

**PROJECT REPORT (NARRATIVE)**  
**ON**  
**POST BEIJING + 10 REVIEW ACTIVITIES**

**SUBMITTED TO**

**GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN**

**BY**

**COALITION OF EASTERN NGOs (CENGOS) NIGERIA**

**REPORT PERIOD:        SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER, 2005**

**PREPARED BY:**

**OBY NWANKWO -        REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

**EDWIN USANG -        Ag. PROGRAM OFFICER**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
1.0 Introduction	
2.0 Objectives of the project	
3.0 Project activities	
4.0 Methodology	
5.0 Regional workshop report	
5.1 Opening session	
5.2 1 <sup>st</sup> Business session	
5.3 2 <sup>nd</sup> Business session	
5.4 Day two Paper presentation	
5.5 Comments and questions	
5.6 Group work	
5.7 Communiqué at the end of regional workshop	
6.0 Report of South West Zonal workshop	
6.1 Group work report on defining critical areas of concern	
6.2 Comments, questions and insight	
6.3 Communiqué at the end of the South West Zonal workshop	
7.0 Summary Report of the Round-table discussion during the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nigeria Social Forum in Lagos	

8.0 Summary Report of States Chapters (step-down) workshop  
in the South-East and South-South

8.1 Anambra State report

8.2 Enugu State report

8.3 Abia State report

8.4 Cross River State report

8.5 Imo State report

8.6 Rivers State report

8.7 Bayelsa State report

8.8 Ebonyi State report

8.9 Akwa Ibom State report

9.0 Achievements/results

10.0 Challenges and lessons learnt

11.0 Conclusion and recommendations

Annexures

# REPORT OF THE POST BEIJING+10 REVIEW ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE COALITION OF EASTERN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (CENGOs) NIGERIA, BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2005, SUBMITTED TO GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION:

This is the full narrative report of the CENGOs Nigeria on the project: **“Post Beijing] + 10 Conference – A review and appraisal of major events and resolutions at the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the status of Women”**. It is a women’s rights/empowerment project implemented by CENGOs, with support from the Global Fund for Women in 2005 project year.

Between February 28 to March 11, 2005 the Beijing + 10 Review Conference was held at the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York, and CENGOs participated in the events. It indeed sent six members, representing six states of the federation, to the New York Conference with support from the Global Fund for Women.

In order to replicate the gains made by our participants at the Conference for the benefit of other women and men who could not attend the Review Meeting, CENGOs Nigeria decided to implement a Post Beijing + 10 Review Project across the country. A grant of \$30,000, (Grant number 05-27835R, was secured from the Global Fund for Women in August, 2005 for towards the implementation of the project.

The Project covered a period of six months, that is September, 2005 to February, 2006. Three Capacity Building Workshops were held in (i) Enugu, for South-East and South-South geo-political zones; (ii) Lagos, for South-West and (iii) Jos, for North Central Zones, respectively. Step-down workshops took place in the nine states comprising the South-East and South-South geo-political Zones of Nigeria. On the whole, the project had covered twenty-two states of the Federation including Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory and Lagos, the economic nerve center of Nigeria.

The Financial Expenditure is also reported in details and attached to this narrative. Each of the nine states step-down workshop report also include detailed financial expenditure with a summary of the overall expenditure included in the main report.

## **2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT**

The project objectives are as follows:

- i. To carry out briefing sessions and disseminate the outcomes or resolutions of the Beijing + 10 Conference.
- ii. To implement a strategy for the realization of Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in Nigerian Institutions.
- iii. To conduct civic education on women's rights initiatives in several states.

## **3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES.**

In order to successfully achieve the objectives of the project, the organisation lined up the following activities, which were fully implemented accordingly:

- (i) A two-day capacity Building Workshop for members of CENGOS in the nine states and members of the Coordinating Committee of the Organization was organized from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005. Three participants nominated from each of the branches participated at the workshop. Resource persons were drawn from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), CENGOS delegates to the Post Beijing Conference and also from amongst the leadership of CENGOS.
- (ii) Throughout the month of October, 2005 CENGOS organized step-down workshops/civic education in the nine states capitals of the South-East and South-South geopolitical zones, that is, Awka in Anambra State; Enugu in Enugu State; Abakaliki in Ebonyi State; Owerri in Imo State; Aba in Abia State; Uyo in Akwa Ibom State; Calabar in Cross River State; Port Harcourt in Rivers State, as well as Yenagoa in Bayelsa State.
- (iii) In November 2005, two activities were organized in Lagos, South-West of Nigeria, and these are:

- (a) CENGOs Nigeria, women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and Gender and Constitution Reform Network (GECORN) Jointly organized a Roundtable Discussion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nigeria Social Forum held in Lagos from Nov. 14-18, 2005. The Themes of the Roundtable are: “The Beijing Platform for Action – The way forward for Nigeria” and “Strategies for the Domestication of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa”. This forum attracted well over 2,000 participants drawn from various groups – grassroots movements, women’s associations, Youth organizations, Human Rights activists, CBOs, FBOs, the Academia, the Media and Partners who, despite their tight schedules, found time to share their knowledge, experiences and challenges at the forum.
- (b) The other activity organized by CENGOs in the month of November, 2005 was a Zonal Capacity Building Workshop for NGOs/CBOs and FBOs from the six states of the South Western geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, held from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.
- (iv) The last activity organized under this project was another zonal workshop for NGOs/CBOs/ FBOs for the six states of the North Central Zone of Nigeria including Abuja (Federal Capital Territory), from December 4-6, 2005.
- (v) Other project activities include documentation of all activities and media briefing to publicize the Post Beijing +10 Review through the electronic and print media.

#### **4.0 PROJECT METHODOLOGY**

The following approaches/methodology were employed in implementing the activities and conducting evaluation of all the activities undertaken in this project.

#### **4.1 QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN AND ADMINISTRATION:**

This was a major instrument used for the evaluation of the CENGOS project. The structured questionnaire are designed in line with the specific objectives of the project.

They were administered to all participants at the workshops and all completed questionnaires were collated at the end of the workshop(s) and analyzed.

#### **4.2 PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

**Resource persons presented papers on the different thematic issues using a projector and flip chart. They were all interactive sessions during which contributions were made by participants. The delegates to the Post Beijing +10 meeting briefed participants on their personal experiences at the conference.**

#### **4.3 GROUP WORK AND PRESENTATION:**

At the various levels of the project activities, the method of group working was adopted; participants were divided into groups and each responded to a group of questions that were designed to highlight peculiar problems and issues in each of the geopolitical zones. In Nigeria, each zone has its own peculiarities; while the southern part is predominantly Christian, the northern zones are predominantly muslim. The culture, tradition and customs differ along the line of the zones also. It was therefore necessary to identify the issues by the people themselves. There were plenary sessions during which each group presented a report of their group work on flip chart and other participants made comments and inputs.

#### **4.3 QUESTIONS AND ANSWER SESSION:**

This methodology is a feedback process for all participants on project implementation. Responses for questions were provided by knowledgeable participants and the resource persons, and these were collated and used for evaluation.

#### **4.4 REPORTING:**

Data and results obtained from each of the project activities were analyzed, interpreted and reported. The report is documented by word processing and reproduced for submission to development partners and for circulation to all branch members.

#### **4.5 PRODUCTION OF IEC MATERIALS:**

Information, Education and Communication materials were also produced and used for effective training at the workshops.

#### **5.0 REGIONAL WORKSHOP REPORT**

The two-day Capacity Building Regional Workshop was held on the 22nd and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2005 at Dannic Hotels, New Haven, Enugu Nigeria from 9.00am daily. However, participants from outside Enugu State arrived on Wednesday, 21st September, 2005, and were lodged at the hotel. On Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup>, the workshop was divided into three sessions – Opening Session, First Business Session and Second Business Session, while on the second day (23<sup>rd</sup>), we had two Business Sessions after which a Communique was issued before closing.

#### **5.1 DAY ONE – 22<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2005:**

##### **OPENING SESSION**

The Opening Session was chaired by Dr (Mrs.) Eleanor Nwadinobi, the President of Medical Women Association of Nigeria. The session took off at 9.30am with an opening prayer by Mary Tebepah, CENGOs Coordinator for Bayelsa State Chapter. Edwin Usang, Regional Treasurer/Coordinator, Cross River State Chapter, facilitated the session. After the opening prayer, the facilitator called for introduction by all participants.

The chairperson gave an opening speech, in which she welcomed all participants who have traveled from various States to Enugu for this very important workshop. Dr. Nwadinobi pointed out that though she was not opportune to attend the Beijing + 10 conference, she was however at the Beijing + 5 conference in the year 2000. She encouraged the participants to

always do their homework before any meeting/workshop so that they can be efficient.

In a welcome address by the Regional Coordinator, Oby Nwankwo (Mrs.) on behalf of CENGOS Nigeria and GFW, commended the Chairperson, Dr. Eleanor Nwadiobi; the Guest of Honour and Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Enugu State, represented by the Permanent Secretary, Chief Mrs. Adaora Ozobu; invited guests and all accredited participants, for finding time to attend the workshop. She informed the session about the formation and registration of CENGOS Nigeria and highlighted the mission, vision and objectives of the organisation.

The Coordinator further highlighted some of the projects executed by the organisation within the past five years to include: mobilizing towards enforcement of women's Human Rights using the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Tribunal on violations of Human Rights in Nigeria. She informed them that CENGOS holds its AGM annually and uses the forum to organize training for its members. She said that there has been training on Monitoring and Evaluation, Project Management, Women's Rights, CEDAW, Conflict Resolution etc.

In an address by the Guest of Honour, the Women Affairs Commissioner was quite elated that Enugu was chosen to host the workshop. The Commissioner, who was a participant at the Beijing + 10 Conference in New York, stated that her Ministry had also organized a step-down workshop for women in Enugu State and pledged her Ministry's readiness to collaborate with CENGOS in achieving the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action.

## **5.2 FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

### **5.2.1 LESSONS LEARNT FROM BEIJING + 10 REVIEW MEETING BY CENGOS DELEGATES.**

Each member of CENGOS who participated at the New York Conference was given about 5 minutes to share their experiences at the conference for the benefit of others who could not make it to New York.

Lady Claribel Okpara: She is the Regional Secretary and Coordinator, Imo State Chapter. In her brief presentation, Lady Okpara said that the Conference afforded her the opportunity of meeting with different people all over the world. She pointed out that she was able to attend most of the sessions during the conference and that she realized that men were also interested in the affairs of women, so much so that they were represented in the conference. They decided to partner with women to fight their cause. Again, she came to the realization that the problems of women are similar everywhere. Some of the problems discussed were worse than the ones encountered in Nigeria e.g. the nation of India which is embedded with religious problems, lack of awareness, negative attitude of the government towards women's problems etc. She pointed out the need for awareness to be created amongst women.

Mrs. Bernadette Bekomson – A participant from Cross River State Chapter at the New York Conference reported that an orientation course, mainly on code of Conduct, was given to them who were visiting UN in New York for the first time. Mrs. Bekomson said that she participated in a number of side events at the conference which included a workshop organized by UNIFEM on Women Empowerment at the grassroots covering such issues as Gender mainstreaming, and Affirmative Action. She identified some of the impediments militating against women's empowerment to include the lack of political will on the part of governments in the third world countries to institute the legal framework to address women issues.

Mrs. Bekomson also reported that she participated in a session on Tsunami disaster, organized by UNESCO, as well as sessions by Ford Foundation and WILDAF. She took part in a book launch on developing the powers of women as well as participated in a workshop on advocacy for women's political participation. In her submission, she encouraged women to have a mind of

entrepreneurship to create partnerships and to resist fear and get involved in politics.

Ms. Emem Okon – CENGOs member from Rivers State Chapter was also a participant at the New York Conference. She reported that Security Council Resolution (SCR 1325) about women’s participation in conflict resolution was discussed at one of the side events. On women’s participation in politics, she cited the encouraging example of Rwanda where representation is about 49%. She emphasized the need for a pre-conference meeting where participants can be enlightened on how to participate effectively. She participated in an organized demonstration in front of the UN building known as the White Ribbon Campaign, which is a campaign against gender-based violence. She pointed out that the general feeling amongst women is the fact that government lacks the political will to push women’s issues forward.

Ms. Margaret Nwagbo – A participant from Anambra State Chapter said that the Nigerian participants were able to register for the UN Conference through Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF). She was excited at the fact that other women from different nations were passionately involved in the work to move the cause of women forward. She expressed disappointment at the contribution of the Vice President’s wife, Mrs. Titi Atiku Abubakar at one of the side events that the issue of women trafficking is as a result of greed. She reported that this view was countered by one of the participants who argued that it was more of poverty than the former. She said that they brainstormed, networked and enjoyed themselves.

Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Egbue – Another participant from Anambra State Chapter, appreciated WILDAF and Global Fund for Women for facilitating their participation at the Beijing + 10 Conference. She said that the conference gave them the opportunity to actually see the happenings around women, pointing out the need for NGOs to sensitize government a lot more. She said that it seems to her that the government lacks a full force of realization of the cause of women, realizing that there cannot be

progress without the participation of women. She was glad that a Nigerian was at the helm of affairs during the conference.

### **5.2.2 PAPER PRESENTATION - Beijing + 10 Review – Global Reports, by Oby Nwankwo.**

Oby Nwankwo facilitated the discussion on the outcome documents on the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The presentation centred on the following issues:

The Declaration of the CSW, which among another points, is a reaffirmation of the Beijing Declaration and PFA adopted at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Women and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly. The Declaration emphasized that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and PFA is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and stresses the need to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in the high-level plenary meeting on the review of the Millennium Declaration.

On Resolution 49/1, which is about women, the girl – child and HIV/AIDS, she called for the development of HIV/AIDS programmes and policies, including training of personnel.

Resolution 49/2 – Eliminating demand for trafficked women and girls in all forms of exploitations calls on Government to take all appropriate measures to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation and especially, to criminalize trafficking in persons. CSOs are to be fully involved in activities and programs to realize this resolution, through awareness creation.

Resolution 49/3 – Advisability of the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women. This is to be considered at the fiftieth Session of the UN CSW.

Resolution 49/4 – Mainstreaming of gender perspective into all national policies and programs. The resolution stresses that, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the BPFA and the outcome documents of the 23<sup>rd</sup> special session of the General Assembly and to enhance the work for

the advancement of women at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels, governments, the UN system and all other relevant organisations should strengthen their efforts to promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective, inter alia, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all policies and programs.

Resolution 49/5 – Integrating a gender perspective in post – disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction effort, including in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster

Resolution 49/6 – Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Resolution 49/7 – Indigenous Women: beyond the ten-year review of the Beijing Declaration and PFA.

Resolution 49/8 – Economic Advancement for Women. On this, the facilitator said that member states of the UN are called upon to design and revise laws to ensure that women are accorded full and equal rights to own land and other property, including through inheritance, and to undertake administrative reforms and other necessary measures to give women the right to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information.

Discussing the Report further, the facilitator highlighted the following issues;

- (i) A summary submitted by the chairpersons of the high-level Roundtable on “Innovations in institutional arrangements for promoting gender equality at the national level”.
- (ii) Summary submitted by the moderator of the panel discussion on synergies between national-level implementation of the Beijing Declaration and PFA and CEDAW. The summary noted that discriminatory laws were still in place in many countries, and that violence against women, a fundamental human rights violation, remained alarmingly prevalent, and the increasing infection rates of women with HIV was indicative of the effects of gender-based discrimination .

- (iii) Panel discussion on the presentation of the review and appraisal processes at the regional level achievements, gaps and challenges.
- (iv) Panel discussion on remaining challenges in relation to statistics and indicators, building on the discussion at the 48<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission in 2004.
- (v) Summary submitted by the panel discussion on “Integration of gender perspectives in macroeconomics”

Concluding her presentation, and as a way forward, Oby Nwankwo urged NGOs in the South-East and South-South geopolitical zones to identify critical areas of concern for the region, suggesting that recommendations made in her presentation would serve as a guide.

### **5.2.3 COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE GLOBAL REPORTS**

Comment: “I am thinking that we should strengthen our relationship with government so that our efforts will not be in vain and also the place of the police in curbing trafficking should be emphasized”.

Comment: Whether we want to believe it or not, parents are not living up to expectation in terms of bringing up their children – Cordelia Ichie

Comment: There is a need for us to know the relationship between trafficking and house-help/domestic servants problems. NGOs should look into that issue because there is an aspect of trafficking in the way children are moved from place to place and subjected to maltreatment and torture in the name of domestic service.

Comment: If NAFDAC is headed by a dynamic woman like Dora Akunyili, it shows that women are capable of performing well if put in positions of power and decision making.

Comment: When we begin to address the consequences of trafficking and highlight or create awareness of them, it will help in curbing it.

Comment: Gender mainstreaming is the central issue we are considering here. It should be considered in every policy and decision of the government. But there is no capacity even in government itself to mainstream gender in its policies. There is need for training in this area.

Comment: Generally, on inheritance issues, women are not allowed a right of inheritance in most of the South East and South-South geo-political zones of Nigeria. CENGOS should look into this problem.

### **5.3 2<sup>ND</sup> BUSINESS SESSION**

The Resource Person at this session was Ms. Funmi Balogun-Alexander, the National Program Officer, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Nigeria. The session started at 3.15 p.m soon after the lunch break with Ms Margaret Nwagbo as chairperson while Edwin Usang moderated.

#### **5.3.1 SESSION OBJECTIVES**

To understand the difference between gender and sex.

To understand how these differences are maintained by culture, religion, patriarchy.

To understand how social construct of gender results in differential access to opportunities and resources for women, men, girls and boys.

Sex is defined as biological attributes of men and women and the attributes are universal and generally permanent. For example only men have beard and produce sperm while women give birth and breastfeed.

On the other hand gender is socially constructed roles assigned to men and women. The roles are not universal but socially constructed. The roles are learned and may vary between cultures and people and may change overtime. In essence gender roles are not biological in that they are not natural. They are often maintained by a culture of patriarchy that sees woman as inferior to men, and whose roles are supposed to complement that of men. These roles are maintained by institutions like marriage, religion, education, the mass media and given to be ordained by higher being.

Gender mainstreaming is a strategy for addressing gender inequality. It is intended to integrate gender considerations and perspectives into mainstream policy formulation, planning, programming and resource allocation at macro and sector levels. Gender mainstreaming transforms planning approach from a gender neutral to gender sensitive position.

#### **53.2 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND DISCUSSIONS**

Comment – trafficking has to do with economic value in families. The women are used to hire the girls to be trafficked. Women should not allow themselves to be used.

Comment – spiritual menopause is making it impossible to nip the issue on the bud. Women should not allow themselves to be used.

Comment – with reference to the issue of trafficking being referred to only women, men are also involved. There is equally male prostitution.

Comment – there is a need for our women to be educated on family planning methods while the adverse effect of trafficking is being talked about. Every woman should not accept to be inferior. Women should get more ambitious. Do not be satisfied with just being somebody's wife.

Comment – equality should be emphasized

Question – how can the modern woman change the roles?

Response by Funmi – it is all about expectation. Do not overburden the men. Do not reduce the expectation when it comes to the female gender. It is not just enough to criticize these things as development planners. Blaming people will not get us anywhere, we need to discuss these issues. There is a focus on women. When there are issues of inequalities, the gap must be bridged.

Question – where do we draw the line in trafficking?

Answer - It is now common that young women are being harassed at the airports, though their reasons for traveling may be genuine. It has become a gender issue though there is a need for them not to be trafficked, we should be careful not to penalize anybody that is genuine. Therefore every Nigerian woman should not be treated as a prostitute. It is discriminatory. On the issue of a change in the stereotype roles, we have to bring that about in our own ways. Every woman must be involved.

### **5.3.3 PAPER PRESENTATION – BEIJING + 10 REVIEW: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL OUTCOMES – Ms. Funmi Balogun-Alexander**

The context of her presentation was that since Beijing Conference in 1995, that various commitments have been made to equality, equity and women's empowerment, including the MDGs. That the Beijing + 10 review process coincides with the MDG + 5 and ICPD + 10 review, offering an opportunity for greater coherence and focus on gender equality, equity and the empowerment of women in all areas. The Beijing + 10 review process is about accountability for the delivery on existing commitments and concrete steps forward to ensure gender equality, equity and women's empowerment, in all areas.

The paper highlighted the progress so far made in Africa since the decade following Beijing Conference, which include;

- (i) The creation of the African Union - committed to the principle of gender equality and equity because the AU Commission was formed on a 50/50 gender parity basis.
- (ii) The adoption of the African charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of women in Africa, which had recently been ratified by Nigeria.
- (iii) A solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa by African Heads of State, which obliges states to respect normative standards on women's human rights, was adopted in 2004.
- (iv) The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), adopted by the United States of America, is also expected to enhance women's human rights through the social development indicators included in its African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).
- (v) A number of African countries have aligned their national legislations to the provisions of CEDAW, and for instance, in Nigeria there is an on-going effort by the National Assembly to domesticate CEDAW.

### **Regional Challenges:**

In spite of progress made in Africa as highlighted above, and in spite of African women's mobilization, advocacy and increased representation in governance, normative gains are yet to be noticed in women's lives. The following challenges are identified:

- (a) African women, especially those living in rural communities and those with disabilities, still face daunting challenges. Women's access to productive resources, including land, energy, education and training and adequately remunerated employment, is limited and has contributed to the situation wherein more African women live in absolute and relative poverty today than 10 years ago.
- (b) The cumulative effects of HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, food insecurity, low economic productivity, low levels of education and the upsurge of sexual violence have left African women and girls vulnerable.

- (c) 10 years after Beijing Conference, governments have recognized that passing laws and policies alone does not bring about substantial gender equality and equity or respect for women's human rights.

Nigeria Review after 10 years: Achievements and challenges

- Upgrading of the then National Commission for Women to a full-fledged Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
- Adoption of National Policy on Women
- Promulgation of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement Administration, Act, 2003.
- Existence of Laws prohibiting traditional practices in various states
- Adoption of the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) Policy.
- Establishment of National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
- Approval of National Sexuality Curriculum.

#### **5.3.4 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Question – what do you mean by approval of national sexuality curriculum?

Answer- The Federal Government recently approved the teaching of sexuality education in secondary schools in the country. Teachers have been trained to give this education but Many people do not approve of it e.g. the Catholic Church.

Comment – I do not think that it is right to be against it. I do not believe that people would deviate from the positive angle to the negative angle.

Comment – a proper campaign should be done to make people understand it better.

#### **5.3.5 THE 12 CRITICAL AREAS OF THE BPFA IN THE SUB-REGION:**

- (i) **Women and Poverty**

Research has shown that while the number of people living in poverty dropped in all developing regions in the world between 1990 and 2000, it actually rose, in African, by over 82 million. Over 70% of Africa women constitute the majority of both urban and rural poor, in some countries. In order to address the issues of women and poverty, value must be given to women's domestic work and budgeting must reflect gender equality. Moreso, macroeconomic reforms to be initiated that must engender beyond micro-credit for women, and generally women, especially the poor, should be integrated into planning programs.

(ii) **Education and Training for Women**

Reports indicate that African women have the highest illiteracy rates in the world and that gender gaps are pronounced in Science, mathematics, and computer sciences. Indeed, Africa still has the lowest number of children in schools, and enrolment of girls is lower and the drop-out rate is higher among girls than boys. This critical issue can be redressed as follows:

Curriculum review to remove gender stereotypes and promote positive images of women.

Special training/schools for girls in sciences.

Re-training of teachers/review of policies on pregnant school girls.

Political will to implement UBE (in Nigeria)

(iii) **Women and health**

From available statistics, about 64% of births are regarded as 'high risk', that is, the mothers are either too young or too old, and the birth are too close together, in some instances, less than 24 months apart. Women are victims of harmful traditional practices. Poverty, poor referral system and lack of access to primary health cares also constitute health problems for women. Solution to these issues, lies on advocacy on free maternity, accessible sexual and reproductive information for women and increased funding for PHCs programs.

(iv) **Women in power and decision making**

Equal participation of both women and men in decision-making is critical to represent a balanced composition of the society and to strengthen democracy. In spite of the above, access of women to decision-making is still very poor, especially in Africa, and particularly in Nigeria where political appointments are still limited to social issues for women.

Hence, in order to tackle this critical issue, the 30% AA endorsed by the BPFSA should be made constitutional. Moreover, political institutions must give practical support to local women to contest elections.

(v) **Women and the media**

The workshop noted that in spite of accelerated development in information and communication technology (ICT), women have not made much progress in this area of concern. Gender stereotypes still dominate the media, but generally, women's access to the media – to read and share their experiences – is limited. There should be training of media on stereotypes while women should be supported for the establishment of media outlets, especially radio. Incorporating gender issues into Nigeria home video industry (Nollywood).

(vi) **Human Rights of Women**

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings including women. For instance, the Nigerian Constitution recognizes men and women equally and prohibits discrimination between them. However, most international laws (such as CEDAW) are yet to be domesticated in most African countries, including Nigeria. In most African Societies, harmful traditional practices, including widowhood rites and denial of inheritance, are still the order of the day. We also have religious fundamentalism (Sharia in Nigeria) with harsher laws/punishment for women. Generally, it is recommended that there should be legal literacy for women and girls.

(vii) **Women in conflict and peace building**

Peace is inseparable both from equality between the sexes and development. Everywhere in the world, especially in Africa, women remain most affected by conflict and their voices not represented in peace building. In the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, women are not part of Resource control agitation and their leadership in keeping households during conflict not recognized. Possible solution to this concern is our support for women to demand fair representation at the community levels on peace-building initiative

(viii) **Women and environment**

Women have a fundamental role to play in the way in which natural resources are utilized, reproduced and managed in a sustainable manner. Unfortunately, voices of women are not integrated into the management of the environment. It was resolved that women should play a more pro-active role in environmental and resource management, especially the Niger Delta areas of Nigeria.

(xi) **The girl child**

The situation of the girl child continues to be a matter of concern in the African sub-region. Cases of forced and early marriage, discriminatory socio-cultural practices and sexual violence against the girl child continue to persist. The girl child also experiences lack of access to technical and science educational opportunities and lack of value. NGOs are therefore encouraged to carry out advocacy activities with parents on putting value on the girl-child.

(x) **HIV/AIDS**

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has been recognized as a problem, which essentially affects human potential, most especially women, who represent the most vulnerable sector of society. This vulnerability is linked on the one hand to their social and legal status and on the other, to their physiological make-up. There is an unequal sexual relationship between men and women because women are usually disadvantaged in

terms of negotiating safer sex. Moreso, there is no protection for women, especially the type they can control, e.g. female condom.

(xi) **Partnering with men**

Men are encouraged to forgo some of the things they have been socialized with. They should be made to understand that it does not make them less a man if a woman assumed some of the roles they have been made to perform.

**DAY TWO – 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2005**

**5.4 PAPER PRESENTATION – DEVELOPING RESULTS ORIENTED WORK-PLANS BY FUNMI BALOGUN-ALEXANDER (UNIFEM)**

**5.4.1** 1<sup>st</sup> conceptualizing the issue and what needs to be done –

What are we trying to achieve?

Why is it important?

How will we do it?

**5.4.2 SITUATION ANALYSIS**

- To describe the situation that leads to the proposed program
- Who is being affected? How?
- What are other actors doing? Where are the gaps?

Formulation has to be on a thorough grasp of context, strong gender analysis and use of data for monitoring evaluation

**5.4.3 JUSTIFICATION – WHY IS THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM NEEDED?**

- Indication of why it is necessary to have a program/project and then respond to the situational analysis
- To show how the proposed program will support the priorities of the National Government, e.g. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, to strengthen the empowerment of women.
- To show how the program respond to outcomes and goals of the BPFA, CEDAW and other frameworks

#### **5.4.4 FORMULATING A LONG TERM GOAL**

- If all goes as planned, what is the long-term purpose to which this program/project will contribute?
- It is important that this is visionary and looks into the future and that it is aligned with the situation analysis

#### **5.4.5 IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES**

- What will the particular program/project you are formulating be directly achieving?
- Use SMART (i.e. specific, measurable, achievable, result-oriented, and time-bound) analysis for immediate objectives and, ideally, should not be more than 3.

#### **5.4.6 STRATEGIES**

- Provides insights into your thinking about what methods/ strategies will be used, how they will be applied and why they are relevant in this program. Strategies include capacity building, advocacy, brokering of resources, etc.
- To clarify any criteria that are being applied for the proposed program, e.g. beneficiaries, partners, specific states in which the program will take place, etc.
- What possible 'risks' should be taken into account?

#### **5.4.7 ACTIVITIES**

- What will the program actually do to achieve the immediate objectives earlier set?
- It is a description of all activities to be done for each immediate objective that will contribute to the overall development goal.

#### **5.4.8 DEFINING RESULTS**

- What will change as a result of this initiative?
- Should describe specific results that program/project aims to achieve.
- Note that the result is not that a workshop was organized!
- Result: Change that occurs as a consequence of an activity

#### **5.4.9 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN**

- The results that are defined, how would you monitor them?
- What lessons would be learned and would these lessons be documented for future use/planning?

#### **5.4.10 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of all those who are taking responsibility for different aspects of the program, including overall supervision, logistics, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, etc.



**5.4.11 RESULT – ORIENTED WORK PLAN**

<b>Issues</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Time frame</b>

<b>Means of Verification</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Budget</b>		





## SAMPLE WORK PLAN

	Activity	MONTHS/WEEKS												By whom	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
1.	Survey and identification of needs and existing NGOss and local groups in the proposed programme area. Investigation of the nature and number of existing community based organizations/groups. Preliminary Visits	X													Project team led by Regional Coordinator
2.	Dialogue with these groups to explain the aim of the project and to involve them in the planning and design, so that the content of the training is based on real needs of the participating communities.	X	X												Project team led by Regional Coordinator
3.	Setting up of communities to work in the project with CENGOs	X	X												Regional Coordinator and Program Officer
4.	Production of IEC materials	X													Publicity Committee
5.	Outreach Awareness raising rally on: human rights, democracy, civic responsibility, leadership governance, gender etc.		X												Project team led by the Program Officer
6.	Training of Local Civic/constituency forum facilitators (a 3 days training)		X												Project team and external resource persons
7.	People's forum formation and submission of work/forum meeting schedule by Local civic/constituency forum facilitators		X												Civic educators
8.	Forum meetings commerce and last 7 WEEKS				X	X	X	X	X	X	X				Civic Team supervised by the Program Officer
9.	Distribution of IEC Materials	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Project team, Publicity Committee
10.	Monitoring and Evaluation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Project Officer, Field Officers
11.	Reports/documentation					X	X					X	X		Project team led by Regional Coordinator
12.	Wrap up/sustainability initiatives					X	X					X	X		Project team, Committee etc.

## **5.5 GROUP WORK**

**Facilitator - Edwin Usang (Ag. Program Officer)**

### **5.5.1 MAIN ISSUES (Thematic Area)**

1. Poverty and the girl-child
2. Education/training and conflict/peace building
3. Health and HIV/AIDS
4. Governance, power and decision making
5. Human Rights of women/trafficking
6. Environment and media
7. Partnership with men (inclusive in each of the six groups)

### **5.5.2 GUIDELINES FOR GROUP WORK**

1. Identify main issues (based on the different thematic areas) with particular reference to the South-East and South-South States of Nigeria as they pertain to women.
2. Identify concrete strategies and activities to address the issues
3. Identify different partners that will be responsible for the different components of the strategies and activities.
4. Develop monitoring indicators – how will people know that we are achieving what we set out to achieve?
5. Design work-plan for implementation.

### **5.5.3 PLENARY - REPORT BACK: GROUP WORK PRESENTATION**

#### **i Group 1 Report**

Thematic Area: Poverty and Girl-child

PovertyPoverty is a state of want –

#### **Poverty**

Identified issues

Illiteracy / lack of education

Poor income

Culture / discriminatory practices  
Lack of skills / capacity building  
Lack of information  
Lack of access to credit facilities

#### Health – Identified Issues

Lack of basic social services/infrastructure  
Lack of access to information  
Gender inequality

#### Girl child – Identified Issues

Oppressive Cultural practices  
Illiteracy/lack of education  
Lack of skills /capacity building  
Poor political involvement  
Early marriage  
Reproductive health issues – HIV/AIDS  
Lack of functional health facilities  
Lack of access to law and justice  
Male chauvinism  
(Economic) discriminatory practices  
gender inequality  
poverty

#### Identified concrete strategies/activities to address the issues

#### To identify needs – Baseline survey

##### Objectives

To increase the ability of people to act on their own behalf, create a strong voice to ensure their views are heard and taken into account and given the opportunity to contribute.

To Create more access to resources

## Strategy

Promote gender equality and girl-child empowerment

Mainstreaming gender into state and local government to create a political environment for people

To reduce poverty and ignorance among people through information sharing and economic empowerment

To strengthen peoples management of resources through capacity building – trainings.

## Strategy 1 (Activities)

Promote gender equality and peoples' empowerment

1. Conduct a survey and gender analysis of positions of leadership and management in the southeast and south-south (N500, 000.00)
2. To review and design policies and plans to meet people's needs (N500, 000)
3. Raise gender advocates in the governments, CSOs, religious and traditional leaders through sensitization workshops
4. Advocacy visits/sensitisation workshops for political party executives, legislators to promote Affirmative Action for increased women's participation in governance and on people's education.
5. Conduct sensitization workshops on gender relations, democracy and good governance in communities in 17 LGA

## Partners

Activity 1 – relevant NGOs and Ministry of women affairs and Ministries of education, and justice

Activity 2 – CSOs, Ministry of justice, State Assemblies and Local Government Legislature.

Activity 3 – CSOs and media

Activity 4 – CSOs, allies and the media

Activity 5 – CSOs and Ministry of women affairs.

## Indicators

Act 1: Report of survey and analysis produced and published

Act 2: Policies and plans produced

Act 3: 3 sets of workshops organized for 150 persons to raise gender awareness

Act 4: 3 advocacy visits and 3 sensitization workshops organized for political party executives and 90 members of the state and local legislatures

Act 5: Sensitization workshop / rallies conducted in 120 communities for age-grades, CBOs, opinion leaders, town union executives, female and male groups.

Time Frame – 2 years long term.

#### Constraints

Cultural inhibitions

Political instability

Male resistance

Violence

ii Group 2 report?

iii Group 3 report?

iv Group 4 report?

v Group 5 report?

vi Group 6 report?

#### **5.5.4 QUESTIONS COMMENTS AND INSIGHTS**

Question – How do we manage maternal care?

Answer – It should be done by the State. The family will pay to support the State. The issue of maternity is not just for the husband and wife but also for the state.

Comment – free maternity will increase the number of children because there is no responsibility on the family.

Comment by Funmi – people who pay for maternity are people who have money. Most people do have their children at home and that is why the infant mortality rate is on the increase.

Comment – the reason why men place women under them is so as to avoid insults from the women, especially where she contributes to the upkeep of the household. Thus a man feels more comfortable if a woman understands her role as a woman.

Response by Funmi – the problem is more of socialisation than biological. Men should learn to let go. We need peace in every partnership. We should not focus on the women folk alone. Men should be focused on also.

Questions

What is the difference between output and outcome?

Answer – output leads to outcome. Outcome must show what change that has occurred as a result of the output.

In some of the proposals already written, some would say indicators, is it right to use that word?

Answer - you must show the knowledge they have gotten. Those are your indicators i.e. your evidence. Indicators are supposed to show your results. They show that change has occurred.

**5.7 COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON POST BEIJING + 10 REVIEW ORGANISED BY THE COALITION OF EASTERN NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (CENGOS) WITH SUPPORT FROM GLOBAL FUND FOR WOMEN HELD AT DANNIC HOTELS, ENUGU NIGERIA, FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2005.**

The coalition of Eastern NGOs (CENGOS), an umbrella organisation for NGOs in the Old Eastern Region of Nigeria, organised a two-day Capacity Building Workshop on Post Beijing + 10 Review Activities for leaders of NGOs in the nine States branches from September 22-23, 2005. The Workshop was supported by the Global Fund for Women.

The main focus of the workshop featured presentations on the following areas:

1. Lessons learnt from Beijing + 10 Review Conference by CENGOS participants at the New York Meeting, including side events
2. Global Reports on the Review Meeting.
3. Africa, Regional and National outcomes of the Beijing + 10 Review.
4. Defining critical areas of concern for Nigeria, and concrete strategies and work plan for implementation, especially in South East Nigeria.
5. Developing results oriented work-plan and the way forward, including this communiqué.

**The workshop, which also featured presentations, group work (discussions), plenary sessions, and report back, endorsed the following resolutions:**

- i. That the Federal Government of Nigeria should provide financial assistance to Civil Society Organisations to enable them attend United Nations Meetings.
- ii. That male gender be actively involved in the fight against gender discrimination and violence.
- iii. That despite Nigeria's participation at the 1995 Beijing Conference, its endorsement of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action, female representation at both appointive and elective positions at the three tiers of government is under the 30% Affirmative Action recommendation in BPFA.
- iv. That the Federal and State Governments should integrate gender perspectives at the high level plenary meetings in the process of reviewing the MDGs and BPFA.

- v. That emphasis by both Governments and Civil Society Organisations on Human Trafficking, should focus more on the consequences in addition to the criminality of it.
- vi. That proper and adequate mechanisms be put in place to protect Nigerian Women who travel out of the country in order to carry out legitimate businesses, since there have been recent tendencies for local and international security agencies to interfere with and/or penalize these women as a fallout of anti-trafficking/prostitution initiative.
- vii. That governments should involve the Civil Society Organisations from the take-off of policy formulations and implementation.

Finally, the workshop resolved on the need to replicate the activities in the other geo-political zones of the country as well as step it down at the state level so that the larger populace can be educated on the outcome of the Beijing + 10 Review and the progress made by the UN Commission on the Status of Women towards women empowerment.

#### **Communique Committee**

-----  
 Edwin Usang – Chair  
**CENGOS, Cross River State Chapter**

-----  
 Nancy Oko-Onya  
**CENGOS, Ebonyi State Chapter**

-----  
 Dr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Egbue  
**CENGOS, Anambra State Chapter**

#### **6.0 REPORT OF SOUTH-WEST ZONAL WORKSHOP, IN LAGOS NIGERIA**

The post Beijing + 10 Review Activities for South West geo-political zone of Nigeria was held in Lagos Hilton Hotels, Ikeja Lagos, on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2005. Participants were drawn from NGOs/CBOs/FBOs which are based in Ondo, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Lagos and Kwara States.

The two-day activities was a capacity building workshop which was in line with the Regional Workshop held in Enugu between 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2005.

However, the two resource persons were Oby Nwankwo (Mrs.), the Regional Coordinator of CENGOS Nigeria and Josephine Effah-Chukwuma, the Executive Director of Project Alert (Nigeria), a Women's Rights NGO based in Lagos Nigeria. After the various paper presentations on day one and part of day two (i.e. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, November, 2005), participants were divided into four groups for the group work to define and analyze the critical areas of concern for the South-West geo-political Zone of Nigeria. Thereafter, we had a plenary where each group was given sometime to report back. There were contributions from the other participants.

## **6.1 GROUP WORK REPORT ON DEFINING CRITICAL AREAS OF CONCERN FOR THE SOUTH- WEST NIGERIA**

Before participants went into groups, there was a brainstorming session to list critical areas of concern for the South West. The groups were therefore asked to prioritise four issues out of the list and identify strategies to address them, including allocating responsibilities.

### **6.1.1 GROUP 1**

#### **ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY/HUNGER ACHIEVING UBE PROGRAM**

Lack of access to basic education

##### **Main Issues:**

##### **1. Poverty:**

Unemployment

Women in unsustainable Businesses

Scavenging for Food and Water

Living in Slums

Prostitution

Inability to educate their children leading to increased unemployed or idle youth

Cultural issues in the South West

Among the Yorubas, marriage is seen as a favour and the women tend to fend for their children

Polygamy also causes poverty

##### **2. Education**

Bad and dilapidated structures

Lack of learning materials for the children

Lack of commitment by teachers

##### **Objectives:**

To encourage cooperatives among the women at the community level.

**Concrete Strategies**

1. Education and sensitization of the women
2. Empowering the women to have sustainable businesses

**Activities**

1. Market rallies to sensitise the market women on the importance of the UBE for their children.
2. Organise business workshops to enhance their business skills and to link them up with micro-credit NGOs.
3. Community Development Efforts where the women will put their wares and talents together to form sustainable businesses.

**Partners/Allies**

1. Young Business and Professional Women Organisation (YBPW) partnering with UNIC to empower the women with funds to start business.
2. Partner with FBOs to reach the Pastors and Church leaders so that women can be reached
3. Trade associations

**Monitoring Indicators**

1. Increased number of women with sustainable businesses
2. Increased number of children in school;
3. Reduction in the rate of unemployment and idle Youths.

**Work Plan**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
Increase the number of women in sustainable businesses by December 2006	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify women in unsustainable businesses in the market, mosque, churches and communities</li> <li>2. Organise Market rallies, business workshops and community Development workshops.</li> <li>3. Form cooperatives and link to micro credit</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increased income</li> <li>2. Better quality of life</li> <li>3. Increased number of sustainable businesses run by women</li> <li>4. Reduction in unemployment</li> </ol>	More women in sustainable business	January – December 2006	Women	Women/Youth The society in general

	schemes					
Increase the number of children and youths that enroll in the Basic Education by 2006	1. Organise training, sensitization workshops and seminars on benefits of education. 2. Advocacy for increased funding in education sector.	More children in schools	Less number of idle children on the streets and cyber cafes	January to December 2006	Parents and children	The society at large.
Reduce the number of out of school children		More children in schools	Number of children registered in schools			

### Members of Group 1

1. Nkeiru Okoro
2. Oluwatomi Dosunmu
3. Prscilla
4. Gloria Okigbo
5. Ngban wa
6. Daniel okocha
7. Ahaoma Okoro
8. Bernadette Bekomson

### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mma questioned the possibility of carrying out the project within a period of 12 months

Response: Nkeiru responded that this is possible as a pilot project, as basic underground work have to be done.

Another member of the group believes that the time-frame is reasonable for the project. She also disagrees with Nkeiru that polygamy is not the cause of poverty.

Nkeiru in a response explained that polygamy encourages a larger family.

### 6.1.2 GROUP 2

#### Issues:

Gender Discrimination in politics  
Child Mortality

#### 1. Gender Discrimination in politics

#### Objectives

**To increase the number of women in the Houses of Assembly by 48%. 12% representation in the National Assembly by 2007; Current situation is 6%.**

**Strategies**

1. Social Advocacy
2. Enlightenment and education for women in public life
3. Legislative advocacy to Influence favourable legislation for women in politics
4. Research and Documentation

**Activities**

1. Rallies and Campaigns
2. Advocacy visits to opinion leaders at the grassroots and to legislators
3. Training/workshops
4. Lobbying of legislators

**Results**

1. Positive change in legislation
2. Women friendly political parties
3. More women in politics

**Indicators**

1. No of women in political position in 2007
2. Increased data on women in politics

**Time Frame**

December to December 2007

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies/Activities</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
To increase by 12% female representation in the House of Representatives by Year 2007	Research and Publication Advocacy Education Campaigns Empowerment Legislation Workshops, Seminars, Conferences	*Increase in political activities by women *Women friendly political parties *At least 48 women in the House of Reps *Gender - friendly legislation in place. *More women in Politics *Traditional	*No of women registering in political parties *No of women holding party offices *No of women in the House of Reps. No of traditional rulers endorsing women for political posts *Domestication of CEDAW *Actual compilation and production	December 2005 – December 2007

		and Religious Leaders endorsing women for political offices *Data on women in politics	of data on women in politics.	
--	--	---	-------------------------------	--

## 2. Child Mortality

### Objectives

1. To reduce mortality rate of children by 25% by year 2007
2. To provide access to proper healthcare facilities

### Strategy

1. Baseline study on child mortality rate and response of government
2. Enlightenment programmes for pregnant women on their hygiene and nutritional needs
3. Advocacy to relevant Government agencies to be responsive by providing drugs and necessary facilities
4. Service delivery
5. Networking

### Activities

1. Research and documentation
2. Training workshops for midwives in different wards, markets, villages and churches
3. Engage in immunization activities on the 5 Child killer diseases
4. Advocacy visits to heads of relevant government agencies
5. Collaborating with NGOs working on health

### Results

1. Better-educated and informed midwives
2. More humane and responsible doctors
3. Better discharge of responsibilities by government agencies especially at grassroots level
4. Well-equipped family planning clinics
5. Healthy expectant mothers

### Indicators

1. No of safe deliveries by midwives recorded
2. No of pregnant women participating in the enlightenment programmes
3. % Reduction in mortality rate of children
4. Increased responsiveness of relevant government agencies on issues of maternity
5. No of children immunized under the project

**Time Frame: December 2005 to December 2007**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
<p>*To reduce mortality rate of children by 25% by year 2007</p> <p>* To provide access to proper healthcare facilities</p>	<p>*Baseline study on child mortality rate and response of government</p> <p>*Enlightenment programmes for pregnant women on their hygiene and nutritional needs</p> <p>*Advocacy to relevant Government agencies to be responsive by providing drugs and necessary facilities</p> <p>*Service delivery</p> <p>*Networking</p>	<p>*Research and documentation</p> <p>*Training workshops for midwives in different wards, markets, villages and churches</p> <p>*Engage in immunization activities on the 5 Child killer diseases</p> <p>*Advocacy visits to heads of relevant government agencies</p> <p>*Collaborating with NGOs working on health</p>	<p>*Better-educated and informed midwives</p> <p>*More humane and responsible doctors</p> <p>*Better discharge of responsibilities by government agencies especially at grassroots level</p> <p>*Well-equipped family planning clinics</p> <p>*Healthy expectant mothers</p>	<p>*No of safe deliveries by midwives recorded</p> <p>*No of pregnant women participating in the enlightenment programmes</p> <p>*% Reduction in mortality rate of children</p> <p>*Increased responsiveness of relevant government agencies on issues of maternity</p> <p>*No of children immunized under the project</p>	<p>December 2005 to December 2007</p>

**List of Group 2 members**

1. Chief (Mrs.) Adenike Boboye - Chairperson
2. Mrs. Dupe Ajayi Gbadebo
3. Yetunde Oladeinde – Rapporteur
4. Nike Bakare
5. Kolawale Olukemi
6. Chief (Mrs.) Peju Daramola
7. Christabel Emeh
8. Okebalama Julian
  
9. Ja'afaru Adamu

**COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

Were other issues identified? The presenter responded that there was a need for specifics in order to be focused.

Oby advised that the language for phrasing indicators should be improved on by ensuring that statistics are built into it. That way you may be certain, whether you are making progress or not.

Oby and Mma expressed the opinion that the first indicators of government are far-fetched

Another participant pointed out that nothing was said about the six child-killer diseases and immunization

### **6.1.3 GROUP 3**

#### **Issues**

Maternal Health  
HIV/AIDS

#### **Goal**

To reduce maternal mortality rates in the SW of Nigeria

#### **Objectives**

1. To improve women's access to maternal health services
2. To increase access to emergency obstetrics care

#### **Strategies**

1. Baseline Study
2. Education
3. Advocacy to relevant government agencies to provide facilities

#### **Activities**

1. Health Education training for women of reproductive age (15 – 49 years)
2. Training for health personnel/Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)
3. Equipping primary and secondary care Centres to enable them offer both basic and comprehensive emergency obstetrics care service
4. Research and Documentation

#### **Results**

1. Safer deliveries
2. Improved referral systems
3. Three Primary Health care Centres per LGA to be adequately equipped to offer basic obstetric care services

#### **Indicators**

1. No of women trained
2. No of health personnel/TBAs trained
3. No of women that access the facilities
4. No of safe deliveries

#### **Targets**

1. Ministry of Health at all levels
2. Health care Providers

#### **Beneficiaries**

Women of reproductive age (15-49 years)

#### **Time Frame**

December 2005 – December 2007)

Goal	Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Results	Indicators	Time Frame
To reduce maternal mortality rates in the SW of Nigeria	*To improve women's access to maternal health services *To increase access to emergency obstetrics care	*Baseline Study *Education Advocacy to relevant government agencies to provide facilities	*Health Education training for women of reproductive age (15 – 49 years) *Training for health personnel/Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) *Equipping primary and secondary care Centres to enable them offer both basic and comprehensive emergency obstetrics care service *Research and Documentation	*Safer deliveries *Improved referral systems *Three Primary Health care Centres per LGA to be adequately equipped to offer basic obstetric care services	*No of women trained *No of health personnel/TBAs trained *No of women that access the facilities *No of safe deliveries	December 2005 – December 2007)

## 2. HIV/AIDS

### Goal

To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS

### Objectives

1. To sensitise community leaders on issues of HIV/AIDS
2. To increase Health Support Services/Groups
3. To increase access to anti-Retroviral drugs

### Strategies

1. Baseline Study
2. Public awareness Campaign
3. Sensitisation for Community Youth Leaders
4. Service delivery

### Activities

1. Pre and Post Project Assessment
2. Production of IEC materials
3. Training of PLWHAs and People affected by AIDS (PABA)
4. Workshop for Counselors as Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centres (VCT)
5. Establishment of 12 Support Groups
6. Supply of anti-Retroviral Drugs to support centres

## Results

1. Correct, available and accessible information
2. Attitudinal change among community leaders
3. Increased access to and use of VCTs
4. Enhanced professionalism by counselors

## Indicators

1. No of community leaders trained
2. No of IEC materials produced and distributed
3. No of support groups established
4. No of clients visiting the VCT Centres
5. No of clients that access anti-Retroviral drugs

## Target

1. Members of the community
2. Government agencies

## Beneficiaries

1. Women including Pregnant Women
2. Youth between 15 and 25 years

## Time Frame

December 2005 – December 2007

Goal	Objectives	Strategies	Activities	Results	Indicators	Time Frame
To reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*To sensitise community leaders on issues of HIV/AIDS</li> <li>*To increase Health Support Services/Groups</li> <li>*To increase access to anti-Retroviral drugs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Baseline Study</li> <li>*Public awareness Campaign</li> <li>*Sensitisation for Community Youth Leaders</li> <li>*Service delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Pre and Post Project Assessment</li> <li>*Production of IEC materials</li> <li>*Training of PLWHAs and People affected by AIDS (PABA)</li> <li>*Workshop for Counselors for Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centres (VCT)</li> <li>*Establishment of 12 Support Groups</li> <li>*Supply of anti-Retroviral Drugs to support centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Correct, available and accessible information</li> <li>*Attitudinal change among community leaders</li> <li>*Increased access to and use of VCTs</li> <li>*Enhanced professionalism by counselors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*No of community leaders trained</li> <li>*No of IEC materials produced and distributed</li> <li>*No of support groups established</li> <li>*No of clients visiting the VCT Centres</li> <li>*No of clients that access anti-Retroviral drugs</li> </ul>	December 2005 – December 2007

### List of Group 3 members

1. Chief (Mrs.) A. F. Balogun – Chairperson
2. Atinuke Odukoya
3. Oluwaseun Osilaja – Rapporteur
4. Ngozi Okpalakunne
5. Wumi Babalola – Okocha
6. Remi Ojo
7. Uju Obiora
8. Mrs. Maria Marire

### COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

Mma wanted to know how working with community leaders will impact on the lives of women and what are the gender implications?

RESPONSES FROM PRESENTER: The group worked on HIV/AIDS cutting across the youth and not specifically on women.

Nkeiru asked to know how realistic it is to reduce spread of HIV/AIDS by 2% in 2yrs considering the statistics on ground from time of discovery up until now? How does the group plan to establish 12-support centres across the southwest.

Response: For the support centres, other collaborating groups working on the subject would also be working along side the group in trying to set up the centres so it would be cumulative effects by other NGOs and government as well.

Oby also asked to know how the project can be tilted towards women and how can attitudinal change be measured.

A member of the group responded that this could be measured using a pre- and post-test questionnaire.

Another participant opined that doctors should be encouraged to certify deaths resulting from HIV/AIDS. Other participants felt this can increase stigmatization and must be done discreetly

### 6.1.4 GROUP 4

#### Issues Identified:

1. Lack of access to Safe Drinking Water
2. Water Pollution
3. Slums

#### Goal:

Access to safe drinking water by all

#### Objectives:

- To promote access to safe drinking water
- To improve disposal systems

**Partners:**

Government (Federal and State)  
Private Companies  
Development Partners – OXFAM, DFID

**Strategies:**

1. Baseline Study
2. Holding decision makers accountable
3. Monitoring and Evaluation

**Activities:**

1. Analysis of Government budget
2. Audit
3. Advocacy
4. Sensitisation on Economic rights
5. Press interviews

**Indicators:**

1. Water policies in place
2. Increased number of activities/water purification plant

**Results:**

1. Increased funding for projects by Government
2. Increased access to drinking water by Community/women

**List of Members of Group 4**

1. Emilie Serrata
2. Bisi Agbaeze
3. Daniyu Olufunmilayo
4. Temitope Ojo
5. Ojiaka Chigoziri
6. Sandra Amaechi
7. Uche Onwumbiko

**QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

- A question was raised as to whether increased access to water is measurable
- Omission of a specified time frame was pointed out and 2 yrs was consequently added
- Nkeiru pointed out that issues being raised by the group are too far away from the reach of the rural person. She proposed that instead, solution to increased access should be the major focus.

Secondly, she believes that the problem with slum settlement should be approached from within community members and not just government. She suggested:

- Identifying NGOs (environmental based) and find out why their work is not making impact;
- Operation “keep our environment clean” can be explored;

- Enlist the support of mortgage institutions and sensitize women to work with them and benefit from them
- What can we as individuals do?

Mma of RUWEN believes rather that government should have good housing policy to be pursued with all seriousness so that people can key into it. She also pointed out that the group failed to include the roles that individuals/communities have to play.

Tinuke of CEWHIN added that identifying all the issues does not mean working on all areas. Priorities have to be zeroed in on. Being specific and ensuring that all the zones are covered could help to measure the impact. She does not believe that the group can successfully tackle all the issues they raised within such a short time.

Nkeiru advised that communities should be part of whatever project you are doing. She suggested a “bottom-up” approach to avoid opposition from community members.

## **6.2 COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS FROM PRESENTATIONS**

NKEIRU OKORO, the Facilitator at the group work presentation, in rounding up, opined that knowledge acquired from this workshop is not meant to be put away to gather dust in the organizations’ shelves. She urged participants to give the message of this workshop the right follow-up and multiplier effect that it deserves. Where possible, she urged, step down training should be carried out.

Oby said that what we have done actually is to prepare proposals for fundraising and groups are encouraged to use them to source funding for implementation. Groups should keep in touch with one another and let us know if they are able to implement any part of the programmes put together in the workshop.

2.

## **6.3 COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY SOUTH WEST ZONAL WORKSHOP IN LAGOS**

The coalition of Eastern NGOs, an umbrella organisation of over 100 NGOs operating in the nine states of the old Eastern region carried out a 2-day

workshop on Post Beijing+10 Review for NGOs in the South West Zone of Nigeria.

The workshop was geared towards replicating the gains of the conference for the benefit of other men and women who could not make it to New York as well as appraise and take stock of the progress made by Nigeria in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA).

Issues discussed include sex, gender and development; Beijing + 10 Review Outcomes at global, regional and National levels; defining critical areas of concern for the South West; and designing a Work plan for the Way Forward . The workshop commended the Government for the positive steps taken towards the attainment of the BPFA especially in the upgrading of the Women's Commission to a full fledged Ministry of Women Affairs, adoption of the National Policy on Women, appointment of Gender Desks in all the Ministries, State laws prohibiting Harmful Traditional Practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, Early Marriage, Widowhood practices and withdrawal of girls from school.

It was resolved that the following are critical for the attainment of the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action:

1. Participation of governments and corporate/private entities in gender development issues;
2. Engendering budgetary allocation at all levels to ensure equal opportunities for all;
3. Media engagement for the creation of awareness on the BPFA;
4. Immediate domestication by government of all ratified treaties and conventions including CEDAW and the protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa in order to ensure the promotion of gender equality;
5. Development of coalitions of NGOs and other stakeholders in the country for sustainability.
6. Implementing existing policies and strengthening existing structures;

7. Emphasizing the need to address socio-cultural practices which hinder women's development in education, health, politics etc.

Finally, the workshop agreed on the need for the South West NGOs to start off a coalition of NGOs working in the South West.

**Communiqué Committee**

1. Ms. Uju Obiora - Gender Rights Project
2. Ms. Atinuke Odukoya - Centre for Women's health and information
3. Ms. Chigoziri Ojiaka - Gender and Child Rights Initiative
4. Mr. Oluwaseun Osilaja - Campaign against Unwanted Pregnancy
5. Mr. J'afaru Adamu - HURILAWS

## **7.0 SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION ORGANISED BY CENGOS NIGERIA IN COLLABORATION WITH GENDER AND CONSTITUTION REFORM NETWORK, AND WILDAF NIGERIA, DURING THE 2<sup>ND</sup> NIGERIA SOCIAL FORUM IN LAGOS FROM NOVEMBER 14 – 18, 2005**

### **7.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Nigeria social forum, an offshoot of the World Social Forum and the African Social Forum, is an approach of strengthening organizations of social movements in Nigeria. It is a space, a forum that opposes any form of imperialism, but engaged in building a Nigerian Society centered on the human person. It is about Nigerians coming together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, to formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action. **It is a space for activists and civil society organisations to bring their issues – challenge oppression, neo-liberalist policies etc. It is a forum for exchange of information, experiences and ideas and for networking. As change agents and stakeholders towards development and sustainable future, Social Forums provide the space for activists to seek to develop common positions and strategies to address issues of global, national or local importance.**

The NSF proposes to debate alternative means to building Nigeria, which respects universal human rights and those of women, men, girls and boys, grounded in democratic Africa and international systems and institutions at the service of social justice, equality and the sovereignty of peoples. Hence the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nigeria social forum was hinged on the conviction that there are alternative paradigms, that is to say, Alternative Development strategy for Nigeria – such as

Alternative Electoral System for Nigeria

Alternative Constitutional Framework for Nigeria

Alternative Educational System for Nigeria

Alternative Poverty Eradication strategy for Nigeria

Alternative Housing for Nigeria

Alternative Health care system for Nigeria

Alternative Civic Society Organising in Nigeria,

among other events that were organized by participating organizations at the forum. The main theme of the forum was “Demanding change and achieving Rights: Providing Alternatives for Human Centred Development”

**The Nigeria Social Forum is also a forum for grassroots mobilisation. It is an annual event organised at the same time of the year. The World Social Forum takes place in January of every year while Nigeria has chosen November as the time for its own forums. The Nigeria Social Forum is structured to have plenaries as well as parallel events (Symposia, Workshops, Roundtables, Panel Discussions). Reports of the events are collated, compiled, documented and widely distributed. The first Nigeria Social Forum was held in Makurdi in 2004. This is the second NSF and it was held at the National Youth Service Corps Camp in Agege Lagos from 14 – 18 November 2005.**

The activity was planned to hold in two locations – SW and NC during the workshops but when the idea of the Nigeria Social Forum came up, it was agreed that holding it at that forum should achieve a wider reach. There were over 1,500 participants at the forum. The Roundtable discussion which had media representatives, CSOs, etc. was held on the third day, that is, Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 at the Auditorium of the Nigeria Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Orientation Camp in Lagos.

## **7.2 SUB-THEMES OF ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND DESCRIPTION OF PANEL DISCUSSANTS.**

There were two sub-themes discussed at the round table by the joint coalition / networks. The sub-themes were:

- i. The Beijing Platform for Action: Way forward for Nigeria
- ii Strategies for the Domestication of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

The four discussants at the Round-table, which attracted over fifty participants, were:

Oby Nwankwo (Mrs.)	-	CENGOs
Bernadette Bekomson (Mrs.)	-	CENGOs
Emem Okon (Ms)	-	CENGOs
Abiola Akiyode – Afolabi (Mrs.)	-	WILDAF/GECORN

Edwin Usang of CENGOs Nigeria moderated the session and presented the outcome at the plenary session.

### **7.3 OUTCOME OF THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION**

The first two panelists shared their experiences gained at the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, otherwise called, Beijing + 10 Review meetings which held in New York from February 28 to March 11 2005, which was a review of the implementation of BPFA 10 years after Beijing Conference.

Their experiences include the following:

1. Orientation of participants on code of conduct
2. That most participants were registered for the conference with WILDAF's assistance.
3. That they participated in a number of side events, which amongst others were:
  - a. Workshop on women's political participation, citing instances in Afghanistan and Rwanda with increased women participation in politics in their countries. It was mentioned that in Rwanda, women's position has increased to about 49%.
  - b. Workshop on gender and ICT and how women can use ICT to promote their reproductive health status.
  - c. That UNIFEM organized a workshop on women empowerment at the grassroots to include gender mainstreaming, affirmative action etc.
4. There were also issues on promotion of men's involvement in the campaign against gender-based violence, and specifically, the UN SCR 1325 – on involvement of women in peace building and conflict resolution - was raised and discussed, and this helps to promote

women's political participation. It was generally agreed by participants at the New York Conference that an intensive campaign should be organized locally to create awareness on these issues surrounding the BPFA, CEDAW, and MDGs in order to create a successor generation.

The third panelist explained what BPFA is all about by stating that it is a platform for women's empowerment and that its mission includes equality between women and men. The BPFA also underlies the fundamental principles of the Vienna Convention of 1993, which reaffirmed the CEDAW document. It also promotes and protects all human rights of women and even those of men.

The 12 critical areas of concern for achieving equality between men and women stated in the Action document, were highlighted, and they are:

- (1) Women and poverty
- (2) Women and the economy
- (3) Women in armed conflict
- (4) Women and health
- (5) Women and environment
- (6) Human Rights of women
- (7) Violence against women
- (8) Women in power and decision-making
- (9) Women and the media
- (10) Education and the training of women
- (11) Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, and
- (12) The girl - child

For success to be achieved, the following were advocated:

- (a) There must be commitment by governments or state parties which have acceded to the conventions/protocols
- (b) Resources must be mobilized
- (c) To ensure equal rights of women and men in elective and appointive positions.

The impact of poverty on women was raised which expressed concern over the growing feminization of poverty which represent a serious hindrance on women's economic empowerment.

she said that the BPFA assigned roles to government, CSOs and development partners and called on all to get hold of the document and identify strategies to be adopted and learn about the roles that apply to them.

The fourth panelist presented the strategies for the domestication and full utilization of the Protocol to the African Charter on the rights of women in Africa. The session identified that the African protocol was an elaboration of the CEDAW document and other conventions that addressed women's issues. CSOs were urged to endeavour and obtain a copy of the Protocol which is now available in small pamphlets. This protocol would soon come into force with the endorsement of the 15<sup>th</sup> country recently. However, the session noted that there are some impediments or set-backs in some countries that ratified this protocol because of their reservations to some articles of the Protocol. They include Egypt, Libya and Sudan all of which incidentally are predominantly Muslim countries. Their reservations would deny their citizens full enjoyment of this protocol, which poses a serious challenge. The session then proposed the following actions, as alternative to be adopted by CSOs and government.

- (1) There should be awareness creation
- (2) Sensitization and advocacy
- (3) Capacity building for policy makers, church leaders, the media, etc.
- (4) Partnership with lawmakers at all levels and lawyers were advised to be more creative and to adopt judicial activism
- (5) Coalition building including market women, men's rights etc.

## 8.0 **SUMMARY REPORTS OF STATE CHAPTERS (STEP-DOWN) WORKSHOPS IN SOUTHEAST AND SOUTH-SOUTH ZONES**

In the proposal, there were supposed to be step down workshops in six states only. When the coordinating committee met to prepare the workplan, it was agreed that doing it that way would mean leaving out three state members of the coalition and rather than doing this, each state should organize a step down within the available resources and the national secretariat produced stationeries centrally. Each of the states was monitored by another to ensure that the programme was implemented in line with the guidelines provided by the coordinating committee. Find below a summary of the state reports.

### 8.1 **ANAMBRA STATE REPORT**

The Anambra State chapter of CENGOS Nigeria organized a one day step-down training on Post Beijing + 10 Review. The workshop was held on 15th October, 2005 at Cana House, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Awka, the Anambra State capital, between the hours of 11 am and 6.00pm.

**The days activities were divided into an opening session, from 11:00am to 12 noon; First Business Session, from 12 noon to 2:00pm; and Second Business Session, from 2:00pm to 5:30pm.**

During the opening ceremony, Anambra State coordinator of CENGOS, Dr. Mrs. Mercy Anagbogu, outlined the objectives and methodology of the workshop. Participants were informed that two of their members – Barrister Mrs. Margaret Nwagbo and Dr. Mrs. Ngozi Egbue, participated at the Beijing + 10 conference in New York and at this workshop, they will share their experiences and / or lesson learned over there. The coordinator also urged participants to be attentive so that they could identify critical areas of concern from the various presentations as they relate to Anambra State Communities from where the chapter can formulate strategies for implementation.

The first and second business sessions of the workshop focused on the following presentations:

Beijing + 10 review outcomes – African and Nigeria Reports;

Lessons learnt from Beijing + 10 review meeting in New York by CENGOs participants at the Meeting;

Beijing + 10 review – Global reports;

Defining critical areas of concern for Anambra State, with concrete strategies and work plan for implementation.

After all the papers were presented, participants were grouped into six groups to analyse different critical areas of concern peculiar to Anambra State.

Group 1 worked on Poverty and the Girl-Child;

Group 2 worked on education, conflict and peace building;

group 3 worked on health and HIV/AIDS;

Group 4 worked on prohibition of early marriage.

Group 5 considered human rights of women and trafficking and finally,

Group 6 considered media and the environment.

The one-day workshop organized by the Anambra State Chapter recorded a number of achievements. As stated in their report, the most important achievement is that of capacity building which is a key component to the successful implementation of the workshop objectives. In addition, dissemination of knowledge and information on the post Beijing +10 conference and identification of critical areas were great achievements. The lessons learnt were seen as a step towards achieving inclusion of affirmative action in laws and policies in Anambra State. A discussion of the global, African and national outcomes of the conference exposed participants to new information and knowledge.

The various groups were also able to identify factors that are affecting women and they were able to describe methods that could be used to overcome these problems. They were also able to identify the primary target groups that would help solve their problems. These problems can be solved by advocacy – which includes advocacy visits to the right people lobbying of legislators and stakeholders to support laws and policies that promote and protect women's rights;- capacity building of members and other stakeholders, like the Town

Union Leaders, State Assembly members and daughters of the land ('Umuadas') etc.

They also advocated for partnership with men, which would go a long way in solving most of the problems that women encounter.

A few challenges were recorded in the execution of the project. These included weak and inexperienced human resources, institutional differences and limited funding – all these had constrained the capacity of many CSOs in the state.

The one day workshop was attended by about thirty (30) participants from civil society organizations, non-governmental Organisations, faith-based organizations and the academia, from Anambra State. A hundred thousand naira (N100,000), that is about \$800 (USD) was expended in the implementation of the workshop.

## **8.2 ENUGU STATE REPORT**

A one-day (step-down) training workshop was held by the Enugu State Chapter on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 at Divine Restoration Assembly International Hall, No. 250 Ogui Road, Enugu.

The program commenced at about 9.00 am and covered the following activities

- a. Introductory address by Mrs. Nkeiru Nwobodo stating the objectives and background of the project/workshop.
- b. Paper presentation on Global, Africa and Nigeria Reports of Beijing + 10 Review.
- c. Identification of critical areas of concern for Enugu State
- d. Group work on thematic areas

Some of the issues raised by participants after the Global Report presentation by one of the resource persons – Ms. Chinyere Onyia, the Executive Director of Community Health International Research Organization, an Enugu – based NGO, include the following:

- i. Gender equality should be addressed from the patriarchal level.
- ii. A participant, Dr. Emma Omeh, of African Development Network, Enugu, does not believe that gender equality is achievable in Enugu State because of the cultural background. He however agitated for gender equity.
- iii. There is the need for over-all development of the girl-child beginning from the individual homes through the school to the larger society.
- iv. Youth friendly programs, to include human rights education, were advocated.

Two other papers were presented by other Resource Persons. Larry Ekeocha presented a paper on Beijing + 10 review meeting outcomes – Africa and Nigeria Reports, while Nkeiru Nwobodo (Ms.) presented another paper on Developing results – oriented work-plan and facilitated the group work on defining critical areas of concern for the state.

The participants carried out group work to develop strategies for addressing the following thematic areas:

- Poverty and the Girl - child
- Education/conflict and peace building
- Health and HIV/AIDS
- Human Rights of women and trafficking
- Environment and media

The Enugu State chapter of CENGOS also used the opportunity of the one day workshop to consider a “draft Terms of reference for Nine Thematic groups”, a document submitted by the Enugu State Government through the State Economic Adviser. A Committee of four, comprising Dr. Chris Onodugo, Barr. O. J. Odo, Ms. Nkiru Nwobodo and Ms. Dorothy Oleka, was appointed to study the document and make necessary suggestions.

The workshop was evaluated on Capacity Building and Networking, organization, and facilitation, among other issues.

About thirty five (35) participants attended the one-day workshop drawn from NGOs, CBOs, and FBOs and a total of ₦106,000.00 (one hundred and six thousand naira) or about \$848 (USD) was expended.

### 8.3 ABIA STATE REPORT

The Abia State Chapter of CENGOS held her one day step-down workshop on post Beijing + 10 review on the 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 at Binez Hotels (Margaret Ekpo Hall), No. 3-11 Nwogu Street, Aba, Abia State.

Barr (Mrs.) Cordelia Ichie of International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Abia State Chapter and Lady Claribel Okpara, CENGOS Regional Secretary and Coordinator for Imo State, both facilitated the workshop, which started at about 9.00am and ended at 6.30pm. The workshop was segmented into an opening session and the Business session

The opening session was chaired by Lady Comfort A. Onyeso – Nwachukwu who, after giving an opening remarks, also declared the workshop open. A welcome address was presented by Barr. (Mrs.) Cordelia, who stood in for the Coordinator, Mrs. F. U. Dilibe. Mrs. Ichie informed participants that the workshop was designed to empower women as well as sensitize the NGOs and CBOs in Abia State on the recently concluded Beijing + 10 review meeting in New York.

#### **Business Session:**

Lady Claribel Okpara facilitated the first session and presented a paper on United Nations Conference on Women - from 1975, 1<sup>st</sup> Women Conference in Mexico City to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference in Beijing in 1995. Lady Claribel gave a resume about the Beijing Conference, enumerating the 12 critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action for the achievement of equality between men and women. She also informed participants that it was agreed at the Beijing Conference to meet every five years to review progress,

hence the Beijing + 5 and Beijing + 10 review meetings in 2000 and 2005 respectively.

Discussing her paper further, Lady Claribel stated that at the Beijing + 5 Cum Millennium Summit 2000, a number of challenges were identified that impede the effective implementation of the BPFA. Finally, she stated that the Beijing + 10 coincided with the MDG + 5 and that a key issue at the 49<sup>th</sup> session was mainstreaming gender perspective into all MDGs.

Mrs Cordelia Ichie gave an overview about the Beijing + 10 Review outcomes at both the Global, National and Regional levels. Her paper centered around the following issues:

- Education and training of women
- Women and poverty
- Discrimination and violence against women
- The Girl child
- Women and armed conflict
- Women and Economy
- Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women
- Human rights of women
- Women and the media
- Women and the environment

The program of activities also included group work in which all the participants were divided into 6 groups of five participants each to discuss critical areas of concern to the Abia State in particular and the South East in general. Each group examined two critical areas of concern while, men partnership with women, was considered by each group in addition to the two issues they considered.

At the end of the workshop, a post-test and an evaluation questionnaire was administered on each participant, while a communiqué was issued and signed by five participants on behalf of the participating NGOs and CBOs.

#### **8.4 CROSS RIVER STATE REPORT**

CENGOs Nigeria, Cross River State Chapter organized its one-day (step-down) workshop on the theme, 'Post Beijing + 10 Review', on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 at Lily's Guest House, 15/16 Road 1, University Satellite Town, Calabar, Nigeria.

The day's program was divided into two parts:

- Part One - Opening Session
- Part Two - Business session

The opening ceremony took off at about 9.30 am and closed at about 11.50 am while the business sessions commenced by 12.00 noon and ended by 5.30pm. The chair at the opening session and former Attorney-General of Cross River State, Bar. (Mrs.) Brigid Odey emphasized the need for NGOs and CBOs to always collaborate in order to achieve maximum success. In his own welcome address, the State Coordinator of CENGOs, Edwin Usang, underlined the importance of the workshop and acknowledged the support from Global Fund for Women. He opined that the workshop would enable participants to be acquainted with the outcomes of the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations CSW, as well as help in the implementation of the BPFA

Edwin Usang stated the objectives of the workshop to the participants which are as follows:

1. To create awareness of the outcome of the Beijing + 10 Review meeting in New York.
2. To disseminate the outcome of the Beijing + 10 Review and generate ideas to assist CSOs and government to implement the Beijing declaration and PFA.

#### **Paper presentation**

The first paper on, "Woman, Poverty and HIV/AIDS", was presented by Alysha Shore (Ms.), a Canadian and an Intern with NGO Coalition for Environment (NGOCE) Nigeria. Alysha, a gender/HIV Activist, was of the opinion that

women are mostly affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. She highlighted some of the factors responsible for it to include the following:

That women often act as caregivers to family members and therefore are at greater risk

Women often put the health of their husbands and children above theirs

Women constitute over 70% of the poor and lack financial resources to take care of their health problems

Women get infected at younger ages than their male counterparts

Above all, discrimination against women reduces their access to education

Another presentation was by Mrs. Bernadette Bekomson, who was the delegation from Cross River State that attended the New York Conference. She first shared the lesson she learned from New York with participants at the workshops and later on facilitated a discussion on the Beijing + 10 Review – Nigeria and regional reports.

Mrs. Bekomson submitted that the Beijing conference in 1995 was the Fourth World Conference on women which came up with the theme: “Equality, Development and Peace”. She further stated that from this theme, the conference identified 12 critical areas of concern for achieving equality between women and men. These critical areas are – women and poverty; education and training of women, women and health; violence against women; women in armed conflict; women and the economy; women in power and decision making; institutional mechanism for advancement of women; human rights of women; women and the media; women and the environment; and the girl-child.

Another paper was presented by Barr (Mrs.) Ohiana Ugbe on the Beijing + 10 Review, Global Report, while the last presentation on defining critical areas of concern and developing concrete results oriented work-plan for implementation was facilitated by Edwin Usang.

The workshop was evaluated by every participant and at the end, the following resolutions were taken as a way forward:

- (a) That stakeholders, especially all participating NGOs and CBOs, should organize a step-down workshop in local communities .
- (b) That more community-based organisations be sensitized as they will be responsible in carrying the message to the grass roots.
- (c) That CENGOs Nigeria should carryout an advocacy visit to policy makers
- (d) That more men be involved in women issues
- (e) That partnership between the CSOs and Government is a necessity if we are to achieve result within a limited period of time.

Twenty-eight persons from different non-governmental organizations participated in the workshop. A total of one hundred thousand Naira (N100,000) only was expended to organize the workshop.

## **8.5 IMO STATE REPORT**

The Imo State Chapter of CENGOs organized its step down workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 at Christ the Good Shepherd Guest House, Uzii Layout, Owerri .

The program of activities was divided into two sessions: The opening and Business sessions. All the necessary western as well as Ibo customs were covered in the opening session, which lasted from 9.am to 11.30.

Prof. E. E. Okpara, an Environmental Consultant and an Academic, chaired the opening session. He noted that NGOs in the developing world are working very hard to complement government's efforts, and that, in practical terms, NGOs represent the down-trodden, marginalized and less privileged members of the society. He advised all persons running NGOs to be careful in handling assignments and, especially, projects, because such persons are expected to

be credible and trustworthy. According to Prof. Okpara, funds given to NGOs for projects must be utilized for what they are meant for”

In a welcome address, the State Coordinator of CENGOs Nigeria, Imo State Chapter, Lady Claribel Okpara, noted that the workshop funded by GFW focused on the improvement of the status of women, economically, socially, politically and educationally. As one of the six delegates to the New York conference, she used the opportunity to elaborate on the reports and debates/submissions from different countries. She urged participants to utilize the opportunity of the workshop to build their capacity with the aim of working towards meeting the aspirations of the Beijing Conference and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which she enumerated as follows:

- Eradication of poverty
- Universal primary education
- Promotion of gender equality
- Reduction of child mortality
- Reduction of maternal mortality
- Combating HIV/AIDS
- Ensuring environmental sustainability and
- Developing global partnership

**Business session:**

Three papers were presented at the Business session by three resource persons.

These are:

1. Global report of Beijing + 10 Review by Lady Claribel Okpara
2. Beijing + 10 Review meeting outcomes: National and Regional Reports by Mrs. Sally Ibe and
3. Defining critical areas of concern for Imo State Chapter by Mr. Richard Nwamadi.

After the paper presentation by all the resource persons, all participants were grouped into 5 for the group work. Each group worked on a different area of concern as follows:

- Group 1 - Women and poverty
- Group 2 - Education / training of women
- Group 3 - Women and health
- Group 4 - Violence against women
- Group 5 - Women and armed conflict

Using a common work-plan adopted from the regional model, each group was able to work on the topic assigned to them, and then presented their reports at the plenary for critical analysis.

A communiqué produced by a committee set by the whole house was adopted as the position of the Imo State workshop outcome. The said communiqué is attached to the main report submitted by the chapter.

A total of twenty-seven (27) persons attended the workshop representing different NGOs and CBOs, while more than one hundred thousand Naira was spent to organize the workshop.