

Pushing Multilateralism In Pursuit of Peace

BY JUNE ZEITLIN

Since the September 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, we at WEDO have found comfort in the outpouring of solidarity from so many of you, our colleagues, from around the world. And, we have drawn great strength from the experi-

ences you have shared with us—the vulnerability and insecurity you feel for yourselves and your families in times of conflict, the extreme economic deprivation affecting whole communities. In this way you have helped us to go forward with a renewed urgency to fulfill WEDO's mission: the achievement of women's equality, a healthy and peaceful planet and human rights for all.

September, the Bush administration's unilateralism looked all too familiar: Just six months before the administration had pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol, questioning links between fossil fuel emissions and climate change.

In his first days in office, Bush had balked over the Antiballistic Missile treaty, even as the international community warned that breaking it could set off a new arms race.

But in the aftermath of the September attacks and with the subsequent bombing of Afghanistan, the U.S. President and his administration appear to be taking up a multilateralist approach to foreign policy as they seek universal support for the so-called "war on terrorism." All of a sudden, it's Bush International, friend of world leaders and their most visible forum, the United Nations.

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Within days of the attacks, the U.S. administration rushed to approve almost \$6 million of the \$1 billion in unpaid dues owed to the UN and to appoint a new ambassador—a post that had been empty since the new administration took up office.

Bush's speech to the General Assembly in November, in which he exhorted all member nations to "join the fight against terror," received a noticeably lukewarm response. There was no interruption for applause and

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Demo in Durban

The UN Conference Against Racism in South Africa in September was a study in diversity, attracting the broadest array of the world's peoples. And each group had its own issues to bring to the negotiating table. See story on page 7

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WEDO is an international advocacy organization that seeks to increase the power of women worldwide as policymakers at all levels in governments, institutions and forums to achieve economic and social justice, a healthy and peaceful planet, and human rights for all.

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INSIDE



Honors

WEDO President **JOCELYN DOW** has been appointed to the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Eminent Persons for the World Summit for Sustainable Development, 2002. WEDO Vice-President **CHIEF BISI OGUNLEYE** was conferred a National Award by the Federal Government of Nigeria "in recognition of her encouragement, upliftment and sustenance of high moral ideals of diligence, forthrightness, honesty, patriotism and loyalty towards the development of Nigeria."

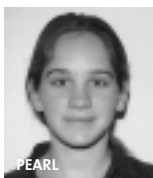


OGUNLEYE

Welcome

Three WEDO partners now serve as senior advisors to our program areas: The Senior Advisor for Sustainable Development is **IRENE DANKLEMAN**, Sustainable Development Coordinator at Nijmegen University, Netherlands; The Senior Advisor for Economic and Social Justice is **JANICE GOODSON FOERDE**, a Denmark-based consultant in development, gender and trade issues, chairperson of International Coalition for Development Action (ICDA), and board member of K.U.L.U.-Women and Development; The Senior Advisor for Gender and Governance is **LITHA MUSYIMI-OGANA**, who heads African Centre for Empowerment, Gender and Advocacy in Kenya.

REBECCA PEARL is now Sustainable Development Program Associate. She has a Master's degree in Sustainable International Development, specializing in gender and human rights, from the Heller School at Brandeis



PEARL

University and has worked for the national corporate watchdog INFACT and Literacy Volunteers of Massachusetts.

Most recently she coordinated the Program on Women's Economic and Social Rights and the UN Working Group on Gender for UNIFEM-Andean Region. Rebecca has lived and traveled extensively in Latin America. The new Accounting Assistant is **SUNG AE KIM**, a senior at Hunter College City University of New York where she is majoring in accounting. Sung Ae was an honor student at Dongguk University in Korea and student journalist for Dongguk University Press.

Interns

WEDO welcomes new Fall interns from Columbia University in New York City: **MIHO HIROSE**, from Japan, is pursuing a Master's degree in Public Affairs; **SUNANDA MAINE**, from India, is pursuing a Master's in International Affairs; **LALEH SHAHABI**, from Iran, is pursuing hers in Liberal Studies; and **PIN WAN**, from Korea, is in Public Affairs. Other Fall interns are **ELENA WEINSTEIN**, of the U.S., who is a sophomore at the high school for Environmental Studies in Manhattan; and **RASEES ZIADAH**, from Palestine, who is pursuing a Master's degree in Diplomacy and International relations at Seton Hall University. WEDO's new volunteer, **REBECCA WORNER**, is a public sector policy analyst from Australia.

POSTSCRIPT: WEDO regrets the passing of Máximo "Junie" Kalaw, Earth Council Head and pioneer advocate of people's participation as a vital prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. We will long remember Junie for his strong and effective leadership of the 1992 Earth Summit NGO Forum which contributed so significantly to the adoption of Agenda 21, the groundbreaking final agreement. Junie died on November 1, 2001, in New York City after a long struggle with cancer.

PUSHING MULTILATERALISM

Continued from page 1

reactions were mixed.

While some, like British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw thought the speech “tough (and) positive”, others thought it should have been broader.

“The world is moving on,” said Zambia’s Lazarous Kapambwe. “There are deaths from diseases, from HIV, from poverty.”

The narrow focus of Bush’s speech was in sharp contrast to those of the other 40 or so world leaders who each addressed the broad range of issues the UN deals with. And that is precisely the point.

If the U.S. genuinely wants to ensure safety at home it must work in equal partnership with other nations to make the world a more secure place for all peoples, its position as the most powerful nation on earth notwithstanding. This requires the U.S. to fulfill its international obligations, by genuinely supporting UN and other multilateral processes.

First, the U.S. must stop being a dead beat: Pay all the back dues and in the future, pay up on time and in full. Second, participate fully in the debates: Don’t walk out on the debates, enter reservations in keeping with accepted diplomatic norms for recording dissent.

Third, ratify the UN anti-terrorism and human rights instruments still languishing in the U.S. Congress, including those against terrorist bombings and on the financing of terrorism, as well as those on the rights of women and children (See page 4).

Fourth, ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The U.S. must take part, on equal footing, in the international justice system if there are to be universal standards of justice, respect for human rights, and peace. This includes abandoning its push for the exemption of U.S. nationals from ICC jurisdiction, a move that threatens to

undermine the integrity and independence of the court.

Fifth, invest in people and nations. The U.S. may be the richest nation but it is also the stingiest with an allocation of only 0.1 percent of its gross national product in overseas development assistance, it falls woefully short of that of contributions by other industrialized nations, and way below the 0.7 percent target agreed upon in the UN.

What do these developments mean for WEDO’s programs in the year ahead?

At the United Nations, we immediately stepped up the pace of our work along with the women’s human rights, peace and social justice organizations. Our focus is on women’s equal representation in peacekeeping, conflict resolution and most importantly, nation building. In this respect, we are holding governments accountable for the full imple-

menting governments—particularly those of the U.S. and other industrialized countries—that widespread poverty and ignorance are breeding grounds for terrorism and fundamentalism of all kinds. In a world as rich as ours, there can be no greater returns than those from investments in the education, health and livelihoods of the world’s poor and illiterate, the majority of whom are women. It is these investments that are the key to reducing poverty, and achieving sustainability and human security.

In the United States, WEDO is actively reaching out to strengthen the constituency of women activists who understand the meaning of global interdependence, recognize the critical role the United Nations has played in gaining governmental commitments to advance women’s rights worldwide and are prepared to push the country to embrace a multifaceted, multilateral agenda.

For the past few years, women and other social activists in the U.S. have voiced concerns over the dangers of the growing gap between rich and poor in this country, and between countries in the

SUPPORT AFGHAN WOMEN’S RIGHTS

A RESOLUTION introduced to the U.S. Congress by Constance Morella (R-MD) and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), urges the Bush Administration to ensure restoration of women’s human rights in Afghanistan and their full participation in rebuilding efforts. Visit the Women’s Edge website, www.womensedge.org, to read and support the resolution. Ask questions at: spiper@womensedge.org

SIGN-ON CAMPAIGN: A 12-Point campaign: “Stop the War, Rebuild a Just Society in Afghanistan and Support Women’s Human Rights,” is an agenda for peace and justice promoted by women’s human rights activists in several regions. Sign-on at the Women Human Rights Network website: www.whrnet.org.

mentation of the landmark commitments made in Security Council Resolution 1325, which calls for a gender-sensitive approach to all aspects of conflict resolution and the increased participation of women at all levels.

In terms of the processes in which we have engaged for the past 18 months, we are advocating for greater government action on the issues of militarism, environmental degradation and sustainable livelihoods at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 (see page 5).

As we enter the final stages of preparation for the Financing for Development Conference, we are

North and South. In those years, even as the U.S. experienced one of the longest periods ever of sustained economic growth, there were more than 34 million impoverished individuals, mainly women and children, living in this, arguably the world’s richest nation.

Across the globe, from North to South, people are clamoring to be free from hunger, free from conflict, free to live in a clean environment. In the interests of the planet rather than merely its own, the U.S. must begin wearing a multilateralist hat—sooner rather than later. ■

June Zeitlin is WEDO’s Executive Director

Women Rally Against The Wasting of the Earth

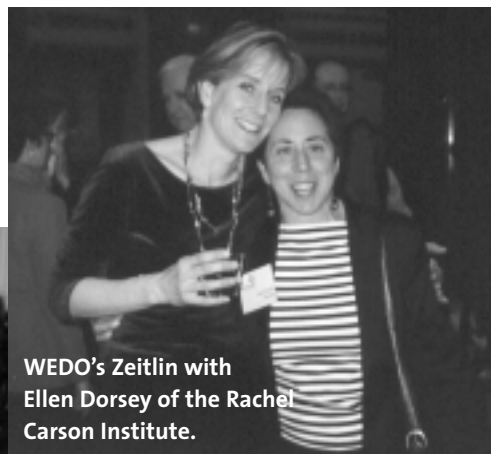
Calling on the Bush administration to include equal numbers of women in decision-making positions relating to environment and sustainable development at the national level, and in delegations to ratify and adopt key international treaties and conventions on the environment were just two of the demands women made at the recent WASTE (Women Assessing the State of the Environment) Summit in Pittsburgh, November 9-11. The meeting was convened by WEDO in collaboration with the Rachel Carson Institute as planning for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development has taken on a renewed



In small working group (l-r): Annette Souder, Sierra Club; Loretta Ross, Center for Human Rights Education; and Jael Silliman, University of Iowa.

sense of urgency. National concerns have been growing with the Bush administration's backsliding on key national and international environmental agreements, and the current U.S.-led actions in Afghanistan.

The meeting was aimed at developing concrete policy recommendations



WEDO's Zeitlin with Ellen Dorsey of the Rachel Carson Institute.

and community actions to stop the wasting of the earth. Women, who juggle multiple responsibilities in the home, at the workplace and in the community, have a unique knowledge of the environment and sustainability and are often in the best position to confront environmental and sustainable development issues that threaten the health of the planet. And in the wake of the September 11th tragedies, the need for women in the U.S. to come together to build a sustainable development agenda for the

Conventional Neglect

Since the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN has expanded human rights law. Today, more than 500 legally binding multilateral agreements exist. A brief look at the U.S. record on some of the key ones affecting global peace, equality, and sustainable development (as of October 22, 2001):

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights **Opened:**

December 1966. **Signed by U.S.:** October 1977. Still not ratified.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women **Opened:**

December 1979. **Signed by U.S.:** July 1980. Still not ratified.

Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment **Opened:**

December 1984. **Signed and ratified by U.S.:** October 1994

Convention on the Rights of the Child **Opened:**

November 1989. **Signed by U.S.:** February 1995. Still not ratified.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families **Opened:**

December 1990 (not in force). U.S. has not yet signed.

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court **Opened (not yet in force):**

July 1998. **Signed by U.S.:** December 2000. Still not ratified.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) **Opened:**

May 2001. **Signed by U.S.:** May 2001. Still not ratified.

Kyoto Protocol on Greenhouse Gas Emissions **Opened (not yet in force):**

November 2001. Still not ratified.

Conventions on Terrorism not ratified by the U.S.:

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings; International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

Others not ratified by the U.S.:

Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes Against Humanity; Forced Labor Convention; Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Other; Convention on the International Right of Correction; Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention; Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention; Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age to Marriage and Registration of Marriages; Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. ■

Visit www.wedo.org for more about these agreements and the status of the US compared to other nations.

U.S. that works toward global peace and justice is more critical than ever.

Examining a wide range of interconnected issues, some 400 women at the summit discussed their concerns on environmental health, sustainable development and consumption, globalization and U.S. policy.

The concerns included the high levels of toxic contamination in our water, food and ecosystems, consumption levels in the U.S. that exceed 85 percent of the global share and the failure of the U.S. to ratify key International treaties and commitments like the Kyoto Protocol, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Experts and activists representing a wide range of women's environment and economic justice concerns took part in the meeting. They included Professor Devra Lee Davis, Heinz School of Public Policy; Monica Moore, Pesticide Action Network of North America; Peggy Shepherd, West Harlem Environmental Action; and Eleanor Smeal, Feminist Majority. The meeting closed with a call to action from Lois Gibbs, well-known author and activist against dioxin and other hazardous waste pollution.

The summit drafted an action plan based on participants' recommendations. The plan, which is still open for consultation, can be accessed at the WEDO website www.wedo.org and the WASTE website www.wastesummit.org. Feedback should be sent to Rebecca Pearl at rebecca@wedo.org. The finalized version will be opened for endorsements, and used for public education and advocacy. A more comprehensive report on the Summit is planned.

The WASTE Summit recommendations will also be included in Women's Action Agenda for a Healthy and Peaceful Planet 2015, an updated version of Women's Action Agenda 21, the platform women of the world used to lobby for gender equality in the official UNCED documents—Agenda 21 and The Rio Declaration. ■

—By Anna Grossman

WSSD Activity Briefs

WOMEN'S ACTION AGENDA

As a leading organizer for women in the run-up to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), WEDO organized the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet in Miami, Florida, bringing together more than 1,500 women from 83 countries. The Congress drafted and adopted Women's Action Agenda 21, a blueprint for a healthy and peaceful planet in the 21st century; it served as the basis for introducing sections on gender equality in the official UNCED final documents—Agenda 21 and The Rio Declaration.

Ten years later, WEDO has partnered with women's organizations from around the world to review and revise Women's Action Agenda 21. The updated platform, Women's Action Agenda for a Peaceful and Healthy Planet 2015 (WAA2015), will be the result of broad consultations and feedback and will present an updated and comprehensive women's agenda when launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in September 2002.

Organizations wishing to participate in the consultations on WAA2015 may contact Rebecca Pearl at rebecca@wedo.org (telephone: 212-973-0325). Please include contact details, provide a description of your organization and whether your group will be attending any UN meetings in the lead up to World Summit 2002.

CSD MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE PAPER

In the lead up to WSSD in Johannesburg, WEDO is convening the women's caucuses at the global UN meetings and facilitating women as a major group in the UN multi-stakeholder dialogues leading up to the Summit. With partner organizations from each region, WEDO is preparing the official Dialogue Paper in this process, which is expected to be available through the Commission on Sustainable Development early in 2002.

DIARY DATES

GLOBAL

- Second Preparatory Committee: Jan 28–Feb 8, 2002, New York City
- Third Preparatory Committee: March 25–April 5, 2002, New York City
- Fourth Preparatory Committee: May 27–June 7, 2002, Indonesia
- WSSD: September 2–11, 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa

REGIONAL REPORTS

Reports of 2001 Sub-regional Preparatory Meetings (April/May/June), Regional/Sub-regional Roundtables (May–July), and Regional PrepComs (September–November) can be found at the official United Nations website (see below).

LINKS

OFFICIAL UN WEBSITE

www.johannesburgsummit.org

UNED FORUM'S WSSD 2002 SITE

www.earthsummit2002.org

GENDER PERSPECTIVES FOR WSSD 2002

www.earthsummit2002.org/workshop

WOMEN'S CAUCUS

website: www.csdngo.org/csdngo (click on 'women' under 'major groups');
listserv: women-csd-subscribe@egroups.com (send a blank message to subscribe)

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Making Peace A Part of the FfD Equation

BY NADIA JOHNSON

Poverty eradication is now viewed as more imperative than ever by activists and government delegates alike in the UN's Financing for Development (FfD) process, following the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington. When the Third FfD Preparatory meeting resumed at UN headquarters in New York City in mid-October, one of the biggest issues stakeholders grappled with was how to build connections between ending poverty and building peace.

This sentiment was echoed in many of the opening statements,

including that of Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. "Financing for Development is the best investment we can make today in order to ensure security and human dignity for all in the future," Robinson said.

The Women's Caucus emphasized the links between poverty eradication and building peace and the need to implement gender-sensitive, socially just, sustainable development policies and mechanisms at FfD and beyond. The knowledge that domestic conflicts and wars impede development, and are often an outgrowth of poverty itself, took on a new dimension after the September attacks. Many activists felt it was now impossible to ignore the negative impacts of globalization policies promoted by industrialized states, transnational corporations and international financial institutions—like the WTO, World Bank, IMF—on less developed countries.

As the meeting proceeded, grumbling over the content of the latest draft of the Facilitator's Report, the FfD central document, could be heard from just about all players in the

process. Many delegates and activists expressed surprise and concern over the addition of some controversial issues, such as the exploration of an International Tax Organization, financing for global public works (GPGs) and the setting up of a world economic body under the auspices of the UN.

The focus was therefore on the concepts in the document and proposals for improving its language and scope. The document will be redrafted in time for the final PrepCom, January 14-25, 2002, in New York City.

WANT MORE?

BRIEFING PAPERS, STATEMENTS,
AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

WWW.WEDO.ORG

WEDO, with UNIFEM, convened a Women's Caucus Strategy Session prior to the official meetings; some 30 women from around the globe met to prepare substantively and strategically for the week ahead. The NGO Orientation, organized by the New York-based NGO ad hoc Small Working Group was held the following day.

WEDO also distributed a series of Briefing Papers that build on ideas set forth by the Women's Consultation at the May PrepCom (see *News & Views* July 2001). The group comprises representatives from WEDO, Center of Concern, International Gender and Trade Network, AWID, World Council of Churches, Freedom from Debt Coalition, Women's Eyes on the Multilaterals, International Cooperation Between Peoples, and REPEM.

Another critical advocacy tool at the meeting was the UNIFEM-commissioned "Gender Audit" of the facilitator's draft outcome document, which was prepared by Maria Floro of American University. The audit and the briefing papers, which contain substantive recommendations, were

used to incorporate gender issues into the official discussions. Russia, the Czech Republic, and the Philippines were among the delegations to include gender in their interventions.

Alarmed by the increasing polarization of the negotiating blocks and rumors of a U.S. walkout, the Women's Caucus issued a statement of concern calling for the continued involvement of all stakeholders. The statement also called for equal commitment to each of the six thematic areas (Mobilizing Domestic Resources; Mobilizing International Resources; Trade; International Cooperation; Debt; and Systemic Issues), linkage between the FfD and Earth Summit 2002 processes, and gender equity at the FfD round-table discussions. The statement also urged that the process continue to use a human rights framework and to incorporate gender-sensitive recommendations.

UNIFEM and the Latin American-based Cartagena Initiative co-sponsored a panel that addressed systemic issues and development frameworks that promote sustainability and social justice. Panelists included Cecelia Lopez (Colombia), Sonia Correa (DAWN) Maria Flora (American University), Monica Munoz (UNIFEM) and WEDO's Jocelyn Dow. The Women's Caucus also organized a meeting between NGOs and FfD Co-Chair Ambassador Ruth Jacoby of Sweden, who spoke candidly about the process and stressed the importance of the developed countries meeting the 0.7 percent target for overseas development assistance.

NGOs have formed an international committee to support the Mexican groups organizing the NGO Forum, which promises to be critical in influencing dialogue between and among civil society, governments, intergovernmental organizations, multi-lateral institutions and the business sector. The NGO Forum will be held March 14-17, 2002 in Monterrey, Mexico. The official FfD Conference is scheduled for March 18-22. For accreditation and other information visit: www.un.org/esa/ffd. ■

Nadia Johnson is WEDO's Economic and Social Justice Program Associate

At Major Meeting on Race, A Global Movement is Born

BY DORIS MPOUMOU

Despite the rocky start, thousands of activists and government officials sowed the seeds of a global movement against racism when they gathered in Durban, South Africa for the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR), held August 31 to September 7, 2001.

In the months preceding the event, the most controversial and emotionally charged issues such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, slavery reparations and the recognition of caste-based discrimination in India, threatened to roil the official proceedings and overshadow many of the other issues on the agenda.

During the conference, the multiple tensions spilled over into daily demonstrations by the various parties as they pushed to ensure their particular interests were considered. The conference and NGO forum went ahead despite the walk out by the U.S. and Israel early in the process and organizing that was at best chaotic. Echoes of these complexities are still reverberating three months later with the final document still outstanding. Although the content has been agreed, the parties remain split over the placement of paragraphs 97, 99 and 100, which relate to condemnation of and apologies for slavery, apartheid, colonialism and genocide. The UN Secretariat,

supported by the WEO Group (Western Europe and others), would like to move the paragraphs from the Platform for Action to the declaration where they would have no practical follow-up effect. Activists are lobbying the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the report's imme-

mediate release with the original placement of the paragraphs.

But despite these controversies, the conference and NGO forum hit the mark in other ways. One of the most exciting aspects was the diversity. At times it was as if all the world was in Durban: Every race, class and ethnic group; every religion; indigenous peoples and nomads. Here was the beginning of a global movement against racism, as activists and delegates networked, connected and made plans for the future.

A second significant outcome: Women activists were successful in putting the gender dimension of racism on the map. As the event unfolded there was clearly a growing recognition among conference participants

Mpoumou hit the streets in an ANC anti-racism demo in Durban.

that various types of discrimination do not always affect women and men in the same way.

Many government officials and NGOs supported the view that violations of women's human rights might escape detection, and efforts to address racism could fail to meet the needs of women and girls, unless the race debate incorporated gender analysis.

Events organized by women showed the linkages between gender, racism and poverty and in its statement to the WCAR, the Women's Caucus emphasized the need to highlight these inter-linkages. A WEDO advocacy document offered alternative language based on previous UN agree-

It was as if all the world was in Durban: Every race, class and ethnic group; every religion; indigenous peoples and nomads.

ments, thus strengthening the links between WCAR and other key UN meetings including those on environment, population and women.

At a meeting co-sponsored by the South African Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), some 300 parliamentarians from over 50 countries declared their commitment to combat racism. They stressed the particular role and responsibility that parliaments and parliamentarians have in eradicating racism, influencing public opinion and promoting the values of diversity and tolerance.

As part of the 50/50 campaign, WEDO's Gender and Governance Program and its partners will monitor legislation and special measures undertaken by governments to increase the representation and participation of marginalized and indigenous women, women of color and women from minority groups in political and economic decision making. WEDO aims to hold governments accountable to their commitments especially that of providing data disaggregated by race, gender, ethnicity and caste. ■

Doris Mpoumou is WEDO's Gender and Governance Program Associate



50/50 At A Glance

WEDO's Gender and Governance program is in full swing, pushing for women's complete and equal access to all areas and all levels of public life. Having partnered with more than 150 organizations worldwide to promote 50/50 by 2005: Get the Balance Right!, the heat is being turned on governments to keep the commitments they have made at key UN conferences on women's political rights. Here's a look at some recent 50/50 happenings around the world:

Albania The Albanian Women in Development Association and Albanian Women's Network lobbied political parties in Albania to adopt a 30 percent quota for women candidates. The proposed quota bill was not adopted, but the groups did succeed in raising public awareness of

the importance of gender balance in government, collecting 109,000 signatures in support of a quota. Both Albanian groups are members of the Eastern European women's rights network, Karat Coalition, which has endorsed the 50/50 campaign.

Canada After passing a law that reduced the number of municipalities in Quebec, elections were held in five new cities. In those cities, training was organized for women candidates. Lobbying for 50/50 raised public awareness and led to debates on topics such as women's access to municipal services, institutional mechanisms for women's participation and the availability of resources for engendering city administrations.

Indonesia Following the launch of the Asia-Pacific 50/50 campaign in

Manila, March 21-22 2001, the Indonesian Women's Political Caucus, Indonesian Center for Women in Politics, and Indonesian Women's Coalition for Justice and Democracy brought together over 85 political activists in a workshop on women and politics, kicking off the 50/50 campaign in Indonesia.

Namibia Sister Namibia, an organization that campaigns for women's rights and gender equality, officially launched the 50/50 campaign in Namibia on October 2001. With a grant from the Global Fund for Women the organization will continue to promote women's participation at all levels of society in advocacy and law reform and to raise awareness on the importance of women's equal participation in government. ■

For complete and regular updates join the 50/50 Campaign Network by sending an e-mail to 50/50ingovernment-network@yahoogroups.com.

WE DO News & Views

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