

**RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE ASIAN-AFRICAN
WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH
SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTERS' MEETING OF THE ASIAN-AFRICAN
SUMMIT 2005**

The achievement of the well being of a country depends on the active participation of their citizens, men and women, young and old. In most countries, half of the population are women and they indeed constitute half of all development actors and beneficiaries. However, in many countries, gender gap resulting from stereotyped attitudes toward the status, role and condition of women in society, remains a major obstacle to the achievement of the world commitment for Equality, Development and Peace as expressed consecutively from Mexico World Conference on Women in 1975, in Copenhagen in 1980, in Nairobi in 1985, in Beijing in 1995 and most importantly expression of reaffirmation for the 21st century by the 23rd United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Women in 2000 in New York and 10 years review and appraisals.

Young people can be dynamic agent of social change, taking an active role in combating their problems but they must be given the right tools. The United Nations has long recognized that the world's youth are resource for the advancement of societies as expressed consecutively in the Declaration on Promoting among Youth the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding between Peoples in 1965, Guidelines for Planning and Suitable Follow-up in the Field of Youth endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985, the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth to the year 2000 and beyond(WPAY) in 1995 and the General Assembly in 2003.

Women and youth are national asset and not a problem. They are potential resources for the advancement of a nation and therefore the enhancement of their status, role, and condition means a great investment for the advancement of the nation and for securing prosperity in the future. Advancing women and youth and releasing them from discrimination will enhance their self reliance and competitiveness in promoting people centered sustainable development within our increasingly globalized world. Many Asian and African countries have made impressive progress in developing the capacity of their human resources, men, women and youth. The progress made by several Asian and African countries could encourage the advancement of other countries. This achievement could be further enhanced by the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

Considering the problems and challenges faced by Asian-African countries in promoting the empowerment of women and youth as actors and beneficiaries of people centered sustainable development, countries in the two continents need to develop mechanisms for strategic cooperation and partnership to address and overcome both the persistent as well as the emerging challenges. Many of these challenges emanate from the unprecedented progress in the field of information, communication and transportation technology and global economic development which promote not only free flow of information, capital, goods and services but also increasing migration for work.

In this respect and in order to implement the NAASP, governments of the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of South Africa organized the Asian-African Workshop on the Role of Women and Youth, held in Jakarta, on 19 April 2005. The objective of the workshop is to share the experiences and reveal important good practices at the country and regional levels, in promoting the status, role and condition of women and youth as actors and beneficiaries of human centered sustainable development in the context of the increasingly globalized world.

The workshop considers the importance to make an overarching recommendations to the Asian-African Leaders regarding the effort to promote the status, role and condition of women and youth within the context of NAASP aimed at advancing the well-being and prosperity of the two continents. Without improving people's well-being and prosperity it is not possible to enhance self reliance and competitiveness in exercising Asian-African active role in the building of a new world order of independence, justice, and common prosperity.

Therefore the workshop recommends:

A. Promotion of status, role and condition of women

1. The following are four areas of common concern for increased cooperation within the context of NAASP:
 - a. National Institutional Mechanisms for the advancement of women;
 - b. Systematic collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and periodic updating;
 - c. Gender mainstreaming in the formulation of policies and programs for people centered sustainable development as well as in the monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved;
 - d. Full and equal participation of women in decision making.

2. The workshop also recommends the following actions:
 - a. Comparative study on the effectiveness of the existing National Institutional Mechanisms - GO-NGOs partnership – in order to identify their strengths, weaknesses and challenges;
 - b. Development of a system for sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis as well as specified data presentation format for effective use in policy and decision making;

- c. Development of capacity for gender mainstreaming in all sectors of development and in the implementation of the priority areas for the advancement of women;
 - d. Promotion of increased participation of women in decision making in all sectors and at all level.
3. In order to ensure immediate realization of the recommended action above, the following countries expressed commitment to act as the focal point for the Asian and African regions respectively:
- a. Comparative study on the effectiveness of the existing National Institutional Mechanisms:
 - For Asia : Indonesia
 - For Africa: Egypt assisted by Ghana
 - b. Development of system for sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis:
 - For Asia : Afghanistan assisted by Indonesia
 - For Africa: Algeria
 - c. Development of capacity for gender mainstreaming:
 - For Asia : The Philippines
 - For Africa: Zambia
 - d. Promotion of increased participation of women and youth in decision making:
 - For Asia : Iran assisted by Qatar
 - For Africa: South Africa
4. The focal points of Asia and Africa will take the initiative to enhance participation of all countries in their respective region, through electronic communication and other means as needed.
5. Progress report by focal points is to be distributed to the National Institutional Mechanisms for women within one year, while periodic reports are to be issued by the focal points bi-annually.
6. All countries' National Institutional Mechanisms are recommended to assist the focal points to obtain the necessary resources, such as: expertise, funds or other forms of technical assistance.

7. All effort for the advancement of women should refer to the CEDAW convention as the legal basis, the Beijing Platform For Action as the policy and program framework and the Millennium Development Goals as the development targets to 2015.

B. Promotion of status, role and condition of youth

1. The following are four areas of common concern for increased cooperation within the context of NAASP:
 - a. National Institutional Mechanisms for the advancement of youth;
 - b. Systematic collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data and periodic updating;
 - c. Youth mainstreaming in the formulation of policies and programs for people centered sustainable development as well as in the monitoring and evaluation of progress achieved;
 - d. Full and equal participation of youth in society and decision making.

2. The workshop also recommends the following actions:
 - a. Comparative study on the effectiveness of the existing National Institutional Mechanisms - GO-NGOs partnership – in charge of youth in order to identify their strengths, weaknesses and challenges;
 - b. Development of a system for sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis as well as specified data presentation format for effective use in policy and decision making;
 - c. Development of capacity for youth mainstreaming in all sectors of development and in the implementation of the priority areas for the advancement of youth;
 - d. Promotion of increased participation of youth in society and decision making in all sectors and at all levels.

3. In order to ensure immediate realization of the recommended actions above, the following countries expressed commitment to act as the focal point for the Asian and African regions respectively:
 - a. Comparative study on the effectiveness of the existing National Institutional Mechanisms:

For Asia : Syria

For Africa: South Africa

b. Development of a system for sex-disaggregated data collection and analysis:

For Asia : Indonesia

For Africa: Tanzania

c. Development of capacity for youth mainstreaming:

For Asia : China

For Africa: Namibia

d. Promotion of increased participation of youth and youth in society and decision making:

For Asia : Indonesia

For Africa: Egypt

4. The focal points of Asia and Africa will take the initiative to enhance the participation of all countries in their respective regions, through electronic communication and other means as needed.
5. Progress report by focal points is to be distributed to the National Institutional Mechanisms in charge of youth, while periodic reports are to be issued by the focal points bi-annually.
6. All countries' National Institutional Mechanisms in charge of youth are recommended to assist the focal points to obtain the necessary resources, such as: expertise, funds or other forms of technical assistance.

The workshop appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the realization of the NAASP. We are fully confident that the Ministers will take the recommendations of the workshop into account and duly acknowledged by the Asian-African Summit 2005.