you all information and knowledge on such pertinent issues that affect all of us women around the world. You can reach me on ebirabwa@worldbank.org.

Nyaradza :

This is Nyaradza, UNIFEM East and Horn of Africa Regional Office. It has been great. my email. nyaradza.gumbonzvanda@undp.org, website: www.unifem-easternafrika.org

Deepa from India :

Birabwa , before you go -- what happened to the V- Monologues ban ?

Loga3 :

Thank you all and especially Kubi and all the partners and donors in the cyber dialogues. It's been great chatting with you and getting your support has also been terrific. Hope we keep in touch and hope we will get the chance of having another cyber dialogue. It is like a drug and I will miss you all.

birabwa :

Dear Deepa, The ban still stands.

Deepa from India :

Loga, best wishes to you and hope your mom recovers completely soon.

lydial :

Thanks to everyone who joined the chat today and for the majority of you who have participated in the process every day. Hope you have found it interesting / beneficial / stimulating etc. Gender Links thanks UNIFEM for the great support they have given us - offices, computers, internet access, video conferencing etc. We have learnt a lot from this experience, especially from the sharing by all the chatters. This web site will last another week and thereafter you will still be able

to access the information on the Gender Links site - www.genderlinks.org.za.
Best wishes to everyone. Lydia

Deepa from India :
Are they planning to do anything about it in Uganda?

Inika :
Great job Lydia.

Deepa from India :
Thank you Lydia.

Deepa from India :
Chris , where are you from?