

## GLOSSARY

**Debt servicing:** the portion of debt repayment and interest that nations pay on foreign debt.

**Economic Restructuring:** changing the balance of actors, industries and economic policies in a country as part of integration into the global economy. This has included privatization of state functions, shifting to production for export, cutting public spending, creating tax incentives for investors, eliminating government regulations on industry, and opening the economy to foreign trade and investment, often with changes in property and other laws.

**Free Market Policies:** a general trend to allow private actors in the economy (particularly corporations) the freedom to make economic decisions based on profit, free from restrictions. This has meant a decreasing role of national governments in setting economic policy, the opening of national economies to foreign trade and investment, and the economic restructuring policies mentioned above.

**Gender:** refers to the socially constructed relations between men and women, as opposed to their biological differences. A “gender analysis” explores the different roles men and women play in society and the differential impacts that policies have because of these different roles.

**Generic Medicines:** medicines that are not under a private patent, and can be produced and distributed by any firm.

**IPRs:** intellectual property rights.

**Liberalization:** the process of opening an economy to the market and reducing the role of government. This includes reducing government regulations and decision-making in such areas as trade, finance, currency and investment.

**Macro-economic policy:** the set of economic policies nations make at the national and international levels that affect the overall functioning of a nation’s economy and how it interacts with the global economy. These include national budget and tax decisions, interest rates and monetary policy, trade, currency and investment policies and employment and social policies. Micro-economic policy, by contrast, refers to decisions made by actors within an economy, including individuals and companies. It may also refer to economic activities at the local level.

**Privatization:** shifting the production of goods and services from government to private actors, including private companies, religious denominations, non-profit organizations, and individuals. This has included the sale of state companies such as telephone, energy, transportation, prisons, pensions, infrastructure, etc.; sub-contracting of state functions; and the call for volunteerism to fill gaps as governments withdraw from providing social services.

**Public Sector:** government entities, including actors, programs, policies and services.

**Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs):** economic restructuring programs designed by the World Bank and IMF, under the leadership of developed nations, as part of loan packages to developing nations. They have been severely criticized by developing nations and non-governmental organizations for prioritizing economic growth over social goals, and intensifying poverty, particularly for women.

**Subcontracting:** government or corporate hiring of small firms or occasional workers to provide services rather than relying on regular employees. This often results in layoffs of unionized workers and the use of low-wage contingent workers for the same job.

**Sustainable Livelihoods:** the factors necessary for people to fulfill their rights to food, housing, education, health and an adequate standard of living, through an adequate, sustainable income.

**TRIPS:** the agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights which governs patents and licenses related to trade in the global economy. There is a growing debate on how IPRs affect food, farming, biodiversity, and access to medicines.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### United Nations Documents:

*Beijing Platform for Action* and the Beijing+5 Outcome Document (A/S-23/10/Rev.1). See website ([www.un.org/womenwatch](http://www.un.org/womenwatch)). *International Labor Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*; Core Labour Standards; and ILO Conventions. See website: ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org)).

*Millennium Declaration* (A/55/2). See website ([www.un.org/millennium/declaration/](http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/)).

United Nations human rights treaties, including: the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*; the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*; the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*; and the *Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. See website: (<http://untreaty.un.org>).

*World Summit for Social Development Programme of Action* and the WSSD+5 Outcome Document (A/RES/S-24/2). See website ([www.un.org/esa/socdev/](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/)).

### Other Resources:

Bissio, Roberto, ed. *Social Watch 2001 Report No. 5* (Uruguay: Instituto del Tercer Mundo, 2001) ([www.socialwatch.org](http://www.socialwatch.org)).

Elson, Diane, ed. *Progress of the World’s Women 2000* (United Nations, New York: UNIFEM, 2000) ([www.undp.org/unifem/](http://www.undp.org/unifem/)).

Meillon, Cynthia and Charlotte Bunch, eds. *Holding on to the Promise, Women’s Human Rights and the Beijing+5 Review* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2001). See website ([www.womenink.org](http://www.womenink.org)).

WICEJ *Declaration for Economic Justice and Women’s Empowerment*. See website ([www.wicej.org](http://www.wicej.org)).

## NOTES

<sup>i</sup> Genoveva Tisheva and Plamenka Markova, “Get along without Bretton Woods? Mission Impossible!”, Bulgarian Research Foundation, January 2002.

<sup>ii</sup> Public Services International, Press Release, Geneva, March 8, 2002.

<sup>iii</sup> Flyer from Marjorie Mbilinyi, Rural Food Security Network, Tanzania, February 2002. For more information, contact email: [rfs@udsm.ac.tz](mailto:rfs@udsm.ac.tz).

<sup>iv</sup> Miriam Ching Yoon Louie, *Sweatshop Warriors, Immigrant Women Workers Take on the Global Factory*, Cambridge, MA: 2001. See Chapter 2 for the Fuerza Unida story.

<sup>v</sup> Joanna Kerr, “International Trends in Gender Equality Work,” Association for Women’s Rights in Development, Occasional Paper no.1, Toronto, November 2001.

<sup>vi</sup> Rosalind Petchesky, *Globalizing Bodies: Gender, Health and Human Rights*, Zed Books, London: 2002 (forthcoming). See Chapter 3, “HIV/AIDS and the Human Right to Health – On a Collision Course with Global Capitalism”.



# Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice

MOBILIZING WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

## The Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice (WICEJ)

is an international coalition representing 35 organizations from all regions of the globe. WICEJ works to link gender with macro-economic policy in inter-governmental policy-making arenas, from a human rights perspective. We utilize an integrated feminist analysis which links the multiplicity of systems that oppress women and recognizes the diversity of women's experience by race, ethnicity, caste, class, national origin, citizenship status and other factors. We work to further develop this integrated analysis across regions and experiences, and to bring these perspectives to bear through policy advocacy, educational activities and popular education.

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# Tools for Women's Advocacy

## UN Conferences at Work

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*How Women are Using the Outcomes of the Five Year Reviews of the United Nations World Conference on Women (Beijing+5) and the World Summit on Social Development (WSSD+5) to Advance Economic and Social Rights*

A RESOURCE BY THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

MARCH 2002

### INTRODUCTION

Women working for social and economic justice within their communities and countries have international tools to support their efforts to realize their rights. Over the past decade the United Nations (UN) has held a series of world conferences that have shaped a global development agenda, encompassing human rights, women's equality and rights, sustainable development, the rights of the child, reproductive health, racial equality, social development, food security and human settlements/shelter.

Two conferences critical for women were the 1995 World Summit for Social Development (WSSD), held in Copenhagen (Denmark) and the 1995 Fourth UN World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, (China). Women's organizations from around the world played a pivotal role in shaping the outcomes of these conferences, developing strategies for international advocacy and building a strong international women's movement in the process. The commitments made in those meetings primarily address the responsibilities of governments to their citizens, but also refer to the responsibilities of the UN system and the international community, which includes donor nations, financial and trade institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization (WTO), private corporations and citizens' organizations.

The WSSD Programme of Action (POA) pledged to make the conquest of poverty, the goal of full employment and the fostering of social integration overriding objectives of development. The concept of social development went beyond providing food, shelter, education and health services, and encompassed empowerment, and opportunities and rights of communities and individuals to determine their lives and the well-being of their communities. Most importantly, it expressed a commitment to put the needs of people at the center of development and of international cooperation.

The Beijing Platform for Action (PFA) served as a blueprint for the implementation and fulfillment of commitments on equality, development and peace for women. It defined strategic objectives and spelled out actions to be taken by governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and the private sector on twelve areas of critical concern: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, the media, environment, and the girl child.

In June 2000, thousands of women participated in two special sessions of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to reviewing progress made toward fulfilling the outcomes of both WSSD and Beijing. Known as "WSSD+5" and "Beijing+5", they reviewed national implementation of commitments after five years, explored new trends affecting progress, and outlined further initiatives to improve progress on lofty goals. Many of the commitments that governments made at these conferences were reaffirmed in September 2000 when the largest number of world leaders in history

All participating governments agreed by consensus to the language in the outcome documents. Although the language is not legally binding, governments are obliged to report to UN bodies annually on their strategies for implementing the agreements. The outcome documents can therefore be used to lobby for legislation at the local and national levels, and to hold elected officials accountable to commitments made by their governments. Perhaps most importantly, they can be used as organizing and education tools, since they provide goals and common measures for action and assessment.

gathered at the UN to issue a Millennium Declaration, agreeing to cut in half the number of people surviving on less than one US dollar a day by 2015.

In this resource we offer case studies of women's groups who are making use of these documents as tools for education, organizing and advocacy at the local, national and international levels. We have also provided a chart that identifies some of the language in the outcome documents of the WSSD+5, Beijing+5 and the Millennium Declaration that may prove useful to women's groups in identifying opportunities for advocacy. (For a more comprehensive breakdown of these documents please see the WICEJ website <[www.wicej.org](http://www.wicej.org)>.)

#### **Tools for Organizing:**

- What was the role of your national government in these UN meetings?
- What plans has your national government made for implementing commitments and how can they be monitored?
- How might you challenge your local government to implement commitments?

#### **CASE STUDIES: Organizing for Economic Justice, Utilizing UN Commitments Women in Transition — Bulgaria**

The post cold-war reality for Bulgaria involved rapid integration into the global capitalist economy, with a subsequent loss of State services and jobs. This particularly affected women, who faced increased job discrimination as job opportunities shifted from the government to private businesses. At first, women had a hard time drawing attention to the crisis, since years of socialism had formed a popular belief that the government had already solved problems of discrimination against women. Also, in the 1990s, human rights work tended to focus exclusively on civil and political rights, providing little or no opportunity for women to speak out on social and economic rights. Meanwhile, the Bulgarian government forged a series of agreements with the IMF and World Bank focusing on privatization and economic restructuring, particularly in the steel and energy sectors. Today, Bulgaria has an unemployment rate of 19%, the highest in Central and Eastern Europe. In exchange for poverty alleviation loans, the World Bank has now demanded changes in social welfare programs for poor families that will mean that three times fewer children will receive government support.

Genoveva Tisheva of the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation describes women's organizing efforts that are based on the Beijing PFA and Beijing+5 outcome document:

"Beijing brought the issues of women's rights to Bulgaria. Before that there was no real women's movement, no opening to international activism. Beijing was our first time in the international arena. Only after Beijing did we begin to hold our government accountable to international treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and Social and Economic Rights. At first, we simply had to build women's organizations and prove that problems for women existed...."

"...The women's movement was the first in Bulgaria to tackle economic justice issues after the dismantling of socialism. The Beijing+5 process and our international networking made this possible. Since 1995, we have become established nationally, we have developed an understanding of the issues, conducted research, and proposed draft legislation. Women have created networks on domestic violence and on political participation. Now, we are starting networks on the economic empowerment of women. We will provide legal support for women regarding access to work and working conditions without discrimination, and support for unemployed women." <sup>1</sup>

#### **Tools for Organizing:**

- *Women should have equal access to resources and basic social services (B+5)*
- *There should be a balance of men and women in all occupations (B+5)*
- *Business should not discriminate against women in the labor market (B+5)*
- *Macroeconomic policies should enhance job growth and poverty reduction; structural adjustment policies should include social development, gender, and poverty reduction goals (B+5, WSSD+5)*

#### **Getting Started:**

- How are economic changes like plant closings, downsizing or outsourcing in your community or country affecting women?
- What legal leverage is there against job discrimination?



The accessibility of life-prolonging HIV/AIDS drugs has been one of the major rallying points for these efforts. The insistence of the pharmaceutical industry on iron-clad patent protection for these drugs has resulted in large profits for corporations, but has made prices inaccessible to most people in developing nations.<sup>vi</sup> In response, some countries have argued that trade rules guaranteeing patents, known as the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), should be suspended in the face of the catastrophic AIDS pandemic. They have vowed to produce or import generic drugs to meet health needs, violating these patents.

In 1999, a global campaign launched by such groups as Doctors without Borders pushed for access to essential medicines for poor countries. The campaign included education and awareness-raising programs, national and international lobbying, and street demonstrations in cities around the world.

At WSSD+5, women's organizations working together in the "Women's Caucus" played a key role in the campaign by supporting the position of African nations on the necessity of suspending Intellectual Property Rights rules, and successfully advocated for language on health as a human right. Throughout 2000 and 2001 the struggle continued as developing countries like Brazil and South Africa continued to try to break the patent stranglehold of the pharmaceutical companies, while developed countries like the United States pursued WTO action against those efforts. In response, thousands of demonstrators in South African, North American and European cities took to the streets.

At the June 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, the essential HIV/AIDS medicines were proclaimed as part of the human right to health. Shortly thereafter, the US announced it was dropping its WTO complaint against Brazil. In November 2001, the WTO adopted a Declaration on TRIPS, public health and "access to medicines for all" which opened more political space to challenge TRIPS in the case of essential medicines. This is an on-going struggle, which has drawn on multiple tools and tactics of organized citizens around the world.

### **Tools for Organizing:**

- *Governments should ensure access to essential medicines at affordable prices, implement a strong generic drug policy and encourage local manufacturing of drugs (WSSD+5)*
- *Recognize the right to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health (WSSD+5)*
- *Intellectual Property Rights should benefit producers and users while enhancing social and economic welfare (WSSD+5)*

### **Getting Started:**

- What is the situation of women infected with AIDS in your community and country? What access do they have to affordable drugs?
- What is your government's position on the question of access to affordable AIDS drugs and TRIPS?
- How can national efforts to obtain affordable medicines build on the efforts of this global campaign?
- How might health advocates learn more about the way new trade agreements can impact the right to health?
- How can the policies of international trade and financial institutions and transnational corporations be monitored for their human rights impacts?

### **CONCLUSION**

Governments attending the UN World Conferences on women and on social development and their recent reviews made many commitments that women's groups are utilizing to advance an agenda for economic justice and the full enjoyment of human rights. Women's organizing is often obstructed by global economic policies, so women have learned to operate on multiple levels by necessity. The outcome documents of the Beijing+5 and WSSD+5 reviews recognize the need for action at all levels, and will continue to be resources and guidelines for advocacy, organizing and negotiating. At the same time, they must be taken in the context of human rights instruments and of other UN agreements that together provide the basis for demanding and realizing rights. Ultimately, fulfillment of these commitments depends on the strength and mobilization of people's movements, organized for change.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# TOOLS FOR ADVOCACY: Economic Commitments in United Nations

The following chart offers examples of the commitments made by governments in 2000 at the local, national and international levels. This is not a comprehensive list (see [www.un.org](#)). Although not legally binding, governments are obliged to report to UN bodies annually their governments. In many cases these references are preceded by qualifying language found on the internet (see resources below) or by contacting the United Nations.

	<b>BEIJING+5</b>	<b>WSSD+5 (Section III)</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ implement gender-sensitive national poverty eradication programmes (73d) that empower poor women and provide access to services, resources, job creation, credit (101d)</li> <li>■ design poverty eradication strategies, with women's participation, to empower women to meet negative social and economic impacts of globalization (101c)</li> <li>■ gender sensitive poverty-eradication strategies addressing social, structural and macro-economic issues (101e)</li> <li>■ national, regional and international cooperation to overcome challenges of globalization (101g)</li> <li>■ collaboration for poverty eradication, including international financial institutions, private sector, community organizations...(102c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ assess social and economic costs of poverty</li> <li>■ put poverty eradication at center of development strategies</li> <li>■ reduce by one half number of people living on less than one dollar a day</li> <li>■ ensure a gender equality perspective in poverty reduction strategies</li> <li>■ involve people, including disadvantaged groups, in designing anti-poverty policies (27)</li> <li>■ eliminate all forms of discrimination against women</li> </ul>
<b>Macro-Economic Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ IMF, World Bank, WTO and others called upon to support government efforts to implement POA (49)</li> <li>■ review macro-economic and social policies, including SAPs and debt, to ensure social services, equal access and control over economic resources (54, 74c)</li> <li>■ gender perspective into all budget processes(65, 73b)</li> <li>■ mainstream gender into macroeconomic and social development policies (73a)</li> <li>■ compile data disaggregated by sex, age, other factors; gender-specific research (77) including on socio-economic situation, paid and unpaid work (85b, 93e)</li> <li>■ assist countries in transition in programmes for political and economic empowerment of women (84d)</li> <li>■ no unilateral measure that impedes economic and social development, right to adequate standard of living, health, food, healthcare and social services. Do not use food and medicine as weapons. (90)</li> <li>■ disarmament to free resources for social and economic development and women (99k,l)</li> <li>■ participation of developing countries in global economic decision-making; women's participation (101a,b)</li> <li>■ gender-sensitive solutions to external debt and debt-servicing problems (101i, j)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure that people are placed at the center of development strategies</li> <li>■ crucial role of governments in assuring social services</li> <li>■ right to education, food, shelter, employment</li> <li>■ develop development-oriented social policies</li> <li>■ no unilateral measure that impedes economic and social development, right to adequate standard of living, health, food, healthcare and social services. Do not use food and medicine as weapons. (90)</li> <li>■ macroeconomic policies should ensure social services, equal access and control over economic resources</li> <li>■ taxation should reduce income inequality</li> <li>■ develop pro-poor growth strategies</li> <li>■ poverty reduction strategies that reduce inequalities</li> <li>■ SAPs should include social development</li> <li>■ cut military expenditures to increase social services</li> <li>■ ensure effective involvement of developing countries in global economic decision-making</li> <li>■ special attention to Africa, including women</li> </ul>
<b>Education, Health and Social Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ equal access to education, health and social services; adequate, affordable and universally accessible health care (54, 55)</li> <li>■ close gender gap in primary and secondary education by 2005 (67c)</li> <li>■ ensure free compulsory and universal education for all by 2015 (67c, 95g)</li> <li>■ policies to address gender aspects of such diseases as malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS (72a)</li> <li>■ reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality (72b, 79c)</li> <li>■ budget resources for highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (72g)</li> <li>■ universal access to high quality primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, by 2015 (79b)</li> <li>■ monitor impact of health-sector reforms on women's health and human rights (79e)</li> <li>■ access to safe and affordable drugs and treatments (79h)</li> <li>■ ensure refugee women's access to basic social services (99m)</li> <li>■ protection and treatment for women re:HIV/AIDS; affordable treatment (103b,c)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure access to all basic social services</li> <li>■ support countries in transition to provide basic social services (24, 31,99)</li> <li>■ ensure rights and basic social services</li> <li>■ close gender gap in primary and secondary education</li> <li>■ equal access to education, health and social services</li> <li>■ reduction of maternal morbidity and mortality</li> <li>■ international financial institutions should support social services</li> <li>■ debt relief and new financial support</li> <li>■ access to essential medicines at affordable prices (103, 124)</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture and Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ ensure land reform, changes in economy to promote rights of poor and rural women; women's equal access to and control over economic resources (68h)</li> <li>■ gender-sensitive agricultural and environmental policies; support women farmers with training (71b)</li> <li>■ food security, clean water related to health (72e)</li> <li>■ recognize and value work of rural women producers; enhance their access to and control over resources (94e)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ encourage sustainable rural development</li> <li>■ address hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity</li> <li>■ good health linked to food security</li> </ul>
<b>Women's Labor, Labor Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ address double burden of women's paid and unpaid work (66b)</li> <li>■ address gender stereotyping as a cause of work segregation (67d)</li> <li>■ address root causes of trafficking in women for prostitution, forced labor, forced marriages (70a); combat and eliminate trafficking; laws to protect victims (70b,c; 96a, 97)</li> <li>■ safe working conditions for health-care workers (72f)</li> <li>■ ensure social protection for women affected by changes in work due to globalization; and for women in new, flexible forms of work (74b)</li> <li>■ protect rights of women workers by removing structural and legal barriers (82a)</li> <li>■ balanced representation of women and men in all jobs (82f)</li> <li>■ equal pay for equal work or work of equal value, decrease wage gap (82h)</li> <li>■ respond to reasons men and women are affected differently by job creation and retrenchment associated with globalization (82i)</li> <li>■ social responsibility of private sector (82m)</li> <li>■ respect ILO Declaration on Rights at Work and conventions (94b)</li> <li>■ rights of migrant women (98b)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ improve the working conditions of women</li> <li>■ support ILO programme on decent work</li> <li>■ promote safe and healthy settings</li> <li>■ encourage corporate social responsibility</li> <li>■ collect employment data disaggregated by gender</li> <li>■ new forms of employment; measure their impact</li> <li>■ strengthen minimum wage legislation</li> <li>■ rights of migrant workers (47)</li> <li>■ eliminate labor discrimination in employment</li> <li>■ combat and eliminate trafficking in women</li> <li>■ improve pay and benefits for teachers</li> </ul>

# Rights References and Government and Nations Agreements

at Beijing+5, WSSD+5 and the Millennium Summit on issues related to economic rights at [www.wicej.org](http://www.wicej.org) for a full list), nor does it represent the exact wording of the documents. and the documents can be used to hold officials accountable to commitments made by such as “suggest, urge or encourage,” rather than “will or must.” The documents can be Department of Public Information, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, USA.

## MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

<p>of unemployment and poverty (9) of economic and social development (25) able living in extreme poverty by 2015 (25) ive at all levels to counteract the feminization of poverty (27o) tagged groups and women, in assessing the impact of poverty on particular groups, and in (p,q,53)) n, including racial discrimination (60)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ halve by 2015 those earning less than one dollar a day, in hunger, and without affordable, safe drinking water (19)</li> <li>■ improve lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 (19)</li> <li>■ promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease (20)</li> </ul>
<p>the center of development—both national and international efforts needed (2) uring that markets function within framework of ethical values (4) mployment, health and information and women’s human rights (5, 76) utions to external debt (6) is economic and social development, right to adequate standard of living, health, food, health- se food and medicine as weapons. (12) hance job growth and poverty reduction (27c) quality (27d, 141) s (28) ly on outside aid should be nationally “owned,” reflecting concerns of poor people (131-132) ment, gender, and poverty reduction goals (128-134, 136) se funds for social development (139a) veloping countries and countries in transition in international economic decision-making (14) debt relief, improved market access, increased aid and foreign investment, technology (107, 116, 119)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ affirms sovereign equality of all states and non-interference in the internal affairs of states (4)</li> <li>■ affirms international cooperation in solving international problems (5)</li> <li>■ poor nations’ involvement in global programmes to support them (5)</li> <li>■ costs and burdens of globalization must be distributed fairly and equitably (6)</li> <li>■ UN must play the central role in managing worldwide economic and social development (6)</li> <li>■ make the right to development a reality for all, create a national and global environment conducive to development (11)</li> <li>■ good governance within nations and in the financial, monetary and trading systems (13)</li> <li>■ quota free access for exports of poorest nations (15)</li> <li>■ debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries, and cancellation of their official bilateral debts linked to policy conditions (15)</li> <li>■ call for increased aid from wealthy nations (15)</li> <li>■ measures to make other nations’ debts sustainable (16)</li> <li>■ special attention to Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, increased aid and foreign investment, technology (28)</li> </ul>
<p>ervices, in particular education and health, even during financial crises (13, 27t, 86, 87, 132b) rovide adequate resources for social development and reverse cuts in public spending for social ices for migrants, and social and economic integration (68) econdary education by 2005; free compulsory and universal education for all by 2015 (80a) and social services; adequate, affordable and universally accessible health care (84, 114, 120) nd mortality (85) should promote development that supports health and education (91) ort for education (93) fordable prices; intellectual property rights conducive to social and economic welfare (98, 100-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ guarantee access to complete primary schooling for all by 2015 (19)</li> <li>■ guarantee equal access to all levels of education for girls and boys (19)</li> <li>■ reduce maternal mortality rate by three quarters and under-five child mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015 (19)</li> <li>■ reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria by 2015 (19)</li> <li>■ encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable for all in poor nations (20)</li> </ul>
<p>mpment (27l) ood insecurity at the household level; recognize women’s role in food security; food security as ation and social policies. (30) y, health financing, and trade in health goods and services (104)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ change current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption (6)-</li> <li>■ seek ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases (23)</li> <li>■ stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources; promote equitable access and adequate supplies of water (23)</li> </ul>
<p>informal” sector workers, respecting basic worker’s rights, providing social protection (27i, 44, 45) work, equal opportunities for women, basic rights of workers (35); ratify ILO conventions (38) at work (38e) sibility to contribute to social development goals (17, 41) gated by sex, age and other categories, including informal, agricultural and service sectors and re unpaid work (42). ion (46) mployment; equal pay for equal work or work of equal value (49, 80d) n persons (69, 70) ners for quality education (94)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ combat trafficking in persons (9)</li> <li>■ give young people the chance to find decent and productive work (20)</li> <li>■ respect for all internationally recognized human rights (24)</li> <li>■ protect rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families (25)</li> </ul>



### **Tools for organizing:**

- *Governments should recognize women's role in providing food security and address food insecurity at the household level (WSSD+5)*
- *Food security is an essential element in poverty eradication and social policies (B+5)*

### **Getting Started:**

- How are national economic policies affecting food production patterns and food security in your country?
- How are they affecting small farmers and women farmers?
- What urban/rural alliances can be built to guarantee food security for all and secure livelihoods for farmers?

### **Sweatshop Warriors — the Americas**

In Texas, immigrant women workers like seamstresses who earn minimum wage for piece-rate work are now confronting the wholesale removal of their jobs across the border to Mexico where their sisters earn even less. Levi's, for example, closed down its plant in 1990 and shifted production to Costa Rica, where workers earn less in a day (US\$4) than the Texas workers earned in an hour. Agreements like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) have made it possible for multinational corporations to set up sweatshop industries wherever they can arrange to pay the lowest possible wage. As a result, women in Mexico and Central and Latin American countries now compete with immigrant women in the United States and Canada for sweatshop jobs with no security. Patterns of racial discrimination that keep poor women and poor communities invisible and politically powerless also work to the advantage of multinational corporations, which exploit such vulnerability in order to maintain an always-available, 'flexible' labor force – workers that will accept almost any conditions in exchange for almost any wages.

Immigrant women working in sweatshop industries in the United States decided to act to address these problems, and formed Fuerza Unida (United Force), a non-governmental organization that networks with other low-wage workers across national boundaries to develop a common approach to reshaping the terms of global free trade. Identifying themselves as “early victims of NAFTA”, these women are building on language in the WSSD+5 and Beijing+5 outcome documents in their organizing (see Chart) and taking their arguments to other key conferences like the 2001 meetings on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) in Quebec and the World Conference Against Racism in South Africa.<sup>iv</sup>

### **Tools for organizing:**

- *Temporary, part time or contract work should be eligible for and covered by the same government benefits given to other workers (B+5; WSSD+5)*
- *Nations should promote and protect the rights of women workers (B+5)*
- *Governments should address racism against women and girls (B+5)*

### **Getting Started:**

- How are differential wages across borders feeding a “race to the bottom” in terms of wages in your region?
- How might cross-border alliances challenge such practices?
- How can multi-racial campaigns challenge the use of sweatshops and the targeting of racially marginalized women for low wage work?

### **Access to Essential Medicines – A Global Struggle**

Some 26.4 million women in the developing world suffer from HIV/AIDS. In many countries, women represent the fastest growing segment of the AIDS-infected population. AIDS is both a cause of poverty or deepening poverty and a result of the effects of poverty and social and economic inequalities.<sup>v</sup> Women are more vulnerable biologically, economically, socially and culturally. They are often faced with impossible choices, such as being forced into prostitution in order to feed their children, or being forced to continue unsafe sexual activity with their partners rather than risk divorce or abandonment. Their crisis is deepened by the fact that once infected, they cannot afford the AIDS drugs necessary for survival.

While the medical aspects of AIDS have received much attention, the gender aspects of the crisis and its links to poverty and globalization are only now being addressed. Women's organizing, along with the efforts of non-governmental organizations at the local, national and international levels has advanced the understanding of HIV/AIDS as an issue of human development, human security and human rights and has brought the principle of health as a human right into debates about global power.



- What support programs are available for women who have lost their jobs because of economic changes?
- How can the policies and practices of transnational corporations and of international trade and financial institutions be monitored for their impact on women's human rights?

### **Union Women and Pay Equity — International**

Public Services International (PSI), an international union federation representing some 20 million public sector workers in 147 countries, launched a campaign among union members worldwide in 2000 calling for equal pay for equal work. Following-up on the efforts they made to shape the Beijing+5 and WSSD+5 outcomes on this issue, PSI is currently using government commitments made in the documents for organizing and advocacy work at the national and international levels. (See Chart.) In 2002, equal pay for equal work was the focus of their work on International Women's Day, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Affirming that "undervaluing women's work directly contributes to women's poverty and lack of power in society," PSI notes that although equal pay is a fundamental right – recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, which was affirmed by Beijing+5 and WSSD+5 – women earn from 10% to 50% less than men in different countries for similar work or different jobs of equal worth. PSI union members are calling on their governments to issue statistics on wage differences by sex on an annual basis, in an effort to hold them accountable to addressing this injustice.

In many countries, globalization and privatization have resulted in a widening of the wage gap between men and women, particularly in public services where women tend to be clustered in low paying care-giving professions such as nursing, community care and teaching. Budget deficits and debt servicing programs have resulted in a reduction of available government funding for investment in public services. Many women are now subcontracted as casual or temporary workers by private firms for lower wages and fewer benefits to perform the same public service jobs they have been doing for years. PSI's pay equity campaign is emphasizing the need to re-value the role of public services, and is calling on governments to defend, maintain and strengthen the public sector. Union members argue that fair and equitable working conditions are an intrinsic component of quality public services.<sup>ii</sup>

#### **Tools for Organizing:**

- *Governments should promote equal pay for equal work (B+5; WSSD+5)*
- *Nations should remove barriers to gender equality at work (B+5)*

#### **Getting Started:**

- What are the ways in which women workers are organizing, both in trade unions and other associations, in your community and country?
- What is the status of campaigns for pay equity? How can alliances be made to support these?
- How can you support quality public services locally and nationally?

### **Rural Women and the Right to Food, Land and Democracy — Tanzania**

Many Tanzanians living in rural areas suffer from food insecurity and the inability to maintain sustainable livelihoods. The roots of their suffering are many: structural adjustment programs and free-market policies that have mostly benefited large foreign-owned companies along with certain political and professional elites; extremely limited opportunities for participation in decision-making at any government level; strategies for foreign debt payments that require, for example, shifts from the production of food crops, grown mainly by women, to the production of non-traditional cash crops which deplete the land. Such policies have further marginalized women and have by extension had a negative effect on the health and well being of entire communities.

The Rural Food Security Policy and Development Group (KIHACHA), a network of concerned organizations and individuals in Tanzania, is working with rural people to ensure that the right to food security becomes a reality. An alliance of more than 2,000 villagers in the districts of Ngorongoro, Njombe and Shinyanga Rural has formed through KIHACHA, and is working with urban activists and academics to create popular education booklets and workshops to train rural communities to advocate for the right to food, land and other resources. The campaign, which makes use of recommendations and commitments made in the Beijing+5 and WSSD+5 outcome documents (see Chart), targets Members of Parliament, District Councilors, village assemblies and other groups, emphasizing the need for participation in decision-making, and seeking to ensure that the structure of social relations and governance in rural as well as urban areas becomes participatory democracy.<sup>iii</sup>