

**MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT GENDER AND CHILDREN**

WOMEN'S INFORMATION CENTRE

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ON
*THE ROLE OF INFORMATION IN WOMEN'S
EMPORWERMENT*, HELD AT THE COURTYARD HOTEL,
DAR-ES-SALAAM
JUNE 1ST-3RD, 2005

REPORT

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Definition of Terms

Empowerment

the process of giving someone skills or knowledge so that she gains more control over her life or more power to do something; e.g. to make decisions, to speak out her views, to have self control and seek more knowledge.

(Macmillan English Dictionary For Advanced Learners' Dictionary)

Information

knowledge or facts about something
or

- ❑ **Information:** *is whatever is capable of causing a human mind to change its about the current state of the real world.*

(Alistair de Watteville and Lester Gilbert (2000): Information and Communication Technology)

Or

- ❑ **Information:** *Information is anything which is meaningful and useful to the person receiving it. It follows that if it is not meaningful and useful then it is not information. In other words, it needs to **inform** the receiver something which will enable him or her to perform their duties.*

(Alistair de Watteville and Lester Gilbert (2000): Information and Communication Technology)

Information center

a place where you can get information or advice about a particular subject.

Information retrieval:

the process of getting particular information from all the information stored on a computer or publications.

Information access

the right or opportunity to have or use information that will bring one some benefits.

Information and communication technology

modern technologies/facilities facilitating storage, management, transmission (communication) and easy and accurate retrieval of and or access to information.

(Macmillan English Dictionary For Advanced Learners' Dictionary)

Media literacy

ability to better interpret the meaning of media contents and its implications to ones life.

Introduction

The Women's Information Centre of the Ministry of Community Development Gender and Children organized a workshop on The Role of Information in Women's Empowerment that took place between June 1st and 3rd, 2005. The workshop drew participation from various stakeholders namely, The Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Equal Opportunities Trust Fund (EOTF), Tanganyika Library Services (TLS), Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), Community Development Training Institutes (CDTIs)- Tengeru, Misungwi, Buhare and Rungemba.

Workshop objectives

The workshop had the following objectives:

- ❑ To remind the participants of the importance of information in the process of empowering women economically, socially and politically:
- ❑ To offer a space for the participants to share their experiences in empowering women through information
- ❑ To explore current systems and approaches used in empowering women through information
- ❑ To identify areas for collaboration between the various stakeholders and the way forward

Methodology

Through participatory approaches the workshop managed to facilitate participants to the workshop to share their experiences, identify constraints and identify areas of cooperation, and spell out their role in strengthening the role information to empower women in the country. The facilitators prepared background notes, with guided and moderated the discussions during plenary sessions. The workshop basically used the following approaches;

Participatory method: making the participants work through guided activities to produce knowledge in groups or during plenary sessions.

Animation technique: participants will be asked to share knowledge through their real life/work experiences gained in any activity designed to empower women with/through information.

After each initial introduction to a topic participants were involved in group discussions to prepare notes for plenary sessions, or round table discussions around a topic(s). The aim was to avoid spoon feeding and to attempt as much as possible to draw knowledge and experiences from the participants as far as women empowerment through

information is concerned. Facilitators' role was mainly to guide the discussions and when needed to, made clarifications on issues that were not clear with the participants.

Participants were issued with brief handouts to provide them with background information and data on information and women. Flip, plenary sessions, group works, and flip charts were widely used to involve participants in the sharing of ideas. Newspapers, information products published by groups represented in the workshop were used to assess the quality of information by and for women.

DAY ONE: June 1st, 2005

Opening remarks

Opening remarks were presented by Nicoleta Confalone.

- She thanked participants for accepting the invitation to attend the workshop organized by Women's Information Centre
- She said WIC was established in 1977 by a capacity building project funded by the Italian government with technical assistance from the Italian Association for Women in development (AIDOS)
- She expressed her expectations that the workshop would be very informal fully participatory opening up the space for sharing of ideas and experience in disseminating information to empower women;
- She also expected that the workshop would provide an opportunity to make critical analysis/assessment of the existing information structures used to empower women and provide suggestions for improvement.
- The suggestions would include taking to task the government, Civil Societies Organizations and various stakeholders at individual and institutional levels, and work out areas for future joint efforts in creating and designing information and related infrastructure which women can easily access

The challenge for all of us is to take information for women's empowerment as a serious and primary development goal, for Millennium Development goals cannot succeed if a fair system of information sharing and dissemination is lacking, and women, who constitute about 51 percent of our population, are denied access to it.

- Reiterated that information play a crucial role in our lives and especially if we want to make women more empowered
- That the MDGs will not succeed if information networks and systems are not made accessible to women, if not the information disseminated does not succeed to empower them so as to allow them to regain their muted voices, to effectively participate in decision making and make informed choices in such aspects as health, politics, culture, and education.

After the opening remarks and introductions of the participants the facilitator started the workshop with a brief presentation on the Beijing Platform for Action and information for women.

MAJOR QUESTIONS

- ❖ *What did the Beijing Conference say about information and women?*

Topic: *The Beijing Platform for action and information for women empowerment*

- ❖ *What resolutions concerning women and information did the conference come up with?*
- ❖ *What are the strategies outlined by the Beijing platform for action Conference for the countries to implement in empowering women with information?*

The facilitator made a brief presentation on the Beijing Platform for Action and information for women's empowerment;

- ❖ He said that the BPFA seeks to empower women through information since media can make great contribution in effecting the advancement of women
- ❖ However that is only possible if women become part of the decision making in media organizations so that they can better influence policy. That access to power by women can assist them in attaining equality, development and maintenance of peace. That despite having a high number of women in mass media as part of the personnel, very few are in decision making bodies/positions.
- ❖ The BPFA says media content are still gender insensitive for they still use the same stereotypical images of women. In the case of Tanzania women are under-represented as reporters or news sources. Worse still, women in popular still appear in grotesque sexualized images.
- ❖ Moreover there is need for women to exercise control every aspect of their existence
- ❖ Thus there is need for designing of information systems with full participation of women. Such involvement should also be seen at the implementation level and in monitoring information project and media performance.
- ❖ The BPFA called for a presentation of a balanced picture of women's diverse lives and contributions to the well being of the society. This is possible only if mass media adopt a gender sensitive reporting and policies.
- ❖ As far as ICT are concerned the BPFA indicates that there is need for enhancing women's skills, knowledge and access in this respect.

- ❖ There is need to enhance access and participation of women in decision making on development of ICT.
- ❖ Women need also to have access to education and training, and communication infrastructures; they should also be training in design, implementation of gender impact evaluation of policies

Group work:

After the brief presentation participants formed group to work on the following question.

What are the constraints of implementing the Beijing platform for action on information for women's empowerment?

The workshop participants outlined the following constraints

- ❖ The BPFA is not yet clear to some stakeholders.
- ❖ There is an acute lack of resource build up effective information networks, information centers and personnel to manage the same.
- ❖ Media personnel lack gender awareness. Media contents still promote traditional and prejudicial images of women.
- ❖ Information has not been fully integrated in policies and management of government affairs and other institutions. Government is yet to take information as a priority and an important development resource.
- ❖ Globalization process has overtaken a lot of local processes. AT the moment it is information generated outside the country which is given priority. Local information system and local knowledge is not taken on board when deciding matters.
- ❖ There are a lot of things that happen to do with women development, but there is little documentation, and not enough monitoring done. That is why it is difficult to evaluate to what extent we have been able to implement BPFA.
- ❖ It has been realized that even in the BPFA itself is not very clear whether they were talking about media or information. Participants indicated that in a number of instances, during follow up conferences on the BPFA the issue of information has always been taken for granted, or taken to mean Information and Communication Technology. The declaration took for granted that all women in the world had reached equal levels of literacy, and information access.
- ❖ Tanzania has not done studies to identify the information needs of the woman and how the woman can access it.
- ❖ There is backlash. Women fighting for equal rights called names and not getting equal support from both men and women.

What to do to remove the constraints?

- ❖ There is need to wage a public campaign against pornographic and sexualized images of women in both print and electronic media.
- ❖ The government and other stakeholders should work out strategies to eliminate of reform traditional structures which reinforce traditional gender roles and which

present women as primarily consumers of information produced by men and a few elite women.

To the Government

- ❖ The government should make sure that women get equal access to education and training so that they can get information they can use for their own benefits.
- ❖ There is need to encourage and facilitate research activities on media and women
- ❖ The government should help in promoting women's full participation in decision-making, and creation of information.
- ❖ Review media policies to make them more gender sensitive
- ❖ Have gender conscious appointments of senior and junior civil servants
- ❖ Encourage freedom of expression
- ❖ Encourage and recognize women's media and information networks
- ❖ Provide means/incentives for creativity in TV and radio programming
- ❖ Guarantee press freedom, protection through laws
- ❖ Giving women more space in social activities.

To NGOs/Media Professionals

- ❖ Establish media watch groups to ensure women's needs are met and reflected
- ❖ Train more women on ICT management to meet local and international standards
- ❖ Create networks and development programmes on information for NGOs and mass media
- ❖ Encourage and support women organization and learning centers
- ❖ Women should be helped to establish or strengthen own media organizations;
- ❖ There is need to recognize the specific needs of women and be reflect in the media contents bet they consumers of information and needs, sources, employed women, etc. This will include involvement of women in information design
- ❖ Mass media should be encouraged to report on women's human rights; report information that enhances equality between men and women; encourage training of women who work in media industry
- ❖ Mass media should think of refashioning language to make it comprehensible to the all women and use local languages whenever possible.
- ❖ There is need to adapt such traditional forms of information dissemination like story telling, drama, poetry and songs.

Topic: *Women and Information: The social-cultural context*

The facilitator started off with a brief presentation which showed the context in which the Tanzanian woman lived h, her culturally defined status and the nature of information she can access;

- He indicated that there is an insufficient and inconsistent flow and exchange of information in both rural and urban centers in Tanzania. Poverty, poor and inadequate information and communication infrastructures, and ignorance and semi-literacy, and lack of clear policies on information, are the factors that make women and men to stay

uninformed. However, these factors are likely to affect women much more than men because of their disadvantaged social status.

The cultural definition of the woman

- ❑ What is the cultural definition of the woman in terms of her mental faculties? The woman's mental ability is grouped together with children's. This affects the reception of what she says by both men and women.
- ❑ Religious teachings assert that statement that the woman gives contain half-truths. Apart from affecting the reception of what she says, this prejudicial view instills in women lack of confidence in what they speak. But it silences her as well since she believes that she has views not worth listening to.
- ❑ Whatever the woman says may be defined as **gossip- umbea**: and women themselves take on this negative credit by saying- *mwanamke umbea*. This is accepting a definition of them by the dominant position. Both men and women offer such statements without scrutinizing the level of exposure to, and quality of, of information and education women get.
- ❑ In some extreme form of culture-based censorship women, except those living as single parents, are not family spokespersons. In some cases women are not allowed to speak in public gatherings even when the issues concern their own welfare.
- ❑ Early socialization process denies women equal access to resources of language and information- participation in peer groups activities, education, and scolding when a girl speaks in a non-female form, things which are afforded to boys.
- ❑ Women and female children wishing to exercise their right to speech and opinion will be called names- *kidomodomo, domokaya, shihata, Nipashe*- and threatened with isolation by members of both sexes, statements that they are not marriage material, divorce and even with beating,

Consequences of women's disadvantaged position in relation to information

- i. *Remain in perpetual state of ignorance*
- ii. *Their voice is silenced, for their cannot speak with authority nor will their views taken into account*
- iii. *They remain poor for they cannot access jobs*
- iv. *Their general welfare is also affected for they don't get the right information, in full and in time*
- v. *Remain on the fringes of civilization*

Sources and agents of information

Sources/agents	Information base	Nature of information	Women's position
Traditional leaders Traditional/ clan elders	<input type="checkbox"/> Myths <input type="checkbox"/> Customs and traditions <input type="checkbox"/> Experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Authoritative <input type="checkbox"/> Hegemonic <input type="checkbox"/> Unidirectional <input type="checkbox"/> Community based <input type="checkbox"/> Less individualized <input type="checkbox"/> Patriarchal values	<input type="checkbox"/> Women not representative <input type="checkbox"/> Defined from patriarchal perspective
Traditional healers/ spirit mediums <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Myths <input type="checkbox"/> Belief systems <input type="checkbox"/> Customs/values <input type="checkbox"/> Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations	<input type="checkbox"/> Advice <input type="checkbox"/> Directives <input type="checkbox"/> Orders <input type="checkbox"/> Societal values	Passive recipients
Religion	<input type="checkbox"/> Holy Books <input type="checkbox"/> Revelations <input type="checkbox"/> Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Established authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Hierarchical <input type="checkbox"/> Recapitulation of authoritative information, orders and statements <input type="checkbox"/> Supposedly divine commands	<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to challenge the beliefs <input type="checkbox"/> Religion is andocentric
Local government authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Government orders <input type="checkbox"/> Circulars <input type="checkbox"/> Public statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Decided from above	<input type="checkbox"/> Unequally represented <input type="checkbox"/> Information is not gender specific, not women-friendly
Folk arts/ media Folk cultures e.g. kitchen parties, send-offs, initiation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural values <input type="checkbox"/> Experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Stereo typical/ prejudicial view of women <input type="checkbox"/> Makes women contented with their status	<input type="checkbox"/> Underrepresented in production and dissemination <input type="checkbox"/> Reproduce gender stereotypes- e.g. folk narratives
Informal events/ activities Community activities e.g. gوليو	Common knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Men to women <input type="checkbox"/> Women to women	<input type="checkbox"/> Less informed <input type="checkbox"/> Limited space for women to participate <input type="checkbox"/> Limited skills for public engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Few can fully participate
Mass media ICT	<input type="checkbox"/> -Established values <input type="checkbox"/> Journalists own learning <input type="checkbox"/> Government sources	<input type="checkbox"/> External to women <input type="checkbox"/> Authoritative <input type="checkbox"/> Technology based	<input type="checkbox"/> Less exposed to <input type="checkbox"/> Lack access and media literacy skills <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks financial power <input type="checkbox"/> Not equally trained/ represented

We see therefore that

- ❑ Access to key resources for personal and social development, such as information is structured by family, marriage and kinship relationships which pose a limit to the already disadvantaged woman.
 - ❑ The community defines- in gender terms- the proper information the woman can *receive* and or *disseminate*.
 - ❑ While it is possible to empower women with information in a system of gender inequality it may not possible for her to disseminate the information to other people. This is because her demeaned social status may make the society reluctant to listen to and believe in what she says. Or she may not even be allowed to speak since the community does not give women to speak in public, or even to come out of her homestead on such public missions.
- It was realized that women as a group do not have a homogenous characteristic, thus they have diverse needs as far as information is concerned. That it is important to study the social cultural context of the Tanzanian woman before suggesting what can be done to accord her more access to news and information. It was found during the discussion that the information needs of the woman in Tanzania and Africa in general differ from that of the woman in western or industrialized societies.

Under this topic, therefore, participants were asked to work in groups on the following sub-topics. The participants discussed various sources of information that the Tanzanian woman depends upon. The aim was to understand the context in which the woman lives and see what can be done to improve the quality of, and access to, information to improve her quality of life. The exercise also wanted the participants to also explore the potentialities of the traditional media and propose ways of improving them so that they become more useful source information for women's empowerment. The participants came up with a number of suggestions below.

Group One: Role of stakeholders in improving the quality of information for women

Group two: How to improve information in mass media

Group three: Overall suggestions

Group One: Traditional Leaders/ Traditional healers/Clan leaders

(elders): These are sources of information that women and men depend upon on certain community and family issues. The group looked into one after another;

Traditional Leaders

❖ **Role:** to educate the society on cultural norms and practices (information dissemination on community issues)

Recommendations: deliberate efforts should be take to educate traditional/clan leaders on the importance of involving women in decision making and of disseminating right information to them so that they can made informed decisions

Traditional healers/spirit mediums

- ❖ **Role:** They have positive and negative roles in the society> For example they offer medical and spiritual remedies. Thus they hold a strong position in the society where people believe in what they say or advice. E.g. rain makers, demons casters, etc.

Recommendation: To give them education which will lead to their doing away with the kind of information that has negative impact to the gender relations in society. For instance, some of the traditional healers advice their clients to rape women if they want to become rich or kill elderly women, on grounds of witchcraft. Such advice entrench negative attitudes towards women.

Religion

- ❖ **Role:** To lead their followers in their spiritual lives and offer them information in that respect (spiritual). They also support community development activities.

Recommendation: Religious leaders can be a useful channel for educating women and facilitating access to information on various aspects of their lives, including human rights. It is also possible to establish information centers in using religious premises and personnel because women frequent them for various reasons.

Local Government authorities

- ❖ **Role:** plan, facilitate, implement, monitor, evaluate and provide feedback on policies, regulations and government orders/ programmes

Recommendations: Officials of local government should be educated on gender issues and women's human rights including their participation in running local government. There is need for women who qualify to be appointed into position of power. Local governments should be assisted in improving information dissemination to the people at the grassroots.

Folk arts/media and cultures: e.g. kitchen parties, send-offs and initiation ceremonies

- ❖ **Role:** Gather and disseminate information and entertain the general public on different occasions; they instill traditional values as they are used as agents of socializations; to persuade their audience to take certain actions considered desirable to the community existence.

Recommendation: There is need to artists and those involved in such activities on the importance of instilling positive value. It is also possible too to censor messages delivered by folk arts media and traditional arts groups.

Community events/events

- ❖ **Role:** exchange of information and commodities

Recommendation: Women should be trained and empowered economically; women should be encouraged to enhance their literacy skills so that they can get access more information. Various actors can use such events to disseminate information to women.

Mass media/ICT

- ❖ **Role:** to gather and disseminate information through print and electronic media and the Internet.
- ❖ Educate and entertain the public and perform the surveillance responsibility
- ❖ Agenda setting and help break the culture of silence. ICT informs people on global issues and keeps them up to date on current issues.

Recommendation:

- ❖ There is a need to encourage female journalists/reporters' full participation in decision making in newsrooms
- ❖ To instill professional ethics in covering gender-related news
- ❖ To encourage journalists to use women as their news sources
- ❖ To have special columns on women issues and have gender-sensitive editing
- ❖ To train more women in the fields of journalism and ICT
- ❖ To look for ways of reducing the costs of ICT

Group two: How to improve information in mass media

This group was specifically asked to outline suggestions for improving the quality of information published in mass media; Below is the list of their suggestions

- ❖ Mass media should be sensitized to report on women with a positive approach
- ❖ The contents of mass media should reflect our culture
- ❖ Preparations of TV programmes should consider the age of their audience
- ❖ The contents should be educative
- ❖ There is a need to check into the quality of information before it is published
- ❖ Women are not yet fully aware of the role of information published in mass media in improving their quality of life. It is important that mass media help women realize that important function of media so that they can use them more effectively.

Group three: Overall suggestions for improving the quality of information for women

Role of government

- It should create an enabling environment that will make ICT facilities accessible to women, this is in terms of pricing and tax tariffs, connectivity costs and establishment of infrastructure
- Women should be educated in ICT starting from primary education level
- There is a need to have a review of policies related to ICT so that both men and women can be guaranteed access.
- The government should work out modalities for effective communication strategies which help women in all parts of the country
- The government should make sure that women attend basic literacy education and beyond so that they get the skills for using information to improve their quality of life.

Role of other stakeholders

- They should create an environment to facilitate women to learn and access ICT

- Service providers should have public awareness programmes through which members of the public, including women, learn about ICT and what it can do to access information and improve their knowledge of things. Currently, for instance, women use ICT only for e-mailing and entertainment, or telephoning.
- Donor community should give support to government efforts
- Carry our lobbying and advocacy around the role of information for women empowerment

Role of individuals

- they should be proactive in looking for information and learn how to use ICT.
- They should create an environment of information sharing at house levels so that all use the ICTs more creatively to enhance their skills and knowledge.
- They should bring home the information and communication technology and other facilities for information dissemination.

Overall Implementation strategy

- There should be communication policies and strategies connecting all people to information and related infrastructure and make people share information with equal level of access despite their gender
- Service providers including media owners should extend their services to |

DAY TWO: JUNE 2ND, 2005

Topic: MCDGC's role in information for women's empowerment

By Timothy Mgonja

The presenter started by reminding participants of the various areas of concerns outlined by the Beijing Declaration which the governments, Civil Society Organizations, and institutions, were supposed to address in addressing gender

Inequality and empowering the woman; The areas of concern are namely

- Women and poverty
- Education and training of women
- Women and health
- Violence against women
- Women and armed conflict\women and economy
- Women in power and decision making
- Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
- Human rights of women
- Women and the media
- Women and environment and
- The girl child

That the Beijing conference came up with a platform for action requiring the various stakeholders to take concrete actions to operationalize in the bid to up grade the quality of the life of the woman and promote her participation in the various aspects of the society and government. The actions were supposed to be under several strategic objectives among them are;

- Increasing the participation and access of women to expression and decision making in and through the media and new technologies of communication,
- Promoting a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in media.

In June 2000, the UN General Assembly special session reviewed the implementation of critical areas of concern, Information and Communication technology being one of them; The UN General Assembly recognized that ICT and the media created increased opportunities for women, yet also reinforced gender based barriers and inequalities.

What the Commission on the Status of Women said about information?

- There is need to remove ICT related infrastructure barriers which affect women and girls and promote the establishment of affordable and accessible ICT related infrastructure
- Ensuring training in ICT and related field and it should remain as a priority for the development of ICT and education curricula
- Ensuring that men and women have access to ICT

- Respecting the value of indigenous language and use of local knowledge systems
- Combat negative portrayal of women, etc.

What are the benefits of women's accessing information?

- It can alleviate the spatial and social isolation of rural communities
- Women can make informed choices regarding what and how to produce and when and where to sell their products
- it can improve women's ability to participate actively in decision making
- It can enable women and men to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,
- It will enable women to improve their income generating activities and create new ones and find new opportunities.

What is the government role in information for women's empowerment?

- to provide a vision for operationalization of the Beijing declaration
- to work out strategies for implementing the BPFA
- To put in place a legal and regulatory framework
- To provide an enabling environment which promotes development of infrastructure for information dissemination and communication

TOPIC: *Information for women empowerment*

MAJOR QUESTIONS

- ❖ What kind of information do we need to collect on women?
- ❖ What is the quality of information and information sources women depend upon at the moment?
- ❖ What make the initiative to empower women with information necessary? What kind of information for women needs assessment should be conducted?
- ❖ How do we engender information which does not stereotype women? How do help news managers to repackage news/information for easy accessibility (and use) by women?

The facilitator said it was important that we define the purpose for which we need to empower women with/through information. The following quotes will provide us with some justification for any initiative in aspect

Is Information a human right?

The constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides for every citizen an equal right to freedom of **opinion/expression and information**

- ... *kila mtu yuko huru kuwa na maoni yoyote na kutoa mawazo yake, kutafuta, kupokea na kutoa habari...*

- ***Kila raia anayo haki ya kupokea taarifa wakati wote kuhusu matukio mbalimbali nchini na duniani kote ambayo ni muhimu kwa maisha na shughuli za wananchi, na pia juu ya masuala muhimu kwa jamii.***

These constitutional provisions accord women the right to expression and opinion. But there are pre-conditions for its realization as far as women's situation is concerned. These are;

- (1) **Level of exposure and interaction** with the outside world: this can hinder or enhance women's access to information;
 - i. How much does she participate in group activities
 - ii. Education, form and non-formal
 - iii. Media literacy
 - iv. Access to women friendly ICT and ability to pay for cost
- (2) **Degree of autonomy**
 - i. Having the capacity to make decision on the kind of information she can receive and dispatch
 - ii. Ability to control her movement so that she can acquire, retain, or disseminate information
 - iii. Having financial autonomy and on other resources
 - iv. Redefined spatial and temporal existence
- (3) **Awareness of the right to information**
 - i. Having knowledge of ranges of her human rights including the right to information
 - ii. Empowered to demand the enjoyment of these rights

The information women require for their empowerment has the following characteristics;

- it should be information that moves women beyond mere literacy to functional knowledge. Information which will create in women the need to search for more information useful to their livelihood in society, and thereby get empowered.
- Provided in the ordinary education but comprehensive enough and commensurate with needs of poverty/ ignorance eradication initiatives
- Information which will re-mobilize women into new value systems. Make them realize that culture is dynamic, and too is their being.
- Information which empowers them to challenge existing stereotypical/prejudicial definition of womanhood.
- Information which can facilitate improvement of women's economic well-being, and full participation in other spheres of their life.
- Information and education which will facilitate women's self-reinvention and get to know the full extent of their potentialities, skills and the range of opportunities the modern environment provides for her.

The new information dispensation for women empowerment should provide equality in the following aspects

- ❑ **Production/creation:** *ability to influence, define, and name reality from their (women's perspective). This requires them to participate in information creation thus give their import to design and selection of information for women and the society in general.*
- ❑ **Dissemination:** *ability to influence the nature of information dispatched to women. The selection of information communication media friendly to women across the board. Ability to combat all forms of censorship and information control*
- ❑ **Access and use:** *ability to access information of their choice; the information should be full, relevant and of which contents is within women's range of understanding capabilities so that they can use it to change their reality.*

When designing information for women's empowerment












- ❑ See how much of the local cultural elements and social structures can become barriers to women empowerment through information. Work out appropriate strategies
- ❑ Base the information initiative on well researched women's own information needs
- ❑ Assess the degree of access to information sources/centers including ICTs, education centers, print media.
- ❑ Align the information for women's empowerment initiative with the national development goals
- ❑ See to the cost effectiveness of the information initiative.
- ❑ Identify stakeholders, allies and partners who can work together
- ❑ Understand why the current or previous similar initiatives failed so that you can modify or improve on them.
- ❑ Predicating information on values aimed to enhance women's intellectual; capacity and voice
- ❑ Decision on information packaging be based on women's local/life experiences, not government handouts.
- ❑ Information production centers should become gender balanced in their representation and packaging of information; regard information as a crucial resource for women's development and for all in the society.

Anticipated challenges

- ❑ Language barriers among women
- ❑ Low literacy level of women
- ❑ Cultural resistance and backlash
- ❑ Information infrastructure not adapted to women's needs

Is this the path we want to walk towards women's empowerment with information?

MODEL FOR INFORMATION FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

STAGE	STATUS	INDICATORS
STAGE ONE 	WELFARE  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Passive recipients of information ❖ Makes little use of information received to improve welfare ❖ Treated by community as not authoritative ❖ Muted voice by culture through socialization, ❖ Lack access to information, infrastructure not in place
STAGE TWO 	ACCESS  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Information infrastructure in place ❖ Women actively engaging information/ knowledge acquisition ❖ Removal of structure/cultural barriers
STAGE THREE 	AWARENESS  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Information becomes necessary resource for ❖ Enhanced knowledge of self ❖ Enhanced awareness on role of information for personal development/ empowerment ❖ Develop critical thinking/ awareness ❖
STAGE FOUR 	CONTROL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Use information to address practical/specific needs ❖ Regain voice and make informed decisions ❖ Enhanced social status, participates in decision-making. ❖ Controls meaning of information; participates production, dissemination of information ❖ Self-initiative to seek more knowledge

Group work

After the brief presentation of the facilitator participants worked in groups so to make an assessment of information various stakeholders publish and which women access. The aim was to see if the information so published satisfied the needs of the woman in Tanzania. Below is the summary of group presentations

Group One: Assessment of popular print media (“Udaku”

newspapers); Newspapers used for this assessment were, *Sani, Risasi, Maisha,* and *Amani*

1. Areas where women appear most
 - Business advertisements, bodies used to attract attention of customers/readers
 - Love stories
 - Beauty contests
 - Cartoons, appearing in sexualized images
 - Entertainment news
2. Relevance of information, features and news for social, economic and political empowerment of women;
 - The information is irrelevant since it does not contribute to women's empowerment
3. Generally the image of the woman in the media contents is negative
4. Recommendations:
 - Media houses should incorporate women issues in both print and electronic media
 - There is need to provide women with role models with positive images
 - There is need to have a national plan of action and strategies with which to organize campaigns to improve the women's gender images in mass media. This will help media do away with news that have negative impact on women social image.
 - There is need for serious training of women on professional ethics; editors and media owners should be sensitized on the need to have positive women's gender representation in both news contents; and in making sure that the appoint of staff considers gender balance.

Group Two: Quality of information in serious (Kiswahili) newspapers

The newspapers involved in this assessment were: *Majira, Tanzania Daima* and *Bingwa*

- Women appear in articles that show them as victims of
 - (i) Domestic violence
 - (ii) Sexism
 - (iii) Diseases and epidemics outbreak
 - (iv) Beliefs in witchcrafts
- Or appearing in courts of law to answer charges for committing various misdemeanors
- They also feature in beauty modeling articles and other entertainment news
- Media contents in sports newspapers maintain stereotypical view of the woman with most of women photographed appear half naked.
- Even when women appear as news sources usually in articles on beauty modeling.

However, generally unlike the popular newspapers the serious newspapers have a good number of articles with useful information for women; on health, education, social services, science and technology. But most of this

information does not involve the woman in its creation. Women are not involved in creating news (as sources) published in the newspapers.

Group Three: Quality information on/for women published by NGOs

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Target audience</i>	<i>Quality of Contents (issues)</i>	<i>Layout/design</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Sauti ya Siti (TAMWA)	Women	Relevant	Cover not eye catching Poor choice of headlines highlighting	Pages do not have good enough graphics and pictures
Ulingo wa Jinsia (TGNP)	women	Relevant	It is not clear which is the main issues agenda of the editions It is not eye catching It is full with no photographs	Dense content not targeting ordinary women Ulingo wa Jinsia- its meaning not clear; more illustrations needed
Beijing +10 (MCDGC)	Women	Very empowering to women	Font is very small	It is not user friendly as there are no pictures and dense
Sera ya Maendeleo ya Wanawake	Women	Very relevant	Grey matter throughout without illustrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ not user friendly, needs repackaging ❑ not popularized enough to stakeholders
Malezi Bora	Women	It is not clear how the content empower the woman. It only reiterates the woman's nurturant roles	The cover misleads and it is overcrowded	It require improvement and must have both men and women

Group four: How to improve the quality of information: (General Recommendations)

- (i) mass media should strive to report things accurately and with precision. This is possible if journalists do research before they publish
- (ii) The content should be timely and relevant to the present day needs of the audiences
- (iii) The language should be understandable
- (iv) The design and contents should draw interest of readers
- (v) The content should aim to educate the readers
- (vi) The content should be gender sensitive and promote equality between men and women
- (vii) Make the media affordable to all and accessible

DAY THREE: JUNE 3rd, 2005

The last half-day of the workshop was used by participants to the workshop to chart the way forward and identify that the need to joint efforts in promoting the role of information in women's empowerment. The participants sat in groups according to their nature of representation to do the work as follows:

Topic: *The way forward and areas of collaboration*

Group 1: Mass Media

Group 2: Non-governmental organizations

Group 3: Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children

Group 4: Community Development Training Institutes

Group 5: Government

Group 1: Mass Media

Constraints

- ❖ Lack of gender sensitivity among media personnel and owners
- ❖ Media contents sanctions violence against women
- ❖ Media content tend to disempower women due to continuously presenting them in stereotypical images
- ❖ It reflects patriarchal systems in the society that oppresses women

The way forward

Generally mass media to do effectively to be more effective in the empowering of women need to be enlightened on gender issues;

- ❖ Gender sensitization campaigns should reach out to media owners for they are the ones who enforce policies in their respective media organizations.
- ❖ The next group to be reached by the gender sensitization programme should be the media managers and editors for they are the one deciding on what goes into the media to the public
- ❖ Journalist/reporters are the ones doing the job of news collection on daily basis. They establish sources and create news and report on them. Thus they should be actively be involved.
- ❖ It is important that mass media establish data base on women in various positions and those involved in various activities
- ❖ There is need to establish media watch to monitor the quality of media contents as far as gender representation is concerned. The monitoring should lead to establishment of periodic reports on media performance (on gender and announce to the public
- ❖ To make sure that journalists adhere to professional ethics
- ❖ There is need to organize training on gender sensitive reporting. The ministry of community development, gender and children.

Areas of Collaboration

- ❖ There is a need to intensify gender sensitization activities together with NGOs and other institutions
- ❖ Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children should work out strategies on how to jointly work with media to promote gender sensitive reporting and gender equality in general.
- ❖ Journalism training institutes should mainstream gender in their curricula. This task should be done together with the ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children, Ministry of Education and Culture, and Ministry of High Education, Science and Technology.
- ❖ To liaise with various organs to source funding for further training of journalists on gender.
- ❖ All stakeholders and researchers work together to point out gender biases in mass media through media research and monitoring activities

Group 2: Non-governmental organizations

Constraints

- ❖ Lack of appropriate language with which to communicate with target groups. NGOs working in rural areas facing serious language barriers for the target groups may not understand Kiswahili. It is time NGOs think of translating the material in local languages
- ❖ Poor communication and information infrastructures
- ❖ Financial constraints facing both NGOs and women. NGOs cannot fulfill their promises on empowering women with information. Women fail to access information outlets that require payment of some cost.
- ❖ Inadequate level of basic literacy among women thus making them to understand the information dispatched to them.
- ❖ NGOs, in some cases operate under pressure and threat from politicians or government institutions whenever the latter feel NGOs are making women more empowered
- ❖ There is usually not enough time to deal with issues of women empowerment since NGOs staff is charged with a lot of responsibilities.
- ❖ Unchanging cultural practices interfere with efforts to empower women
- ❖ NGOs are donor dependent; moreover, donor may sway NGOs agenda in favour of their own preferences.
- ❖ Some NGOs are still not operating with gender sensitive policies.

The way forward

- ❖ there is need for the government foster positive attitudes towards NGOs and their activities
- ❖ NGOs should network so that they can share resources, knowledge and practice experiences.
- ❖ There is need to assist NGOs with capacity building in research and information generation

- ❖ NGOs should promote use of participatory approach in the search for appropriate ways to empower women with information.
- ❖ Gender sensitization should start at the family level. This should go on to school level.
- ❖ Establishing gender monitoring and evaluation for all information channels and provide feedback to relevant stakeholders
- ❖ WIC News should be published and circulated to all stakeholders
- ❖ WIC News should profile women engaged in business to provide role modeling to the rest of women.
- ❖ WIC News needs to solicit articles and information from NGOs and society to make it more relevant
- ❖ NGOs should set example by employing young members of staff.

Group 3: Women Information Center

Constraints

- ❖ Misconception of what Women Information Center does
- ❖ Inadequate corporation n information search
- ❖ WIC is semi-integrated in the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children
- ❖ Language barrier, since WIC uses language while it could be more effective by using Kiswahili.
- ❖ The available technology is inadequate for the type of information dispensed by WIC. WIC should be given more facilities to facilitate its activities.

The Way Forward

- ❖ Deliberate efforts should be taken to publicize WIC more to its potential stakeholders
- ❖ Integrate WIV fully into the MCDGC structures
- ❖ Use of Kiswahili and English in all activities and publications organized by WIC.
- ❖ WIC should prepare a strategic plan for collaboration with local stakeholders and development partners
- ❖ There is need to strengthen advocacy activities to create more awareness on the role of information in Women's Empowerment
- ❖ WIC activities should be expanded to regional centers starting with CDTIs

Areas of Collaboration

<i>Area</i>	<i>Stakeholders</i>
News Documentation	Mass Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Book sellers ❑ Publishers ❑ Writers ❑ Resource centers (documentation centers) both local and international
Photographs Artistic work	Photographers Dramatists and Video/VCD/DVD cassettes producers
Internet equipment	Internet providers; providers of related services and deals in ICT technology,

Group 4: Community Development Training Institutes

Constraints

- ❖ Information for women empowerment is not incorporated in the syllabi
- ❖ Tutors are not fully aware of the importance of information for women's empowerment
- ❖ Libraries are not sufficiently stocked and lack up to date publications, they also lack competent personnel to manage them
- ❖ There is lack of ICT facilities like TV, radios, newspapers and internets
- ❖ Transport facilities are not adequate
- ❖ Limited information and technology infrastructure

The way forward

- ❖ Improve the way women perform they triple roles so that they have time to access ICT
- ❖ Syllabus review should include information for women's empowerment as a subject
- ❖ Students should be encouraged to do research in field of information for women's empowerment
- ❖ Tutors should be trained on the importance of information for women's empowerment.
- ❖ The government has to allocate more funds towards improving services of libraries
- ❖ MCDGC should provide transport facilities for students as well as tutors so that they can visit various centers of information.

Areas of collaboration

- ❖ The CDTIs should network with other organizations to get information, research, training, etc.. Such organizations can be TAMWA, TGNP, TAWLA, RTD, ITV, TVT, Femina, ISHI, etc.

Group 5: Government

Constraints

- ❖ Inadequate financial resources
- ❖ Lack of national plan of action for development of ICT
- ❖ Lack of inter-sectoral linkages and synergies
- ❖ Gender inequality (entrenched patriarchal system)
- ❖ Various interpretations of policy statements, strategies and guidelines at the implementation level
- ❖ Limited infrastructure and technology
- ❖ Language barriers

The Way forward

- ❖ Strengthening collaborations among different stakeholders
- ❖ Establish strong mechanisms to monitor ethics of information dissemination
- ❖ To have in place a national plan of action for development of ICT. Training institutions should play a lead role in promoting the use of local languages and local knowledge

Areas of collaboration

- ❖ Awareness raising
- ❖ Capacity building and training of government staff
- ❖ Networking and transfer of technology
- ❖ Intensifying research on information and women
- ❖ Effective dissemination of information for women's empowerment
- ❖ Mobilization of resources towards effective information management and dissemination

Closing Remarks

- ❖ Nicoleta Confalone, the International Consultant for the Women's Information Centre presented closing remarks thanking the participants for accepting the invitation to attend the workshop.
- ❖ She also thanked them for the contributions and the sharing of experience they made during the three days workshop.
- ❖ She thanked the Ministry of Community Development, gender and Children for their continuous support the project funded by the Italian government.
- ❖ Thanked the Italian government for funding the AIDOS and particularly the AIDOS for their technical support
- ❖ And finally she extended her thanks to all WIC staff and of the Ministry for joint efforts to make the operations of the project successful and facilitating the workshop.

**Annex 1
WORKSHOP TIMETABLE**

DAY ONE: June 1st, 2005

<i>TIME</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>METHODOLOGY</i>	<i>PRESENTER</i>
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and Registration		WIC staff
9:00 – 9:15	➤ Welcoming participants/guest of honour		WIC/International consultant
9:15 – 9:30	Opening: Guest of honour		
9:30 – 9:50	➤ Presenting workshop objectives/rules ➤ Introductions/ agenda for the day		WIC/ International consultant
9:50-10:30	Beijing Conference and Information for women empowerment	Presentation	Facilitator
10:30-11:00	HEALTH BREAK-TEA		ALL
11:00-12:00	Tanzania: Context and Government Role in information for women empowerment	Presentation	Facilitator
12:00-13:00	The International Context; Initiatives on information for women empowerment	Presentation/ discussion	Facilitator
13:00-14:00	HEALTH BREAK- LUNCH		ALL
14:00-15:20	Plenary discussions		Facilitator
15:20-16:40	Women and information: social-cultural context	Presentations	<i>Presenters</i>
16:40:17:00	Wrap-up and distribution of One Evaluation forms		Facilitators

DAY TWO: June 2nd, 2005

<i>TIME</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>METHODOLOGY</i>	<i>PRESENTER</i>
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and registration		<i>WIC staff</i>
9:00 – 9:30	Recap of the previous days proceedings		Facilitators
9:30 – 10:30	Information for women empowerment	<i>Presentation</i>	Facilitator
10:30–11:00	HEALTH BREAK- TEA		ALL
11:00-11:40	The role of CDTI's in information for women empowerment (Tengeru, Misungwi, etc.)	Presentation	Facilitators
11:40-12:20	WIC: role in information for women empowerment;	Presentation	WIC staff
12:20-13:00	Plenary Discussions		Facilitators
13:00-14:00	HEALTH BREAK- LUNCH		ALL
14:00-16:00	Civil Society and information for women empowerment	Presentations by civil societies	Presenters
16:00-16:40	Plenary discussions		Facilitators
16:40-17:00	Wrap-up and distribution evaluation forms		Facilitators

DAY THREE: June 2nd, 2005

<i>TIME</i>	<i>TOPIC</i>	<i>METHODOLOGY</i>	PRESENTER
8:30 - 9:00	Arrival and registration		WIC staff
9:00 – 9:30	Recap of previous days proceedings		Facilitators
9:30 – 10:30	The way forward and areas of collaboration	Group work	Facilitators
10:30–11:00	HEALTH BREAK- TEA		ALL
11:00-12:20	Presentation in plenary		Facilitators
11:40-12:20	Wrap-up and distribution of workshop overall evaluation forms		Facilitators
12:20-13:00	Closing		Guest of honour
13:00-14:00	Lunch		

Annex 2
BEIJING DECLARATION

1. We, the Governments participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women,
2. Gathered here in Beijing in September 1995, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations,
3. Determined to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity,
4. Acknowledging the voices of all women everywhere and taking note of the diversity of women and their roles and circumstances, honouring the women who paved the way and inspired by the hope present in the world's youth,
5. Recognize that the status of women has advanced in some important respects in the past decade but that progress has been uneven, inequalities between women and men have persisted and major obstacles remain, with serious consequences for the well-being of all people,
6. Also recognize that this situation is exacerbated by the increasing poverty that is affecting the lives of the majority of the world's people, in particular women and children, with origins in both the national and international domains,
7. Dedicate ourselves unreservedly to addressing these constraints and obstacles and thus enhancing further the advancement and empowerment of women all over the world, and agree that this requires urgent action in the spirit of determination, hope, cooperation and solidarity, now and to carry us forward into the next century.

We reaffirm our commitment to:

8. The equal rights and inherent human dignity of women and men and other purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Declaration on the Right to Development;
9. Ensure the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl child as an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
10. Build on consensus and progress made at previous United Nations conferences and summits - on women in Nairobi in 1985, on children in New York in 1990, on environment and development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, on human rights in Vienna in

1993, on population and development in Cairo in 1994 and on social development in Copenhagen in 1995 with the objective of achieving equality, development and peace;

11. Achieve the full and effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women;

12. The empowerment and advancement of women, including the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, thus contributing to the moral, ethical, spiritual and intellectual needs of women and men, individually or in community with others and thereby guaranteeing them the possibility of realizing their full potential in society and shaping their lives in accordance with their own aspirations.

We are convinced that:

13. Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace;

14. Women's rights are human rights;

15. Equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, equal sharing of responsibilities for the family by men and women, and a harmonious partnership between them are critical to their well-being and that of their families as well as to the consolidation of democracy;

16. Eradication of poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the involvement of women in economic and social development, equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centred sustainable development;

17. The explicit recognition and reaffirmation of the right of all women to control all aspects of their health, in particular their own fertility, is basic to their empowerment;

18. Local, national, regional and global peace is attainable and is inextricably linked with the advancement of women, who are a fundamental force for leadership, conflict resolution and the promotion of lasting peace at all levels;

19. It is essential to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes, including development policies and programmes, at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women;

20. The participation and contribution of all actors of civil society, particularly women's groups and networks and other non-governmental organizations and community-based

organizations, with full respect for their autonomy, in cooperation with Governments, are important to the effective implementation and follow-up of the Platform for Action;

21. The implementation of the Platform for Action requires commitment from Governments and the international community. By making national and international commitments for action, including those made at the Conference, Governments and the international community recognize the need to take priority action for the empowerment and advancement of women.

We are determined to:

22. Intensify efforts and actions to achieve the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women by the end of this century;

23. Ensure the full enjoyment by women and the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and take effective action against violations of these rights and freedoms;

24. Take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and the girl child and remove all obstacles to gender equality and the advancement and empowerment of women;

25. Encourage men to participate fully in all actions towards equality;

26. Promote women's economic independence, including employment, and eradicate the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty through changes in economic structures, ensuring equal access for all women, including those in rural areas, as vital development agents, to productive resources, opportunities and public services;

27. Promote people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth, through the provision of basic education, life-long education, literacy and training, and primary health care for girls and women;

28. Take positive steps to ensure peace for the advancement of women and, recognizing the leading role that women have played in the peace movement, work actively towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and support negotiations on the conclusion, without delay, of a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty which contributes to nuclear disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects;

29. Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

30. Ensure equal access to and equal treatment of women and men in education and health care and enhance women's sexual and reproductive health as well as education;

31. Promote and protect all human rights of women and girls;
32. Intensify efforts to ensure equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls who face multiple barriers to their empowerment and advancement because of such factors as their race, age, language, ethnicity, culture, religion, or disability, or because they are indigenous people;
33. Ensure respect for international law, including humanitarian law, in order to protect women and girls in particular;
34. Develop the fullest potential of girls and women of all ages, ensure their full and equal participation in building a better world for all and enhance their role in the development process.

We are determined to:

35. Ensure women's equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls, including through the enhancement of their capacities to enjoy the benefits of equal access to these resources, *inter alia*, by means of international cooperation;
36. Ensure the success of the Platform for Action, which will require a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels. We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women living in poverty, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice. The success of the Platform for Action will also require adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels as well as new and additional resources to the developing countries from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources for the advancement of women; financial resources to strengthen the capacity of national, sub regional, regional and international institutions; a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; and the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women;
37. Ensure also the success of the Platform for Action in countries with economies in transition, which will require continued international cooperation and assistance;

38. We hereby adopt and commit ourselves as Governments to implement the following Platform for Action, ensuring that a gender perspective is reflected in all our policies and programmes. We urge the United Nations system, regional and international financial institutions, other relevant regional and international institutions and all women and men, as well as non-governmental organizations, with full respect for their autonomy, and all sectors of civil society, in cooperation with Governments, to fully commit themselves and contribute to the implementation of this Platform.