



A SPECIAL WOMEN'S DAY EDITION !

A meaningful tool to address gender inequality

In the months ahead, many African countries grappling with the task of gender-mainstreaming will have a formidable tool, courtesy of ECA: the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI). The Index will help African countries improve their capacity to accurately monitor and implement national gender action plans created in the context of Beijing and Dakar Platforms. It is now a matter of priority for African countries to implement those platforms as a first step to bridging the ever-widening gap in opportunities for men and women and addressing the artificial obstacles that women face daily.

As UNICEF said over the weekend: "No woman should have to struggle for equality and respect. No woman should have to shoulder the disadvantage of being denied education. And no girl or woman should die in the process of giving birth." ECANow concurs.

ECA Initiative brings women closer to peace work

By Carolyn Knapp

In her poetry, Maya Angelou says God made women with shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world, yet gentle enough to give comfort. With the increasing number of conflicts in Africa, in which women and children have often been the major victims, mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives are playing a special role in creating peace.

When you gather 16 of the continent's dynamic and passionate women peace activists together, you can be sure that their voices will be heard at the highest levels. That is the story of the African Women Committee on Peace and Development (AWCPD), launched four years ago by the ECA and OAU (now AU) in response to various calls to promote women's involvement in matters related to conflict.

The Committee's Secretariat, led by Hiroute Guebre Sellassie on the 4th floor, coordinates women's peace initiatives in Africa and advises both founding organizations. On a larger scale, the AWCPD working through ECA's African Center for Gender and Development (ACGD) contributed to the drafting and adoption of Resolution 1325 by the Security Council. The Resolution calls on all actors involved in negotiating and

implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective, including the special needs of women and girls.

The Committee's unique feature is that it combines members nominated by governments with those selected from African women's NGOs and eminent members appointed in their personal capacities. Pioneering members include Former Head of State of Liberia Ruth Sando Perry, Vice-President of Uganda Specioza Wandira Kazibwe and Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Beijing Conference on Women.

Members of the AWCPD go on solidarity missions to former warring areas, supporting and preparing women for effective participation in conflict resolution and peace negotiations. The Committee successfully lobbied former President Nelson Mandela, the facilitator of the Burundian peace negotiations, to include women in the negotiation teams.

The AWCPD also contributed to the creation of the Mano River Women's Peace Network (encompassing Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea) through which women's inputs are being channeled into the conflict resolution processes of the ECOWAS and the AU. The network enabled these women to collectively build a Plan of Action to engender the peace process in the region.

From the 9th Floor

By Max Jarrett

ISP Team begins the implementation of Open Space

The Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP) Team, led by Mr. Ngartando Blayo is now fully operational and based on the 9th Floor in offices adjacent to Ms. Jo Butler, Secretary to the Commission. Mr. Blayo and his colleagues, Ms. Rawda Omar-Clinton and Ms. Maria Grant (who's secondment to the ISP Team was announced in the first edition of ECA Now) have now been joined by Mr. Chukwudozie EZIGBALIKE (aka Dozie) of DISD who has been given the responsibility of coordinating the Knowledge Management (KM) "pillar" of the ISP.

The Team began its work last week by focusing on getting briefed on all latest information regarding KM and the other two pillars of the institutional strengthening programme, which were tabled during Open Space 2002 - Budget and Planning, and Human Resource Management and Development.



Dozie - coordinating the knowledge management pillar

Team members have also been working closely with the Open Space session conveners in selecting a number of areas for "quick wins" from the numerous recommendations that were suggested by Open Space participants last December.

The results of this selection process are due to be shared with all staff members shortly: either later this month or early next month.

This week, the ISP Team will begin work with a consultant from the UK on finalising the proposals for the initial six-month implementation phase of the ECA Knowledge Initiative.

According to Dozie, "The project is all about finding ways of making the most of ECA's intellectual assets to be more effective and efficient in serving Africa better". If you have any questions or ideas about the Knowledge Initiative please feel free to contact him and his ISP colleagues at any time.

MY TURN

By Joséphine Ouedraogo (Guest Contributor)

Le 8 mars, une journée pas comme les autres



Le 8 mars, Journée internationale de la femme, est, depuis 1975 l'occasion de faire le point sur la situation des femmes dans le monde. Le Centre africain pour le genre et le développement de la CEA (CAGED) appelle, en priorité, à mettre fin à toutes les formes de violence à l'égard des femmes.

La violence contre les femmes s'enracine dans la discrimination et la pérennise. Elle est même entrain de croître dans certaines régions d'Afrique secouées par les conflits armés et la corruption.

Bien qu'elle ait été décrétée illégale depuis la Conférence de Beijing en 1995, la violence persiste. Elle revêt diverses formes, des plus insidieuses aux plus ouvertes. Au Kenya, une enquête a montré qu'en 1998-1999, 60 femmes au moins ont été tuées durant des scènes de violence conjugale. En Éthiopie, les cas de viols sont en augmentation, selon l'Association éthiopienne des femmes juristes qui a précisé dans une étude récente qu'en 2000-20001, le pays comptait au moins six viols par jour. En Namibie, le Parlement discute d'un projet de loi sur les violences domestiques en vue de combler le vide juridique grave sur ce sujet.

Si les violences physiques sont les signes de maltraitance les plus visibles, la violence «sexiste» à l'égard des femmes n'en est pas moins criminelle. Les femmes vivent ses différentes manifestations – dont le harcèlement sexuel – en silence, souvent dans le doute, la crainte et la honte, à cause du poids des traditions et des chantages économiques et sociaux de tous genres.

Les stéréotypes, la dérision et même le mépris à l'égard de tout ce que les femmes font ou disent sont la manière – ou la manie – qu'ont certains hommes de banaliser la question féminine. Dans beaucoup d'institutions, dont la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA), pareil comportement persiste. Loin d'être une rengaine féministe hors d'âge, notre opposition à cette forme de violence n'a d'égal que l'appui de la Direction de la CEA, et son engagement à tout mettre en œuvre pour assainir les modes de pensées et de comportements au sein de l'institution.

Espérons que le 8 mars devienne plus que le symbole d'un jour, et qu'il se traduise à longueur d'année par des attitudes positives à l'égard des femmes, et respectueuses de leurs droits.

MOONLIGHT WISDOM

By Carolyn Knapp

The Husband Who Was to Mind the House

Does this tale from Norway ring a tiny bit true, ladies?

Once upon a time there was a man that never thought his wife did anything right in the house. One evening he came home, scolding and swearing and making a commotion. "Don't be so angry," said his wife, "tomorrow, we'll change jobs." So early the next morning, his wife took a scythe and went out into the field. The man was to mind the house.

First he wanted to churn the butter for dinner. But he soon got thirsty and went down to the cellar to tap a barrel of ale. He was putting in the tap, when he heard the pig come into the kitchen. As fast as he could, he ran up the cellar steps. But when he got there he saw that the pig had already knocked over the cream, which was running all over the floor.

"Don't be so angry", said the wife. "Tomorrow, we'll change jobs"

Then he remembered he had the tap in his hand. But when he returned to the cellar, all the ale had run out of the barrel. So he went into the shed and found enough cream left to fill the churn again. Soon he remembered that their cow was still shut up in the barn. It occurred to him that it was too far to take her down to the meadow, so he'd just put her up onto the grass roof.

Now it was nearly dinnertime, and he hadn't even finished the butter yet, so he thought he'd best boil water for porridge. But it occurred to him that the cow might fall off the roof, so he climbed up onto the house to tie her up. He tied one end of the rope around the cow's neck. He slipped the other end down the chimney and tied it around his own leg. Then he had to hurry, as he still had to grind the oatmeal.

As he began to grind away; the cow fell off the roof, dragging the man up the chimney by the rope. As for the cow, she hung halfway down the wall, swinging between heaven and earth. When the wife arrived home, she ran up to the cow and cut the rope with her scythe. When she did this, her husband fell down from within the chimney right into the porridge pot.

IN CELEBRATION

Phenomenal Woman

By Maya Angelou

Culled from <http://www.phenomenalwomen.com>, in celebration of International Women's Day

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them, they think I'm telling lies.

I say,
It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman, that's me.

I walk into a room just as cool as you please,
And to a man, the fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me, a hive of honey bees.
I say,
It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman, that's me.

Men themselves have wondered what they see in me.
They try so much but they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them they say they still can't see.
I say,
It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts,
The grace of my style.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman, that's me.

Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing it ought to make you proud.
I say,
It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair,
The palm of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman, that's me.

MEMORIES

By Andrew Allimadi

Alfred Latigo: A crusader for gender equality

Many people see gender issues as the preserve of women and are often surprised to see men getting involved. This misconception is one of the issues Alfred Latigo faces on a regular basis in his work for the African Centre for Gender and Development (ACGD) at ECA.



Alfred Latigo

Alfred's work within ACGD is to ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed in every aspect of economic life and in development policy.

To this end, he is working on designing scientifically robust models which demonstrate the importance of women's non-market work (NMW) to their livelihood, economic growth and poverty reduction.

But his background centers on environmental and natural resource, areas which he says are directly linked to gender issues. "Soil, water and vegetation degradation lead to poverty and the people most affected by it are poor women. Dealing with land degradation therefore becomes an issue of gender equality," he said.

To him, therefore, it is logical that you would need to address the issue of gender equality if you wanted to seriously tackle poverty. "Otherwise," says Alfred, "we are just scratching at the surface."

Alfred has been with ECA for about two years. He previously headed the African Biodiversity Institute (ABI), a Nairobi-based organization working on policy, research and training on the environment, gender and poverty reduction. After leading the ABI for ten years, he decided it was time for a change. Off to ECA he went

The main thrust of his work here is on a program on national planning instruments, especially national accounts and national budgets.

By integrating women's NMW into national budgets, policy makers will then be able to use mainstream economic policies to enhance gender equality through empowering women to contribute to their own development and the development of the nation. It is a task to which he is dedicated; a crusade he is eager to lead.

ECA THIS WEEK

March 10 – 11 Key Item Management Reporting System (KIMRS) Implementation at ECA, E128 & CC6, 9:00 – 13:00, 15:00 – 17:00, BFS

March 12 Workshop on ACP-EU Negotiations on Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs), CC6, 11:00 – 13:00, RCID

March 12 – 14 Board Meeting of the African Economic Research Consortium, CC1, CC2, CR6, 10:00 – 13:00, 14:30 – 18:00, OES

March 13 European Union Meeting, CC1, Embassy of Greece

March 14 Ethiopian Standardization, CR3, 8:30 – 13:00, DISD

Are you planning something you'd like your colleagues to be aware of (brown bags, meetings, retreats, etc)? Publish it here!

SOCIAL DIARY

By Béné Walter

Exhibitions

Blindness

An exhibition called "Blindness" shows 30 paintings from three Ethiopian artists. Esayas Kebede, Yacob Bekele and Dereje Kebede's work express how their blindness has determined their creativity. The exhibition runs through March 21 at Tibebe Ethiopia, opposite the Ras Amba Hotel. Entrance free.

AfroSun

Two graduates from the Addis Ababa Fine Arts School, Tesfu Assefa and Teferi Gizachew, are exhibiting their paintings. The exhibition will take place from March 7 through March 14 at the Zion Art Center (19 21 31). Entrance free.

Children

The Goethe Institut and GTZ are organizing a children's festival, including a photo exhibition, poetry reading, games and a screening of the film "Die Welt der Marchen". The festival will take place on Saturday 15 March from 3 p.m. at the Goethe Institut (52 28 88).

Films

The Hilton Hotel is organizing an Oscar Nomination Film festival throughout March. **THIS WEEK:** **The Banger Sisters** on Tuesday March 11 at 7 p.m. A comedy by Bob Dolman starring Goldie Hawn, Susan Sarandon, and Geoffrey Rush. **About a Boy**, on Thursday 13 March at 7 p.m. A comedy by Chris and Paul Weitz, starring Hugh Grant.

Texas Rangers at the Ambassador until March 6 at 16.30 and 18.30. James Van Der Beek, Dylan McDermott, Ashton Kutcher in an adventurous Western directed by Steve Miner.

The Yards at the Empire until March 6, at 16.30 and 18.30. Drama movie James Gray by starring Mark Wahlberg, Joaquin Phoenix and James Caan.

Hide and Seek at Cinema Ethiopia until March 7 at 9.30, 15.15, 18.30 and 20.00.

ECA Now

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