

Introductory Note

Community of Practice: Promotion of Social Inclusion of Women and Gender Equality in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased that you have accepted to take part in a three-week-long moderated e-Discussion: **‘Promotion of Social Inclusion of Women and Gender Equality in the MDGs’**. The e-Discussion, organized by the MDGs Poverty Analysis and Monitoring Section (MPAMS) located within the African Center for Gender and Social Development (ACGSD) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), aims to identify gaps in existing MDGs targets and indicators.

Halfway through the MDGs, reviews have highlighted that the current MDG framework may not adequately incorporate and address issues of social integration, while existing targets and indicators may not accurately capture progress with regard to the inclusion of socially vulnerable groups. Amongst all regions, the African continent faces the greatest challenges in reaching the MDGs. Thus, the need to measure progresses made towards the MDGs in ways that accurately portray the social inclusion and empowerment of women -amongst other excluded groups-, is crucial for the development of effective socio-economic policies.

It is with this in mind that through the next three weeks, our discussions will focus on identifying the multiple manifestations of gender inequality and social exclusion of women, on sharing national experiences with regards to the

engendering the MDGs and on identifying additional targets and indicators that can be used to monitor gender inequities.

The following questions have been formulated to guide the discussions

Week 1: April 21, 2008 - April 27, 2008

Theme: Identification of major forms of gender inequality and social exclusion of women.

1. What are the major forms of gender inequalities in your countries or sub-region? How do they manifest?
2. In which areas are women excluded from participating in economic and social activities?

Week 2: April 28, 2008 – May 04, 2008

Theme: Experience-sharing on how the MDGs can be reinforced to address gender inequalities and social inclusion of women.

1. Do the current MDGs, targets and indicators adequately capture progress made on all forms of gender equality? Please refer to all the MDGs.
2. Which aspects of gender equality are not captured in the MDGs? Please refer to all the MDGs.

Week 3: May 05, 2008 – May 11, 2008

Theme: Identification of additional MDG targets and indicators for the effective monitoring women's social inclusion.

What supplementary targets and indicators can be used to monitor progress on addressing gender inequalities?

Accessing the discussion network

Please forward all of your discussion contributions and questions to the group's email address MDGsSocialInclusion@uneca.org. The facilitator will first view all emails before they are redistributed to group members. Please note that we guarantee the privacy and confidentiality of all of the participants' email addresses.

Selected websites, articles and publications:

English:

[Millennium Development Goals - Basics](#)

[Millennium Development Goals - List of Targets and Indicators](#)

[Assessing Progress in Africa towards the Millennium Development Goals 2008 Report](#)

[Millennium Development Goals 2007 Report](#)

[Millennium Development Goals 2007 Update on Africa](#)

[The African Gender and Development Index](#)

[Seventh African Regional Conference on Women \(Beijing + 10\) - Decade Review of the Implementation of the Dakar and Beijing Platforms for Action: Outcome and the Way Forward](#)

[Gender and the MDGs](#)

[Gender, the Millennium Development Goals, and Human Rights in the context of the 2005 review processes](#)

['En-gendering' the Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) on Health Africa: Women Key to Millennium Development Goal](#)

French:

[Rapport 2008 sur l'évaluation des progrès accomplis par Afrique vers la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement](#)

[Évaluation des progrès accomplis par l'Afrique vers la réalisation des OMD, 2007](#)

[Indice de Développement et des Inégalités entre les Sexes en Afrique](#)

[Septième Conférence régionale africaine sur les femmes \(Beijing + 10\) - Evaluation décennale de la mise en oeuvre de la Plate-forme d'action de Dakar et du Programme d'action de Beijing: Résultats et Perspectives](#)

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