

nited Nations Division for the Advancement of Women ()



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Annexes

- I. List of participants
- II. List of documenta

1. While poverty has always been a major concern in the work of the United Nations, the challenge of its eradication remains at the top of both international and national agendas. Through global United Nations conferences and summits, a set of interconnected and mutually reinforcing goals and targets has been agreed to by governments in order to combat poverty.
2. In Beijing, during the Fourth World Conference on Women, the international community expressly recognized that women and men experience poverty differently, and agreed that if these differences are not taken into account, the causes of poverty could not be understood or dealt with by public actions. The Platform for Action adopted in Beijing included the issue of women and poverty as one of its 12 critical areas of concern, and identified strategic objectives for addressing poverty among women. It emphasized that the “empowerment of women is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty” and recommended that poverty eradication strategies address the multidimensional nature of poverty, including such factors as autonomy

vulnerable to poverty because of gender inequalities in the distribution of income, access to productive inputs such as credit, command over property or control over earned income, as well as gender biases in labour markets and the social exclusion that women experience in a variety of economic and political institutions. In addition, women do not always have full control or command over their basic asset: their own labour.

5. The concept of human poverty includes not only the condition of economic insufficiency, but also social and political exclusion. It takes into account more than the basic needs for material well-being, and views poverty as multidimensional, acknowledging its gender dimension. It also provides a link to a rights-based approach to poverty alleviation through an emphasis on good governance and empowerment of people.

6. The concept of human poverty called for the disaggregation of data by sex and age, thus allowing for an analysis of the relative poverty or well-being of individual

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context, and explained how and why women and men experience poverty differently and unequally, and become impoverished through different processes. The findings and conclusions of the seminar provided an important input to the preparation of the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing.

10. The gender dimension of poverty was further comprehensively examined in the 1994 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development. This survey, in accordance with Commission on the Status of Women resolution 36/8, was one of the principal documents for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

11. At its fortieth session, in 1996, the Commission on the Status of Women considered the critical area of concern of women and poverty within the context of reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The deliberations resulted in the adoption of resolution 40/9, which emphasized that the empowerment and autonomy of women along with the improvement of women's social, economic and political status were essential for the eradication of poverty.

12. The issue of women in poverty became an important dimension of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action that governments developed in the years following the Beijing Conference. More than

15. The issue of women's empowerment and poverty eradication was addressed during the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the Twenty-first Century". In the session's outcome document (A/RES/S-23/3), governments were called upon to strive to reduce the disproportionate presence of women living in poverty by implementing national poverty eradication programmes with a focus on a gender perspective and the empowerment of women, including short- and long-term goals.
16. This appeal was reinforced in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/RES/55/2), where Governments resolved "to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is

for “actions to be taken” at both the international and national levels to eradicate poverty as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action and in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

22. The Expert Group Meeting on "Empowerment of women throughout the life cycle as a transformative strategy for poverty eradication", held in New Delhi, India, from 26 to 29 November 2001, was organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) and hosted by the Government of India.
23. The meeting met in plenary, and in working groups. In an opening plenary meeting, background presentations created a conceptual framework for the discussions. Working group discussions, focusing on specific issues, followed the plenary. The meeting concluded with the adoption of a final report that contained the main conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.
24. The meeting was attended by 9 experts representing all geo-political regions and thirty eight observers from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations (see annex I for the full list of participants).
25. The documentation of the meeting comprised of a background paper prepared by a consultant commissioned by DAW; 8 papers prepared by experts and three observers' papers (see annex II). In view of their relevance to the issues under discussion, a number of United Nations documents and other reference papers were made available.
26. At its opening session on 26 November 2001, the participants adopted the agenda of the meeting and a programme of work as follows (see annex III) :

Opening of the meeting and opening statements;
Election of officers;
Adoption of programme of work;
Presentation of papers by the consultant, and by experts and observers on the identified topics of thee0 12BDC02520 0 0 12 219

Presentation of reports from working groups;

Meeting in New Delhi, and for its efforts in the battle to eradicate poverty in the country.

31. In her opening statement, Ms. Najma Heptullah, Deputy Chair, Parliament of India, welcomed the convening of the Expert Group Meeting as one of the important initiatives undertaken by the United Nations during its first Decade for the Eradication of Poverty. She expressed her hope that the meeting would constitute an important moment for sharing best practices being undertaken around the world for eradicating poverty among women and their empowerment.
32. In her opening statement, Ms. Brenda Gael McSweeney, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative, stressed the important role of the United Nations in the eradication of poverty worldwide. She also commended the Government of India for being one of the strong supporters of the United Nations and a committed advocate for gender equality and empowerment of women.
33. Speaking on behalf of the Government of India, Mr. R.V.Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development, stated that it was an honour for the Government of India to host the Expert Group Me

35. After the meeting the group of participants took part in a field trip to Chhattarpur district in Bundelkhand region of the Madhya Pradesh in order to familiarize themselves with SWASS5.9r.cob6n12 0 0 12 156.55349r.cob6n12 0 0 1K 0 0 12 320.4093 C8wo5d92 T

1. Globalization has become a catc

6. The effects of globalization for women and men, gender relations, poverty reduction, and development are very contradictory and partially dependent on resource endowments, infrastructure, labour market policies, skills and educational levels, socio-cultural norms, and women's and men's positions in the processes of production and reproduction, and the position of the country in question within the global order.
7. The participants also emphasized that existing data sources (despite some gaps and limitations) suggest that women's enjoyment of specific social and economic rights during the recent period of neo-liberal globalization is not encouraging. The evidence reviewed in some recent UN reports⁷ suggests that although

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development, and reduced poverty. As the

17. Women are certainly more likely to be working outside the home today than ever before. Between the 1950s and the end of the 1990s, the proportion of women aged 20–59 in the labour force increased from around one-third to one-half. The current participation rates by region range from 14 per cent in North Africa to 76 per cent in East and Central Europe (see figure 1). In some countries, women's participation has increased to a great extent than men's, at least statistically, than men's. In half the developing countries for which data were available

changes. First, more women now have to work to ensure family survival in the face of declining real wages and the increased monetary cost of subsistence resulting from cutbacks in both public services and subsidies for staple foods. Second, the number of women-headed households in which women are required to meet the monetary cost of household survival from their own labour has increased. Third, the demand

elimination of tariffs, can result in negative effects on the local consumer industries producing goods such as textiles, clothing, and leather, beverages and cement, most of which tend to employ women. As a result, women in these countries may experience increases in unemployment and poverty

force engaged in export-oriented manufacturing production is the very high share of women working in export processing zones (EPZ).

30. However, the growth of export-oriented production processes (and employment therein) can take place simultaneously with the destruction of jobs in other parts of the manufacturing sector because of import penetration following trade liberalization. Unfortunately, there is little empirical evidence documenting the magnitude of jobs destroyed through trade liberalization for different regions of the South, even though there are important country studies providing a clear picture of this phenomenon.¹³
31. One of the main features of countries that have embarked on a labour-intensive export strategy, through the so-called 'low road to industrialization', is the availability of an an

male workers, as production in this sector shifted to more sophisticated communication and computer products’.

34. In order to keep women employed, governments and the private sector should invest in the enhancement of women workers’ skills. In this way women workers will gain enhanced capabilities that can be applied in other jobs. In this process trade unions are important actors with whom to engage. In a period when many trade unions have been losing power and membership they are challenged to re-invent themselves. Within this process they are increasingly engaging with women in both formal and informal employment.
35. However, the participants indicated that while the facts of the de-feminization of employment are more or less conclusive, the causes and mechanisms leading to it clearly require far more empirical and analytical scrutiny in order to reach any definitive conclusions about it.
36. The participants also discussed the quality of female employment. There has been a decline in the proportion of jobs that haveb

have found it far more difficult to enter these industries in the absence of adequate social provision of childcare and other services.

39. The impacts of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector and livelihoods in many developing countries also raise concern. Given the volatility of international commodity markets, the shift from food production to production of export crops has exposed the lives of many small and marginal farmers, which in many regional contexts includes significant numbers of women farmers, to heightened risk while at the same time threatening their food security. Given that intra-household processes of food distribution are gender biased in some regions, women and girl children are acutely exposed to increasing nutritional insecurity.

40. Enhancing women's access to, and ownership of, agricultural land has not been given adequate attention in national processes of policy-making and policy implementation. This important gap in policy is now combined with the increasing risks of landlessness of entire households.

44. Financial crises have exacerbated gender inequalities as women have often borne the brunt of managing household adjustment to these crises. According to regional studies from Asia, the most immediately felt impact of the crisis was in the area of social reproduction. Medium-term impacts included the intensif

49. In addition, macro-economic policy approaches continue to rely solely or principally on full employment to achieve socially desirable outcomes. Such approaches fail to recognize unpaid forms

government. Historical evidence shows that highly inclusive systems of health care have been built from patchworks of public, mutual, charitable, employment-based and private systems. In general, systems that are not highly socially segmented, and not dominated by private care, are easier to universalize. Conversely, systems dominated by private fee-for-service provision are extremely hard to universalize. The impact of user fees is rarely gender neutral. In many cases, especially in developing countries, the willingness to pay for education or health care is sex-based with preference for boys and men. In addition, girls together with women carry the burden of unpaid and caring work within the household, and therefore cannot attend school or are the first to drop out of school.

54. Education is an important facilitating factor for women's empowerment and for eradicating poverty among women as it expands women's capabilities. During the period 1980-1994 the gap between girls' enrolments and boys' enrolment at primary level narrowed in developing countries. But there are some important anomalies that stand out. In the case of sub-Saharan Africa the closing of the gender gap in some countries is attributed to a decline in the enrolment of boys and only a marginal increase in the participation of girls.
55. According to UNESCO data, girls' net enrolment in secondary school declined between 1985 and 1997 in 10 out of 33 countries in sub-Saharan Africa; 7 out of 11 countries in Central and Western Asia; 2 out of 21 countries in Asia and the Pacific; 6 out of 26 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 6 out of 9 in Eastern Europe; and 1 out of 23 countries in Western Europe and other developed countries.
56. Despite the link between education and income, studies from diverse regional contexts indicate that equal years of education do not translate into equality of job opportunity for men and women. Men everywhere tend to get better jobs than women with similar levels of education. A complex set of forces explain the persistence of gendered labour markets, from the more obvious factors such as continuing gender gaps in the fields of science and technology, to the more intractable differences in men's and women's relations/access to employment, the centrality of

ordained behavior, such as the elevation of modesty and shyness as desirable feminine attributes. It is imperative that any state with a genuine agenda for empowerment of women ensure that this shortfall in basic physical infrastructure pertaining to women be addressed and allocated for.

59. It was pointed out that existing government supplemental feeding programmes were premised on the requirements of nutritional supplementats, providing micronutrient support and support for specific deficiencies e.g. anemia (iron etc). This ignores the fact that women below the poverty line do not attain basic nutritional calorific norms. In fact, such programmes ignore the absolute calorific gap that exists in the dietary basket of most women and girls. Any genuinely empowering social and economic policy for women must ensure that the basic, minim

example, in India, three of the four national programmes for women's empowerme

68. Microcredit and microfinance schemes require a gender-sensitive programming and management approach, and should avoid reinforcement of traditional women's tasks and roles that tend to keep women subordinate within families and communities.

69. In recent years there has been increasing interest in 'empowerment' as a developmental issue not only among social movements and women's groups, but also multilateral agencies. The empowerment of women, in particular, has been proposed as a strategy for addressing poverty. UN conferences and summits and related documents have also stressed the link between poverty and women's disempowerment.

70. The relationship between poverty and disempowerment is not linear and the subordination of women is based on unequal gender relations. Empowerment has intrinsic value and is an end in itself, in addition to any positive value it may have in terms of poverty er

progress. Hence, empowerment programmes aimed at a process of transformation throughout the life cy

91. Both empowerment and poverty represent rather complex and multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be captured by single indicators. In addition, the tendency to interpret poverty exclusively in terms of income or consumption remains very strong, and the global debate on poverty still tends to focus on an interpretation of poverty in money-metric terms. The latest data from the World Bank are based on the money-metric indicator of \$1 dollar a day. These figures do not reflect the number of women in poverty because, in the absence of sex-disaggregated income poverty measures (given that income poverty is measured per household unit without any regard for intra-household processes of distribution), it is not possible to monitor how women have fared, compared to men.

important regional and subregional variations in poverty reduction, as well as variations between the situation of women and men.

96. Even less has been done in the area of empowerment. The gender empowerment measure (GEM) introduced by the Human Development Report examines the economic, political and professional participation of women and men. However, it does not capture many aspects of empowerment, particularly within the household, in community life or in rural areas. It focuses only on three variables: income-earning power, share in professional and managerial jobs, and share of parliamentary seats.²⁶
97. In sum, the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data for many parts of the world continues to pose a problem in assessing the situation of women and men in poverty, and, consequently, the impact of any particular poverty eradication policy or programme on women or men. A mix of quantitative and qualitative indicators, conventional and participatory gender-sensitive surveys at the local, national and international levels are required to better understand and monitor poverty.
98. The participants of the meeting agreed that although the empowerment of women is a widely used concept, very few have been made to measure progress in empowerment, and to determine the correlation between women's empowerment and poverty eradication. The lack of adequate methods makes it difficult to determine whether the implementation of projects/programmes actually succeeds in empowering women.
99. Governance, the process of decision-making and of their implementation, has important implication for poverty and empowerment at global, national and local governance levels. At the global level, good governance practices for women's empowerment and poverty eradication would imply more equitable transnational capital and labor flows.
100. At the national and local levels, gender-responsive budget initiatives can be an important tool for strengthening economic and financial governance and for promoting accountability and equality. National budgets reflect how governments mobilize and allocate public resources, and how they aim to meet the social and economic needs of their people. Gender-responsive budgeting assesses the impact of fiscal policies on men and boys, as compared to women and girls, within and across any given socio-economic category.
101. One key objective of gender-responsive budget initiatives is to ensure that fiscal policy takes account of the contributions made by the care, or reproductive economy, to the nation's economic output. The care economy consists of unpaid household and community activities that sustain human life, providing a labor force for both, the public and private sector, and nurturing of the young, old,

products resulting from the care economy are almost exclusively provided by women and are unpaid.

102. The unpaid economy is one of the three components of a nation's total economy. The others are the public service sector (paid), and the private sector (paid). The creation of national wealth is dependent on the output of all three sectors. Households are not just consumers, but also producers of goods and services. The intersections and interactions of these three sectors, whether paid or unpaid, are a key focus of gender-sensitive macroeconomic analysis, and have important implications for budgetary policy at local and national levels.

The expert group meeting adopted the following recommendations.

- g. Integrate market assessment and outreach as an integral part of livelihood interventions for effective income generation and poverty eradication among women.
- h. Provide assistance to women's groups, which are often marginalized within larger social movements engaged in the processes of economic liberalization, to facilitate the analysis, formulation, implementation and monitoring of economic liberalization policies and programmes, with a view to ensuring that such policies are gender-sensitive and have greater potential to reduce poverty among women engaged in both formal and informal employment.
- i. Inform women's groups and individual women about the internal functioning of all markets (including labour markets) as well as the international trade regime through organizing economic literacy training in relevant areas.
- j. Improve poor women's access to productive resources such as land, credit, technology and marketing techniques to facilitate their entry into viable self-employment opportunities that can provide a decent standard of living for themselves and their dependents.
- k. Promote partnership between the private sector and women entrepreneurs in order to enhance their ability to market their products and improve their economic opportunities.
- l. Identify and address the gendered dimensions in existing and new trade agreements to facilitate the eradication of poverty while promoting both economic growth and social development goals.
- m. Work with relevant UN agen

- p. Ensure that the design and implementation of taxation policies do not disproportionately affect women, especially women in poverty, by, *inter alia*, increasing the participation of women in these processes.

- c. Identify and strengthen training and re-training, as well as vocational education in non-traditional areas to expand women's employment opportunities with empowering implications, and promote vocational training in sectors with growth potential, especially for young women.

Health

- a. Recognize the close link between health and poverty, and ensure that effective, accessible and appropriate health services are available to women in poverty.
- b. Adopt a holistic life cycle approach to the design and implementation of health policies and programmes and ensure that issues, such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are not addressed in an isolated way.
- c. Design and implement health programmes, specifically those concerning reproductive health and reproductive rights, in partnership with civil society.
- d. Guarantee the provisioning of free and universal basic health and nutritional

Older women

- a. Design and implement policies and programmes for active ageing that ensure economic independence and social security, equality and participation of older women, especially older women in poverty.

Social security

- a. Shift from residual and crisis related safety nets to the development of permanent and sustainable social security systems through the different stages of the life cycle of women, especially in developing countries.
- b. Increase the role of the state in the design, implementation and monitoring of more progressive social policies and gender-sensitive social policy models concerning poverty eradication, including social protection.
- c. Strengthen the proactive role of the government and its collaboration with civil society, including women's NGOs, working women's forums, in providing appropriate social security systems that reduce risks throughout the life cycle of poor women, including the provision of unemployment insurance when wage labour and public works programmes are insufficient.
- d. Review the macroeconomic policy approach to full employment as the sole basis for state-based entitlements and extend entitlements to those who are engaged in informal or part-time work as well as for the providers of unpaid caring work.

Caring services

- a. Promote, including through education and mass media, the notion of equal sharing of family responsibilities between women and men and provide extensive, affordable and quality social services such as day care facilities, pre-school day care facilities, static and mobile crèches etc. to allow both women and men,

especially in poverty, to utilize their employment opportunities and build their capacities.



- c. Encourage and support the work to develop quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure poverty among women and men throughout their life cycles, and to monitor the impact of poverty eradication policies and programmes on both women and men.
 - d. Develop methods and indicators to measure progress in terms of empowerment of women that are both qualitative and quantitative, both context and culturally specific and universal, and cover both process and impact, and determine the correlation between women's empowerment and poverty eradication.
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- a. Develop or strengthen the mechanisms facilitating women's full and equal involvement in decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, that affect their life chances, choices and opportunities throughout their life cycle.
- b. Engage women and women's groups in global, nati

- h. Ensure that gender budget initiatives take account of the contributions made by the care, or reproductive economy, to the nation's economic output.
- i. Strengthen economic and financial governance and promote accountability and equality through the implementation of gender-responsive budget initiatives at the national and local levels.
- j. Conduct gender analysis of sectoral funds allocations, tax policies, labour and industrial policies, as well as other tools of fiscal and macroeconomic policy, in collaboration with researchers and women's organisations.

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- EGM/POV/2001/OP.1 *Gender constraints for rural poverty alleviation*
Prepared by Revathi Balakrishnan
- EGM/POV/2001/OP.2 *Gender, poverty, globalization – the UNDP India experience*
Prepared by Kalyani Menon-Sen
- EGM/POV/2001/OP.3 *Empowering women as a strategy for the eradication of poverty: An Indian perspective*
Prepared by P.G. Dharchakrabarti
- EGM/POV/2001/BP.1 *Globalization, employment and women's empowerment*
Prepared by Shahra Razavi

8.30 am - 9.30 am	Registration
9.30 am - 10.30 am	<p>Official opening of the meeting:</p> <p>Message from :</p> <p><i>Ms. Angela E.V. King, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, United Nations</i> <i>Mrs. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairman, Parliament of India</i> <i>Ms. Brenda Gael McSweeney, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative</i> <i>Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Secretary, Department of WCD, MHRD</i></p>
10.30 am - 11.00 am	Coffee break
11.00 am - 11.15 pm	<p>Election of officers</p> <p>Adoption of programme of work</p>
11.15 pm - 1.00 pm	<p>Presentation by</p> <p>Presentations by UN entities:</p> <p><i>Ms. K. Menon-Sen, UNDP (7-10 minutes)</i> <i>Ms. R. Balakrishnan, FAO (7-10 minutes)</i> Presentation of background paper by the consultant:</p>

General discussion

4.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Coffee break

4.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Working groups

Working group I on topic: "Labour market changes and female employment"

Working group II on topic: "Social policy and gender"

7.30 pm

Dinner hosted by Dr. R.V. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, Secretary,
Ministry of Human Resources Development

Working group II on topic: “How globalization can enhance empowerment of women”

7.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Presentation by observers. (5 minutes each)

9.00 am - 10.30 am

Discussion of policy recommendations
Working group I : “Main principles and key elements of transformative concept of empowerment”
Working group II : “How globalization can enhance empowerment of women”

10.30 am - 11.00 am

Coffee break

11.30 am - 1.00 pm

Presentation of reports from working groups I and II on topic 2 “A transformative concept of empowerment strategy to eradicate poverty”

General discussion

1.00 pm - 2.30 pm

Lunch

2.30 pm - 4.00 pm

Drafting groups on topic 1 and topic 2

11.30 am - 1.00 pm	Consolidation of draft report
1.30 pm - 2.30 pm	Press Conference
1.00 pm - 2.30 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Final discussion of the report
4.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Coffee break
4.30 pm - 6.00 pm	Presentation of the report Adoption of the report Closing statements Closing of the meeting