



Ninth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting

"Gender Issues in Economic Crisis, Recovery and Beyond: Women as Agents of Transformation"

Bridgetown, Barbados, 7-9 June 2010

Session II

WAMM(10)2Supplement

ANNOTATED DRAFT AGENDA

This Annotated Draft Agenda provides Ministers with the background and context for the key issues to be addressed at the Ninth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (9WAMM) and highlights issues they may wish to discuss.

2. The central message of 9WAMM is **Recovery and Growth with Equity**. This year's meeting takes place before the UN High Level Review of the MDGs, in New York (September 2010), as well as the G8/20 Summits, in Canada (June 2010). An underlying premise of the meeting is that growth is necessary but not sufficient for human development. The post-crisis recovery can only be sustained when all parts of society contribute to, participate in, and benefit from growth. Ministers will wish to use this meeting to exchange experience on the issues raised by the crisis and to identify actions taken, or to be taken, to promote an engendered and sustainable recovery. **Ministers may wish to address the following in their discussions of each agenda item:**

- a. **issues for discussion and advocacy in other international fora;**
- b. **practical ways in which member countries can support each other in meeting the challenges of achieving engendered and equitable growth; and**
- c. **measures that development partners, including the Secretariat, can take to support women in their role as Agents of Transformation.**

Item I: Opening Plenary

3. The Opening Plenary will set out the background and key issues that relate to promoting gender equality, particularly in the context of crisis and recovery.

Welcome Remarks by H E Kamallesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General

4. As is customary, the Secretary-General will invite the Minister representing the host government to chair the Meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

5. The Chair will propose that Ministers adopt the Draft Agenda as set out in document WAMM(10)2(Rev.1) .

Addresses

6. There will be two Addresses. The first will be Hon Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister in charge of Women and Children Affairs in Bangladesh. She will focus on the theme of the meeting, highlighting women as agents of transformation, and as equal partners in development and democracy.

7. Ministers are invited to discuss the issues raised.

8. The second Address will be by Dame Stephanie Shirley. She is a successful entrepreneur and philanthropist. In 2009, she was appointed the first Ambassador for Philanthropy by the British Government. She will focus on the potential of using philanthropic capital to create sustainable and equitable growth and on how governments should create an enabling environment to attract and harness that capital.

Item II: Promoting Economic Recovery and the Attainment of MDGs: Women as Agents of Transformation – Documents WAMM(10)5, WAMM(10)6; & WAMM(10)7

9. This session will explore elements of a new paradigm for inclusive growth. It will advance the case for a new macroeconomic framework, based on social inclusivity and justice. It will focus on the financial tools, political strategies and governance mechanisms needed for more inclusive growth. The discussion will draw on new thinking to assist governments in creating an enabling macro-economic framework for gender equitable development.

10. Three papers will be presented. The first, **Women in the Economic Crisis and Recovery: Commonwealth Perspectives**, explores the impact of the recent economic and financial crisis on women, specifically from the perspective of the Commonwealth. It provides a prognosis, and identifies key challenges in regard to inclusive growth and development.

11. The second paper, **Gender Equality and the Call for an Inclusive Macroeconomic Framework**, paper sets out the rationale for an inclusive macro-economic framework. In doing so, it draws upon South Africa's experience.

12. The third and final paper, **Reforming Fiscal Policies for Stable and Sustained Growth**, examines how fiscal discipline can be achieved while containing adverse

development impacts and how governments can reform their fiscal policies to foster equitable, stable, and sustainable growth. It highlights the positive impact effective prioritisation can have on budget outcomes.

13. Senator the Hon Darcy Boyce, Minister of State (Finance, Investment, Telecommunications and Energy), Barbados, will make the Ministerial Response. There will be opportunity for discussion on the presentations. **Ministers may wish to identify:**

- a. **The main policy lessons learned from the crisis?**
- b. **The immediate challenges facing women and countries as a consequence of the crisis?**
- c. **Further policy measures that could be promoted in the international community to address the challenges?**
- d. **The role development partners can play in promoting sustainable and gender-equitable growth in countries.**
- e. **Gender needs and interests to be reflected in policies and programmes to address the effects of the crisis and promote recovery?**

Item III: Gender Responsive Investment: Women as Agents of Transformation –

Documents: WAMM(10)8 & WAMM(10)9

14. This session will focus on opportunities to create blended value that benefits commercial investors and development stakeholders alike. It is noteworthy that through philanthropy capital social impact investors are increasingly becoming drivers of new solutions to poverty, social investment and international development. The lead presenter will explain how blended value investing offers development financing solutions that go beyond both traditional philanthropy and investment based on market returns. The second presentation will show how private and public actors can work together to meet the challenge of the MDGs, specifically the target related to sanitation.

15. Each of these presentations will be supported by a paper. The first presentation by a paper titled “**Achieving Gender Equitable Recovery and Growth: Bridging the Financing Gap Through Philanthropy Capital**”. The second paper is titled “**Delivering Effective Financing through Partnership: World Sanitation Financing Facility (WSFF)**”.

16. **Ministers may wish to:**

- a. **comment on the potential of innovative blended investment for promoting gender sensitive development; and**
- b. **comment on the role which development partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, could play in promoting such investment.**

Item IV: Ministerial Roundtables

17. There will be three “Ministerial Roundtables”. Forms will be provided for delegations to indicate their preferences. The respective chairs will be assisted by rapporteurs and the Secretariat. The conclusions of each Roundtable will be presented by the Chairs to the plenary the following morning. Papers from experts and case studies will be presented at each Roundtable.

Roundtable 1: Gender Responsive Investment

18. This session will further explore innovations in investment finance that can create social value that benefits women. It will include two case studies: Acumen Fund and Cyprus Women’s Cooperative Bank. It will also provide practical experiences of specialist banking services for women and how these contribute to female empowerment and the closure of gender gaps. In addition, examples will be provided of how such investment can be scaled and replicated.

19. **Ministers may wish to:**

- a. **comment on their national experiences, identifying both achievements and challenges in ensuring economic empowerment of women; and**
- b. **comment on the role that development partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, can play in achieving this.**

Roundtable 2: Economic Crisis and Social Protection: Ensuring Gender-responsive and Sustainable Outcomes

20. This Roundtable will examine social protection measures in the formal and informal sectors to assess how countries have responded to the effects of the crisis. It will highlight strategies, good practices and models of social protection for the most vulnerable.

21. **Ministers may wish to:**

- a. **reflect on their national experiences, identifying both achievements and challenges in securing social protection for the most vulnerable.**
- b. **explore barriers to sustaining social protection schemes/mechanisms.**
- c. **comment on the role that development partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, could play in sharing good practices and providing technical assistance in the area of gender and social protection.**

Roundtable 3: Peace, Security and Prosperity: Women's Leadership Roles

22. This roundtable will explore issues such as: women's role in peace building and negotiations; women's representation in decision-making; and governance issues affecting women's empowerment and participation.
23. **Ministers may wish to:**
 - a. **reflect on their national experiences, identifying both achievements and challenges in promoting women's involvement in leadership;**
 - b. **explore ways to increase the qualitative and quantitative participation of women in leadership, to ensure an effective role for them in decision-making; and**
 - c. **comment on the role that development partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, could play in sharing good practices and providing technical assistance in this area.**

Item V: Feedback and Outcomes of Ministerial Roundtables

24. There will be reports to the Plenary from the three Ministerial Roundtables.
25. **In respect of each Roundtable, the reports should cover:**
 - a. **national and regional experiences;**
 - b. **country initiatives and policies; and**
 - c. **the roles of development partners, including the Commonwealth Secretariat, in each of the areas covered by the three Roundtables.**

Item VI: Strengthening Partnerships for Synergy and Accountability

26. This session provides a forum for dialogue between Ministers, development partners and civil society. It will serve to promote mutual understanding and appreciation of the constraints and opportunities faced in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. This session also provides an opportunity to explore modalities for co-operation, information-sharing and collective actions on gender between governments, development partners and civil society.

Item VII: The Way Forward: Priorities to 2015 – Document: WAMM(10)10 & WAMM(10)11

27. Drawing on the results and findings from the Mid-Term Review of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action, this session focuses on gender mainstreaming in the Commonwealth. Senior Officials will also report on the outcomes of their pre-9WAMM meeting. The Plenary is expected to agree and affirm the priorities for the Commonwealth Gender PoA (2010-2015).

Item VIII: Closing Plenary

28. - Approval of Communiqué
- Venue for 10WAMM
- Any Other Business
- Vote of Thanks