

BRIDGE Update: Gender and the post-2015 agenda

Issue No. 97, January 2013

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I. BRIDGE updates: recent activities and publications

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**a. BRIDGE at the Vienna Policy Dialogue**

In December 2012 BRIDGE manager Alyson Brody participated in the Development Cooperation Vienna Policy Dialogue 'Making international development cooperation work for the empowerment of women', an event held at the UN offices in Vienna, organised by UN Women and ECOSOC. The event brought together UN member representatives, civil society and academics to discuss ways to firmly anchor gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and the protection of their rights in a post-2015 development agenda. It was part of a preparatory process for the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The event was structured around thought-provoking panel discussions and presentations. Sessions addressed the challenges of translating gender equality commitments into national policies, practices and systems, ensuring gender equality is central to the post 2015 framework, ensuring greater accountability around gender equality commitments and promoting implementation and action on the ground.

The discussions revealed a high level of commitment among participating member states to address gender inequalities -including their structural causes -and to

empowering women. Many present were supportive of both including a discrete gender goal in the post 2015 framework and mainstreaming gender throughout all other goals. There were also calls to take into account the unpaid care work that many women are faced with in addition to paid employment, for example by providing subsidised child care. A key message, repeated by many, was the vital role played by women's movements in enabling changes at national and regional levels, through lobbying governments around their commitments to MGD3, CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action and raising awareness among women of their rights and of these international agreements. There was also a strong message that financial resources are critical for achieving global and national gender equality goals. A report from Nepal underlined the vast difference that gender budgeting can make, noting that increased allocations to maternal health services had reduced infant mortality figures by up to 50% in targeted regions.

#### **b. Interviews on gender and social movements from Montevideo**

Late last year the Feminist Articulation Marcosur (AFM) held the fourth Dialogos Consonantes (literally Consonant Dialogues) in Montevideo with the aim to enable feminist organisations and networks in Latin America and the Caribbean to play a more active role in the aid effectiveness debate. Such dialogues are designed to provide a space for discussion and reflection between donors, agencies and the variety of women's organisations in the region looking for the "consonances" that make possible greater support to the feminist agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. The main objective of this event was to focus on building strategies for strengthening and increasing the sustainability of feminist agendas in the new context of international cooperation for development. Our partners from SendasAL in Uruguay attended the event and produced a series of interviews in Spanish on gender and social movements. You can read more about the meeting and watch the interviews on the SendasAL website: <http://www.sendasal.org/node/1284>

#### **c. Cutting Edge programme on gender and food security**

This exciting new BRIDGE programme is well underway. We are pleased to confirm that Alexandra Spieldoch, the director of Women Sustain, has agreed to be our lead adviser, and after our recent call for working group members we are currently putting the group together in time for an initial meeting in March. The call for report author is still open until 31 January: <http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/home&id=63369&type=Item&langid=1>. We will report more on the programme and let you know how you can get involved in future updates.

## **II. Upcoming events and other news:**

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#### **a. Launch of the new Eldis website**

Eldis, a website produced by the Institute of Development Studies, offering free access to over 32,000 development research publications from around the world, has had a makeover. As well as a fresh, modern and up-to-date look, there are also several new features that will improve your experience of using the site. These include:

- A refreshed list of the key topics covered by Eldis focusing on nine newly updated Eldis resource guides, including one on gender: <http://www.eldis.org/go/topics/resource-guides/gender>
- New tools that help you easily display Eldis content on your own website, via the Knowledge Services Open API: <http://api.ids.ac.uk/>
- Easier sharing using email or your own social media channels including Twitter, Facebook, Delicious and more
- An improved job service now aggregates jobs from a number of leading development jobs sites: <http://www.eldis.org/go/jobs>

The way Eldis is produced is changing too. IDS works with a range of global partners to ensure it gets the latest and most relevant research to you. Currently partners include IID in Bangladesh, the Centre for Science, Development and Media Studies (CSDMS) in India and the National Library Service in Malawi, among others.

### **b. 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

The 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place in New York between 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2013. This year the priority theme is the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, with the review theme being the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. There will also be a preview of next year's theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. Do you plan to attend this year? Are you or your organisation planning to hold an event? If so let us know by emailing [Bridge@ids.ac.uk](mailto:Bridge@ids.ac.uk) and we'll list your event on our website. For more information about the CSW go to: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>

### **c. World Social Forum**

The World Social Forum is set to take place in Tunisia between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Do you or your organisation plan to attend? If so, we'd like to hear from you – please email [J.Birchall@ids.ac.uk](mailto:J.Birchall@ids.ac.uk) and tell us your plans. To find out more about the forum go to: <http://www.fsm2013.org/en>

### **III. Quick guide: global resources on gender and the post-2015 agenda**

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The post-2015 development agenda covers discussions in two areas: the development framework that will come after the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) end in 2015, and the proposal, coming out of the Rio+20 event last year, to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Given that tackling gender inequality is an essential prerequisite to making progress around development, it is essential that these discussions recognise and integrate gender throughout.

The UN Secretary General has set up a high level panel which will produce a report and recommendations on the post-2015 agenda later this year. There is also a task team made up of UN organisations which has already published a report calling for human rights, sustainability and equality to be at the heart of the post-2015 agenda. In addition, there have been a series of country and thematic consultations, including one of

inequalities, to gather stakeholder views and debate the issues. More detailed information on this process is available in the AWID Friday File on this topic. It also includes a list of action points for women's organisations to get involved in, and influence the process, suggested by Laura Turquet of UN Women, as well as a timeline for 2013: <http://www.awid.org/News-Analysis/Friday-Files/The-Post-2015-Development-Agenda-What-it-Means-and-How-to-Get-Involved>

Details of all the thematic and country consultations can be found at the World We Want website: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap>. The inequalities thematic consultation was co-led by UN Women and UNICEF; a draft consultation report has been published, and is open for comment until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. You can find it here: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/299198>

A post-2015 women's coalition has come together, and includes a number of women's rights organisations such as the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN), the International Women's Health Coalition, and the Women's Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO). You can find out how to join the coalition and read its concept paper at: <http://www.wedo.org/themes/global-governance/the-post-2015-development-agenda-perspectives-from-the-post-2015-womens-coalition>

Information is also available in French and Spanish. African organisations working on women's rights participated in the Africa We Want post-2015 initiative and published a press release available in French and English: <http://femnet.co/index.php/fr/presse/item/131-communique-des-femmes-africaines-sur-le-post-2015>. To view information in French on the process and how to get involved, visit our partner Genre en Action's website at: <http://www.genreenaction.net/spip.php?article9187>

The America Latina Genera website contains information in Spanish on the process, the issues and how to get involved. There are also resources on why a gender perspective is necessary in a number of thematic areas. From here you can access a summary of the global consultation on gender inequalities, and a synthesis of the gender priorities in each main themes of the post-2015 debate (all in Spanish). America Latina Genera aims to support Latin American countries to integrate a gender perspective during consultations, and to promote dialogue among parties through a series of planned activities such as workshops, social media and resources. [http://www.americalatinagenera.org/es/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=2196:post-2015&catid=35:contenidos-generales](http://www.americalatinagenera.org/es/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2196:post-2015&catid=35:contenidos-generales)

The following resources are a selection of those on gender and the post-2015 agenda recently added to the BRIDGE global resources database.

**The Millennium Development Goals Report Gender Chart 2012, December 2012**  
<http://www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/MDG-Gender-web.pdf>

The biennial Gender Chart, an addendum to the Millennium Development Goals Report, depicts the situation of women and girls in developing regions with indicators used to monitor the MDGs. It is divided into eight sections – one for each goal. Although some progress has been made in a number of the gender dimensions, more needs to be done

in every country and at every level to reduce persistently high levels of inequality based on sex.

**Powerful synergies: gender equality, economic development and environmental sustainability, UNDP, September 2012**

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/gender/Gender%20and%20Environment/Powerful-Synergies.pdf>

Contributing to the preparation of the post-2015 UN development agenda, this publication examines the interconnections between gender equality and sustainable development. It is a collection of evidence-based papers by scholars and practitioners exploring the interconnections between gender equality and sustainable development in various regions, sectors and issues - energy, health, education, food security, climate change, human rights, urbanisation, etc. Detailed recommendations are put forward for policy makers and practitioners to effectively integrate gender equality in policies and programmes areas.

**Summary report of the e-discussion on gender equality, October-November 2012, Global Thematic Consultation on Addressing Inequalities**

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/file/295351/download/320202>

**Languages: English, French and Spanish**

This global e-discussion on gender equality was co-convened by UN Women and UNICEF in partnership with civil society as part of the global thematic consultation on addressing inequalities in the post-2015 development agenda. At the time this summary was written, hundreds of people had contributed to the gender equality e-discussion. This document highlights the most important issues and key messages from the conversation from 3 October to 2 November 2012.

**Film clip: Las feministas en la agenda post-2015 (in Spanish)**

<http://www.sendasal.org/node/1301>

This film was made during the Dialogos Consonantes, a regional meeting organised by Feminist Articulation Marcosur (AFM) where Latin American and Caribbean feminist organisations and networks and donors come together to find common ground to support and advance feminist agendas in the region. This intervention discusses the role of feminists in the post-2015 debate, which according to the UN, should be the result of various processes such as Cairo+20, Beijing+20, an evaluation of the MDGs and the development of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals. According to Ana Cristina Gonzalez, feminist activists should focus on ensuring that there is a significant feminist presence in all those processes, that women's agendas are cross-cutting in all discussion spaces, and that there is coherence between this new development agenda and development cooperation policies. Failing this, there is a risk that the feminist agenda will not be integrated in the MDG review and consequently in the new development agenda in a significant way. Also it is necessary not only to look at what we've learnt from the past, but what type of development we want for the future.

**Communique - Women's Consultation on the Africa We Want Post 2015, Africa Women's Regional Civil Society Consultation on the Post 2015 Development Framework**

<http://www.femnet.co/index.php/en/press/item/132-communicue-womens-consultation-on-the-africa-we-want-post-2015>

This communique from the African Women's Regional Civil Society Consultation on the post-2015 development framework conveys a collective desire for a re-orientation toward issues perceived to have been neglected by the MDGs. The document notes that Africa is advancing well economically, but that women's rights must be expanded in areas beyond economic growth, such as structural social inequalities. It then goes on to make a number of recommendations for all actors to accelerate the existing MDGs. These cover a wide range of issues, including: prioritising reproductive health provision to marginalised groups such as rural women, sex workers, women with disabilities, etc; increasing freedom of expression and access to transparent information; the eradication of re-canonization of extractive industries and land; and ensuring government accountability and responsibility on women's rights.

**The Future Asia Pacific Women Want. Women's and civil society networks statement** <http://www.dawnnet.org/advocacy-cso.php?id=268>

This outcome statement is from the women's and civil society networks and organisations present at the regional dialogue on sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda in November 2012, Bangkok. The statement argues that while UN agencies have affirmed that the principles of human rights, equality and sustainability should guide discussions on post-2015, it will not be possible to do this without also considering crises around food, climate, finance and fuel and their position within the development model. The paper gives some background on the key gender issues within the Asia-Pacific region, drawing attention to the significant challenges around poverty, inequality, insecurity and violence that must be tackled by the post-2015 agenda.

You can find other resources on gender and post-2015 by typing 'post-2015' into the search field at: <http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/index.cfm?objectid=9C00A9E6-BAD9-AC5E-E53190748926F722>

Please also visit the archive section to view past Quick Guide selections: <http://www.bridge.ids.ac.uk/go/email-updates-and-publications-by-post/bridge-updates>

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