



Annex 16

FTF Facilitation Team Meeting

New York, 26 September 2008

A facilitation team meeting took place with all those members who were present at the High Level Event on MDGs (HLE) as well as with new members from the New York City area. It was an evaluation and forward looking meeting. The second part of the meeting was aimed to engage new members, particularly coming after the women's tribunal on poverty and the MDGs in New York. The meeting was open to all others in knowing more about the work of the FTF.

Agenda:

1. Debriefing of activities in New York during the HLE week
 - Official meetings – HLE and Round tables
 - Bilateral meetings
 - Organisational events
2. Next steps
 - Tribunals
 - IWD / CSW

Attendance:

Facilitation team members:

Ana Agostino, Uruguay
Lysa John, India
Sharmila Karki, Nepal
Rosa Lizarde, USA

Other participants:

Annie Raja, India
Fulya Vekiloglu, Bahai'i International Community (NY)
Fernanda Hopenhaym, AWID, Mexico
Nataly Raber, AWID consultant (NY)
Diana Salas, Women of Color Policy Network (WofCPN)-NYU Wagner (NY)
Gloria Melo Pinzon, women's activist and member of the WofCPN (NY)
Aishia Glasford, human rights activist and member of the WofCPN (NY)

Viviana Bernal, intern, WofCPN (NY)

1. Debriefing of activities in New York – week of the HLE on MDGs, Sept. 22 – 26th

Women's Tribunals - Rosa and Diana gave a brief report of the Women's Tribunal on Poverty and the MDGs. Rosa mentioned that holding the Women's Tribunal and the Poverty Hearings on the same day and that having worked closely in the preparation of both with other GCAP colleagues reinforced both activities. Overall, the partnership was very successful and highlighted both global and local perspectives. Among the outcomes mentioned was a summary of the Women's Tribunals included in the official report of the Secretary-Generals for the HLE activities. Diana added that an MDG shadow report on New York City and the MDGs was presented at the Women's Tribunals and was included as official documentation to the Secretary General's report.

All women present underscored the fact that the tribunal was a powerful event and congratulated all those who had worked in organising it. Sharmila Karki thanked the organisers for holding such a tribunal in New York as it showed similarities of women in the United States with women in the South. Her words were echoed by other participants who said that poverty in the North is usually silenced and ignored. Lysa John and Annie Raja added that they were initially wondering why a tribunal would be held in New York City, in the North, but were stunned to hear about the economic disparity in a city so rich as New York. It was also informed that the United States has not signed the CEDAW and women felt that we should embark on a campaign for the US to sign it.

In relation to all other activities implemented by the FTF while in New York, please see attachment.

2. Next Steps

Participants agreed that the Guide on Women's Tribunal is a priority for the FTF. There was a debate around the need to have a common policy framework where the tribunals can coincide, and then at the country level specific strategies can be identified on how to overcome women's poverty. It was agreed that the document to prepare should provide a clear cut guideline for organising the women's tribunals such as: identification of problems to be addressed, documentation of cases, preparation of materials, selection of juries, procedures, charter of demands, etc. It was also agreed that they need to have a clear political message and aim at providing possible solutions.

It was suggested that Social Watch could contribute with information for the policy framework and about availability of funding for women's programmes at country and global levels. It was agreed that Ana will contact Roberto Bissio, Director of Social Watch.

The guide should include the policy framework (with a political analysis of current situation); methodology, charter of demands; campaigning and forward looking proposals.

This guide will be used by women around the world and it will be an important tool for International Women's Day around the world and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York.

ATTACHMENT

FTF activities in the framework of HLE, New York, 22 – 26 September 2008

1. GCAP Poverty Hearings on the MDGs

23 Sept, 9:30am-12:30pm, Church Centre Chapel.

These hearing were organised to ensure that the voices of those living in poverty could reach the HLE on 25 September; to present testimony on the lack of achievement of the MDGs; to bring together CSO actors to reinvigorate commitment to the MDGs.

Three cases were presented: Poverty and Hunger; Addressing Education; and Environmental Sustainability. Each of them had witnesses who presented testimonies from their national and local realities and an expert witness who provided an overall informed view on the topic, including background information and forward looking proposals. The advocates of the tribunal were Mary Robinson, Ela Bhatt, Archbishop Winston Ndingane and Serigne Mansour Sy.

Members of the FTF or invited by the FTF were witnesses and expert witnesses in the three cases:

- Sharmila Karki, Poverty and Hunger
- Lysa John. Addressing Education
- Raquel Castillo, Addressing Education
- Marta Benavides, Environmental Sustainability
- Monique Essed-Fernandes, Environmental Sustainability

2. Women's Tribunals on Poverty and the MDGs.

23 Sept, 2:00pm-5:00pm, Church Centre Chapel.

The aims of the tribunals were (i) to highlight the situation of women living in poverty, specifically in the North and New York City (NYC); (ii) to ensure that the voices of women are included at the HLE on 25 September; (iii) to present documentation and testimony on the delivery of services of the MDGs in NYC; and (iv) to present a shadow report on the MDGs. Rosa Lizarde/ENLACE organized the women's tribunals on behalf of the FTF in partnership with the Women of Color Policy Network of the Wagner School at New York University, with the support of the UN-Non Governmental Liaison Service. Testimonies were presented around themes linked to the MDGs: Poverty and Economic Security; Women and Health; and Women's Empowerment and Human Security and Dignity. See attached report. A full report of the tribunals has already been compiled and circulated.

3. Meeting with CSO representatives at HLE

24 September

Civil society participation was limited at the HLE to one speaker at the plenary and one in each of the round tables around the topics of: (i) poverty and hunger; (ii) education and health; and (iii) environment. There were also 60 observer passes granted, though we were not among them. On the 24 of September there was a meeting with the four civil society

speakers and NGOs present in New York to exchange views on priority topics to be highlighted by the speakers. Several FTF members attended the meeting and provided language for the speaker on poverty and hunger as it had been agreed upon in the declaration prepared with other women's organisations around the food crisis: "Women respond to the food crisis: we are part of the solution". They also made inputs in the topics of education and environment.

4. Meeting with Prime Minister and Development Cooperation Minister of The Netherlands

24 Sept, 10 – 11 am, Tudor Hotel

The meeting took place with Primer Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and Development Cooperation Minister, Bert Koenders. On the side of civil society there were several NGOs working on the three issues of major concern for the Dutch official delegation:

- Water and sanitation
- Gender equality
- Sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS

The FTF had worked on a specific petition on gender and the MDGs together with other women's organisations: "Petition to the Prime Minister and Minister of Development Cooperation of The Netherlands regarding Action on MDG3". This petition was handed in to the Ministers together with other information, including the declaration on women's response to the food crisis that we had prepared together with Action Aid and that was signed by several women's organisations.

The response of both ministers was very positive on the three issues. Specifically on gender they said that they are convinced no talk can take place on development that does not place women at the centre. They announced that the Dutch government is increasing its contribution to MDG 3 by 20 million Euros. They also said that gender equality is a priority in all their policies and they are in negotiations with other governments to promote this view.

5. Meeting with Cooperation Minister of Germany

25 Sept., German House

The Cooperation Minister from Germany, Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, through the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, called a meeting with NGOs active in the Financing for Development (FfD) process. Through Rosa Lizarde/ENLACE and the Women's Working Group on FfD (WWG) the FTF is part of the Doha NGO Group on Financing for Development and of the International Planning Committee that will host a Global Civil Society Forum in Doha on 25-26 November. As part of the preparatory process a strategic meeting was called to agree on a strategy and messaging to present to Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. Rosa Lizarde and Ana Agostino attended the meeting.

The aim of the meeting was to exchange thoughts and recommendations on key areas of the Doha Draft Outcome Document and the process of civil society engagement in Doha to be presented to Minister Wieczorek-Zeul who, together with Finance Minister Trevor Manuel

from South Africa, have been appointed Special Envoys to the Doha Conference by the UN General Secretary.

The meeting started with a presentation by the Minister where she emphasized the importance of cooperation with civil society. She added that there is a need to have a high representation of civil society at Doha. She said that Trevor Manuel and herself have suggested to have a more global approach that shows the sense of urgency and that they both believe gender should be included in all areas to strengthen the rights of women, particularly on MDGs 4 and 5. In terms of ODA she said that the need is for innovative financing (linking the FfD process with the climate negotiations); for mobilization of own resources (fight against tax evasion that happens all over the world); and she also mentioned the need to mobilize financing for investment in agriculture.

Some of the issues that were presented by civil society organisations present at the meeting were:

- the importance of bringing Heads of State to Doha;
- the importance of having a document with commitments and benchmarks and not just a political declaration;
- bring in all actors, all countries and civil society
- importance of follow-up mechanisms;
- a call for a conference of the international financial system (to be organised by the UN and not by the IFI) could be one of the results of Doha;
- put the MDGs, climate change, FfD under one framework;
- need to achieve historical commitment of 0,7% for ODA;
- innovative funding should not be part of ODA but separate (the same with debt alleviation);
- currency transaction tax as an output of Doha;
- framework of Doha Outcome document is too narrow just focusing on economic investment and the private sector; call for radical change so that it shows the injustices of current architecture and links finances to human, social, economic and cultural rights.

6. Participation in In My Name

25 September

In My Name is an initiative from international aid organisations (Oxfam, Save the Children and Comic Relief) as members of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) which offers people a way to take personal responsibility for holding their leaders to account through interactive online action. It was launched within the framework of the HLE in New York on 25 September, when a special song prepared for the mobilisation was first sang by famous performers. It counted with the support of *youtube* which made several videos. Ana Agostino and Lysa John were among the people asked to present their demands to world leaders, and they highlighted the need to invest on women and girls. Lysa John was also one of the speakers at the event.

Links: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VDGH_vgeYw
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEBZcJFmw8k&feature=channel>

7. Beyond 2015

26 September

In the framework of the HLE, GCAP together with Stakeholder Forum and Peace Child International convened a meeting called Beyond 2015. It had the aim “to kick start a conversation on how civil society organisations and networks working on development, human rights, and the environment will work together to map out the key priorities for people and the planet beyond 2015”. To do this, during the preparatory process the organisers asked for think pieces to start identifying some of the key themes and issues that should inform the Beyond 2015 agenda. Ana Agostino contributed with one of these pieces. Around 40 people attended the meeting including senior representatives of the faith movement, indigenous peoples, INGOs, civil society organisations, social movements, networks, and others from a variety of sectors, including the education sector. Rosa Lizarde and other members of the FTF were also in attendance.

8. FAO/ActionAid panel luncheon on Women Farmers

Rosa Lizarde attended a panel on women farmers co-sponsored by the FAO and ActionAid where the “Women respond to the Food Crisis: We are part of the Solution” declaration was highlighted and presented to the World Bank representative.