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UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING
INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN



**Statement by Carmen Moreno
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Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)
to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

27 February 2008

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) is honoured to address the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which takes place within the framework of the UN reform and the launch of the Secretary-General's Campaign to Eliminate Violence against Women. I am sure that under your guidance the Commission will reach the agreements needed on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, and UN-INSTRAW offers you its support in this endeavour.

To achieve the Millennium Development Goals, investment in the empowerment of women is a prerequisite. Though it has been over thirty years since the First World Conference on Women was held in 1975, commitment to true equality remains too much at the level of intention, rhetoric or unfulfilled promises.

Women are the majority among the poor, the ones who most suffer from lack of access to clean water, hunger and malnutrition, lack of education, and increasingly the majority of those newly-infected with HIV/AIDS. To achieve the MDGs an increase in financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women is required.

When we learn that US\$735 billion is the combined military annual expenditure of the top five countries¹ and that according to research only US\$19 billion are needed to eradicate global hunger and malnutrition, US\$12 billion to provide education for every child, US\$15 billion to provide access to water and sanitation for every person; and \$23 billion to reverse the spread of AIDS and Malaria² we need to ask ourselves if it would not be possible that 10% of those expenditures could be diverted to achieving the MDGs and contribute to gender equality and to curtail violence against women.

Decisive action on the empowerment of women and girls demands more research and improved data collection, to ensure funding is channeled both to where the need is greatest, and to where it can have most impact. UN-INSTRAW is committed to strengthening research, data collection and analysis of the situation of women and girls, and strives to include their needs, priorities, views and participation in development policies and programmes.

UN-INSTRAW's programme of work on Gender and Financing for Development produced a gendered analysis of the Monterrey Consensus (*Gender issues and concerns in financing for Development*) which was presented here in 2004 and launched at the American University in Washington, and which contains

¹ Source: SIPRI. "The 15 major spender countries in 2006" Sweden: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, 2007.

² Source: World Bank. "The Costs of Attaining the Millennium Development Goals." Washington DC: World Bank, 2004.

policy recommendations and proposed strategies for all stakeholders that remain still valid. The Institute participated at the Oslo meeting organized by DAW on financing for gender equity and presented a paper that includes an analysis of the works developed after Monterrey and which was also distributed in the Commission. Both papers can be found at the Institute's website (www.un-instraw.org) which is now receiving 2,6 million hits per month and 50 thousand downloads, from all over the world. On the road to Doha this material can be very useful.

UN-INSTRAW is promoting a dialogue among stakeholders to ensure that gender becomes a cross-cutting theme in the debates, in the formulation and the follow-up to financing for development policies, as per the following recommendations.

Research

- Collect, systematize and disseminate studies on the impact of macroeconomic policies on women; particularly those that analyze the inter-relations between gender, ethnicity, age, economic status, schooling, and geographic location that are produced by academia, civil society organizations, international cooperation agencies, governmental institutions and United Nations System agencies.
- Develop, collect and disseminate gender statistics on the population impact of macroeconomic policies, trade agreements, public spending, and debt servicing, among others.
- Develop and collect conceptual frameworks and methodologies for the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of economic policies and development strategies from a gender perspective.
- Carry out case studies to evaluate economic policies and development strategies from a gender perspective and in different contexts.

Training/Capacity-building

- Carry out, promote and disseminate trainings and workshops that target government, civil society organizations, international organizations and businesses:
- Strategies for mainstreaming gender in the political and economic agenda
- Methodologies for gender diagnostics in international organizations, governmental institutions and civil society organizations.
- Strategies for including gender issues in the design of public policies.
- Methodologies for analysis and follow-up of the implementation of economic policies and their impact on women.

Advocacy

- Promote the inclusion of gender as a cross-cutting theme in discussions of economics and financing for development in international forums, generating specific spaces for reflection on the impacts, risks and opportunities that economic, trade, and financial policies pose for women and other vulnerable groups such as rural and indigenous populations, children and ethnic minorities, among others.
- Motivate the participation of all stakeholders in these discussions (civil society organizations, international cooperation agencies, governmental institutions, United Nations System agencies, and private sector) particularly those that promote gender equality, and develop mechanisms for coordination among them.
- Develop inputs and organize meetings with these stakeholders in order to develop strategies and methodologies for action at international meetings.

Another area of the work of UN-INSTRAW that is relevant for the discussions of the Commission is the pioneering work undertaken in gender, migration, remittances and development.

As we all know, money sent home by migrants far surpasses the amounts of Official Development Assistance. UN-INSTRAW's work on the gender dimensions of remittances shows how the resources are used by recipient households as a substitute for non-existent public spending on health, education and other social services, and the gender differences in the sending or receiving ends.

The Institute has concluded the case studies of Colombia and Spain; Guatemala and the US; Philippines and Italy; Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and South Africa; with the partnership of UNFPA, IOM and IFAD. With UNDP the Institute is conducting case studies in Albania, Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Morocco, Philippines and Senegal and will initiate studies in Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru with support of AECID.

In the back of the room the Commission will find the Institute's annual report for 2007. All of these studies and the report are available on the Institute's website.

UN-INSTRAW, DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR and Norway will launch on March 3, the Gender and Security Sector Reform Toolkit which provides training materials.

2004 to 2007 represents a turning point for UN-INSTRAW in terms of institutional revitalization. With a complete turnover in staff, the establishment of the UN-INSTRAW Executive Board, the building of alliances with the UN System, Member States, and other stakeholders, and a gradual but steady increase in project funding and even an increase in core funding.

In this process ECOSOC adopted a consensus resolution endorsing *UN-INSTRAW Strategic Framework 2008-2011* and the Fifth Committee and the ACABQ recognized and congratulated UN-INSTRAW for the progress made over the last four years.

Moving from confrontation to consensus has been a watershed achievement for the Institute, and has required:

- Rebuilding trust in UN-INSTRAW and its capacity to deliver;
- Generating recognition of the value of UN-INSTRAW's research and training work, both within the UN System and externally through programmes and products that are reliable, innovative, and opportune;
- Improving the financial situation of the Institute by securing financial and other resources
- Establishing cooperative partnerships with other UN entities.

Now the Institute is once again on solid ground. UN-INSTRAW now has the potential and the capacity to serve as a central focal point for research and training on gender issues. Now the Institute can contribute once again to the work of the United Nations on gender equality and the empowerment of women, leading to measurable changes in the lives of women and a stronger UN that delivers concrete results as one.

The first phase of the UN-INSTRAW revitalization process is thus completed.

The Institute will now move on to the second phase with the implementation of its Strategic Framework 2008-2011.

On behalf of UN-INSTRAW, I thank the many partners who have supported the Institute over the last four years and urge those who have not yet contributed to join this common effort to make a difference in women's lives.

Personally I thank all of you for the support you have given me as Director of the Institute, especially the Members of the Executive Board and those countries that have trusted the Institute and have supported its

finances and I take this opportunity to announce that the position of Director of UN-INSTRAW will be open as of 1 July 2008. I encourage the Members of the Commission to present candidates for the position of Director. The terms of reference and requisites are available at UN-INSTRAW's website.