

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

WAMM(10)(INF)3

For the information of Delegates

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE TRIPLE CRISIS –
GENDER EQUALITY BETWEEN AND BETWEEN:
THE IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC, CLIMATE AND FOOD CRISES ON
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND WELLBEING**

Paper prepared by Dr Mariama Williams

The current economic crisis that is now growing in depth and severity across the global economy was unequivocally caused by the financial crisis. But its growing severity has to be linked to the intertwining of the underlying food and fuel crises with the financial crisis. This is all occurring in the backdrop of a set of climate change challenges which is fast becoming a crisis for the day-to-day lives of countless millions of women, men and children in diverse economies across the Commonwealth. The financial crisis was transmitted to the real economy through a variety of pathways and channels. One clear channel is that the credit freeze to the business and household sectors coupled with losses in the value of assets, affected the real wealth of individuals, households, firms and governments. This has led to retrenchment in consumer demand in many economies, the destruction of market shares/positions by firms and industries, increasing job losses coupled with rising deficits and indebtedness of the public sector.

In the case of developing countries, the primary pathway of the financial crisis has been through the trade-finance-credit linkage. Most directly, the worldwide freeze in credit has impacted trade financing and investment flows. In addition, contraction in U.S. and other OECD consumer demand has contributed to a decline in the trade of goods and services, including remittances flows. There are also exchange and interest rate impacts linked to the movements of the dollar and other international means of payments and the high stimulus driven deficits of OECD countries, such as the U.S. and the UK. (Despite a great deal of noises and some actions around currency realignment and the intensification of regional trade blocs, the US dollar remains the means of payment for much of international trade in some regions.)

Given that crises are not entirely gender or poverty neutral, it can be expected that women's empowerment issues will be dramatically impacted by the immediate, medium and long term impacts of these crises. The way that the singular and joint crises of food, fuel, finance and climate are managed will significantly impact men and women differently. Specifically, due to pre-existing gender biases in labour, credit and other markets, male biased policy-making and gender differentiated access to resources, there are usually untoward asymmetrical impacts for women, as a group, relative to men, as a group. This has been the historical, empirical reality as widely noted from the outcomes of the structural adjustment debacle of the 1980s and the Asian and other financial crises of the 1990s.

In such a time as this – in the face of seemingly intractable development crises in the poorer developing countries of the global south -, the transformational leadership of women is critical for resolving the development stalemate and ensuring equitable, gender friendly and sustainable development. Women's transformational leadership ascendancy and the integration of gender analytical perspectives in the policy space of developing countries and the

institutions that seek to manage development are critical for ensuring long term economic development and social sustainability. It is also an important bulwark for maintaining the forward progression of gender equality, women's and men's well being and women's overall empowerment.

This places much greater onus on national gender and women's machineries to upload their technical and policy-making skill sets across macroeconomic (including trade), finance and climate policies in order to make powerful and lasting contributions to policy discussions and actions around economic recovery and the re-launching of development, food security and climate protection agendas.

This paper will first present a brief overview of the nature, causes and gendered consequences of the food, finance and climate crises. This will be followed by a gender analysis of the state of play of current approaches to managing these crises. The concluding section will focus on the potential of and opportunities for women's transformational leadership in moving forward sustainable, just and gender friendly economic recovery and new development agendas. The discussion will conclude with some recommendations as to the way forward for National Gender and Women's machineries.

I. The Triple Crises: Natures, Causes, Inter-relationships and Gendered Consequences

"The frightening reality of increasingly high food prices, together with the daunting projections, are in fact a summons to action now,"...Countries the world over, regardless of size or economic profile, are taking conscious and deliberate steps to combat this emerging threat." Dr Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica.

The Food Crisis

According to the FAO, hunger has been rising since 1995 and spiked in 2009. At the start of 2010, one billion and 20 million people live in a state of chronic hunger. The dramatic increase in hunger can be attributed to the global economic slowdown and under- investment in agriculture. In the later case, ODA to agriculture has declined from 20% (1980) to 5% today (FAO 2009). Hunger and food insecurity can lead to an increase in the premature deaths of the young, the old and the infirm, who are likely to suffer more from lack of access to food. According to the World Bank, the food crisis could lead to a rise in the rate of deaths of infants and children under five years old by as much as 5–25% in several countries (World Bank, 2008 and UNEP 2009).

According to the World Food Program (WFP), the food crisis can exacerbate the HIV pandemic due to a number of primary inter-linkages. First, lack of food undermines treatment and may lead to increase risky behavior among women and men. It is well noted that undernourished people are more

likely to die during the first three months of antiretroviral therapy than well nourished people due to the medication side effects (WFP). Second, pregnant women with HIV are more likely to transmit the virus to babies (WFP). Dr Soto of World Vision notes that “only with proper nutrition will the drugs have full impact in keeping HIV-positive children and adults health and alive. Thus there is an urgent need to ensue food security and nutritional support now in order to bolster the fight against HIV and Aids’. An added dimension to the HIV linkages is the continued and rapidly rising phenomenon of impoverished girls and women turning to transactional sex for money to feed families as a critical aspect of their survival strategy.

The food crisis, which has onset the world economy since at least 2006, has been called the ‘silent tsunami’ or the ‘perfect storm’ⁱ. According to the FAO, its index of food prices rose by 9% in 2006, 23% in 2007 and surged by 54% in 2008 (FAO 2008). Between 2007-2008 the prices of basic food rose well over 43%; soybeans, corn and rice were up by over 100%, leading to rising hunger and food-related violence in over 14 countries from Haiti to Indonesia.

Undeniably, the proximate and immediate cause of the emerging food crisis is rapid rise in food prices. But underlying the obvious demand and supply dynamics are long term structural as well as short term developments such as speculation and the rush to food based bio-fuel as an alternative source of energy. There are multiple levels, multiple causes and multiple culprits in this tragic drama: demand growth, lack of fiscal capacity in the south to increase public spending for increase food production and agricultural productivityⁱⁱ, cut back in funding to agricultural research institutions, decline in spending on plant breeding programs to improve productivity, loss of variety from gene banks (GRAIN, FIAN and UNCTAD). (Appendix I present an overview of the key causal factors behind the food crisis.)

Trade liberalisation has also, in some cases, eroded the ability of some citizens in many countries to feed themselves (Mexico, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Mali). Elsewhere, in countries such as Ghana, Kenya, Philippine, Jamaica and Honduras, the removal of tariff barriers have lead to the dumping of heavily subsidies commodities and undermined local food production.

Women & the Food Crisis

With the exception of the HIV linkage, the gender dimensions of the food crisis have not been fully explored. Yet women are persistently a large percentage of those suffering from chronic hunger and food insecurity. 7 out of 10 of the world’s hungry people are women and girls (UN INSTRAW). 45% of women in developing countries suffer from anemia, which is linked to malnutrition. Pregnant and nursing women have specific needs for proper food intake (UN INSTRAW). This is particularly important given the horrific numbers of women who die daily from childbirth related traumas. (According to UN INSTRAW about 300 women die daily during childbirth) It is also widely

documented that young women and children are vulnerable to the risk of permanent malnourishment.

Research shows that men and women are differently affected by global food crisis as producers and consumers due to the reality that men and women have different set and stocks of resources to respond to the rising price (Morden 2008). Most all data from developing countries show that women play a vital role in processing and preparing food (Morden 2008). Women have also played prominent roles in protesting against the escalating costs of food in the nearly forty countries that have experienced such protests.

Stylised accounting of the role of women in food and agricultural production in many commonwealth nations show that women are not passive victims but are necessary and important actors in ensuring food security (Meinzen-Dick 2008). Women grow and produce 80% of all food in the poorest Commonwealth countries. Women produce 90% of staple crops that sustain the rural poor. Rural women produce half of the world's food and 60-80% of food in the south. 70% of economically active women in low income, food deficit countries are employed in the agricultural sectors. But in some cases women's very important role in food, nutrition and agriculture is not recognized or valued. Unfortunately, gender discrimination continues to impede agricultural productivity and rural development.

Many of the factors affecting women's overall empowerment and women's control over economic and financial resources, including microfinance, are well known and have become stylized facts. These factors include: gender inequality around differential access to social and physical goods, gender gaps in education, income, time use, and leisure and gender differentiated roles and responsibilities in the household, community and labor markets. In the MDG oriented literature these factors can be clustered in terms of their implications for women's capabilities, access to resources, and opportunities and security. Empirical research has also located these gender differentiated dynamics across a broad range of human social and economic activities including agriculture, services, manufacturing, water and energy distribution and use, transportation and disaster management.

A tentative approach in assessing the gender dynamics of the current global food crisis must focus on at least the following three broad grids: 1) the link between women's and men's functioning and food and nutrition; 2) the links between capabilities and economic rights and livelihood issues and specification; and 3) programs to identify and address particular gendered challenges and opportunities that underlie the present food crisis.

Table 1: Impact of Global Food Crisis on the Critical Domains of Women's Empowerment

A. <u>Functioning</u>	B. <u>Capabilities and rights: vis a vis subsistence farming and livelihood impacts</u>	<u>Gendered Challenges and Opportunities in the food crisis.</u>
<i>Malnutrition Ill-health/Morbidity/ Maternal & infant deaths Time burden (labor burden & reproductive Care work) HIV AIDs Family planning/antenatal care/home deliveries Violence against women</i>	<i>Asset ownership & control Need for accessible subsidies Safety nets & targeting to the most food insecure Access to inputs etc (fertilize cost) Access to finance Land tenure/security Literacy/Education & Extension Training</i>	Gender blind analysis and approach to agricultural and food reform and development. Integrating & enhancing women's leadership, bargaining power in food and agricultural development strategies Promote and encourage women's greater involvement in research and development and high value chain performance, and other services related agriculture agro enterprises.

Although food prices have fallen between mid 2008 and 2009, the food crisis remains a serious threat to the lives of millions of men and women and children. The danger continues to exist due to the fact that the factors underpinning the crisis have not significantly changed. As noted above, these include growing world demand for both food and bio-fuels, rising population and change in dietary habits toward greater meat consumption (UNEP 2009). UNEP notes that much of the changes in dietary consumption is heavily biased towards cereal, such as wheat, rice and maize, (for animal feedⁱⁱⁱ), energy and water consumption. Unfortunately, at the same time, the prices of fuels which are critical for the production, distribution and transportation of food are also rising. Rising energy prices create fuel crises in many countries which have implications for access to food and nutrition. As the graph below illustrates there are critical inter-linkages between the trend in oil and food prices.

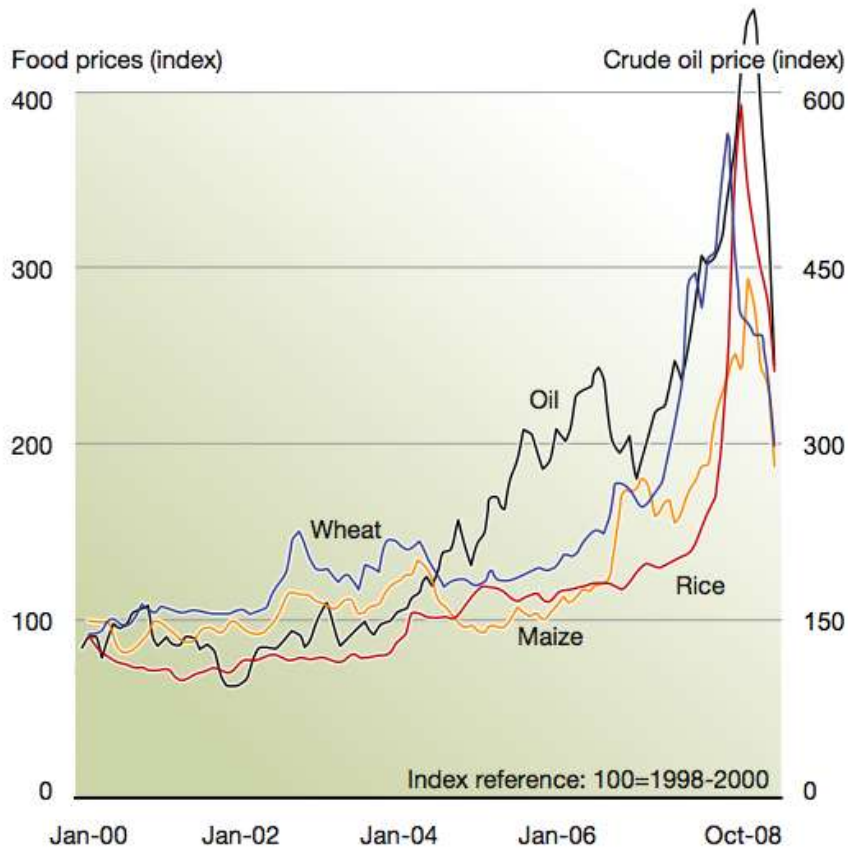


Figure 1: Changes in commodity prices in relation to oil prices. (Source: FAO, 2008; IMF, 2008 in UNEP-Grendal 2009).

Trailing behind the food and energy challenges is another subtler fuel crisis –rising water scarcity, or, what some researchers have called the ‘quiet water crisis’ (IRIN 2010). Water, like energy, is critical for agricultural and food productioniv. (According to the FAO, ‘Agriculture is by far the biggest user of water in Africa accounting for 88% of water use.’)

Though there is some controversy on the nature and extent of a generalized water crisis in terms of its dimensions and its parameters. The UN has noted that at least ‘one in five developing countries will face water shortages by 2030’ (FAO 2003). Worldwatch argues that water scarcity is now “the single biggest threat to global food security”(2003). This is clearly the case for Commonwealth countries such as Botswana, Namibia, Kenya and Ethiopia. Water availability is also an issue in the Caribbean region, especially in Barbados, Jamaica and St. Lucia where governments have recently had to taken measures to ensure day to day water securityv. In these and many other countries women, men and children experience problems with accessing usable and pollution free water for drinking, sanitation and food production. In many case this is because of over-use of ground water, water pollution, lack of modernization of the irrigation sector, rising competition for water between industrial and agricultural sectors and climate

related events such as droughts which contributes to the salinisation of water and erratic rainfall corresponding to reduced water supply.

The Climate Crisis

Climate change is identified as long-term contributing factors to the adverse food and nutritional situation in a number of countries. Climate change refers to alterations in the composition of the global atmosphere beyond what would be considered 'normal'. Such changes have been partly attributed to human activities, which contribute to anthropogenic rise in greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide, methane and ozone. Rising GHGs levels are associated with dramatic changes in rain fall patterns, increase in global mean temperatures, rising sea levels. These events have been associated with frequent and extreme weather events such as extended droughts, floods and storm surges in many countries. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Fourth Assessment Report (2007) highlights that floods and heat are linked to death, injuries, infectious diseases, and the toxic containment of water. Storm surges severely injury or caused many men and women to drown. More severe and frequent droughts cause water scarcity, the salinisation of agricultural lands and the destruction of crops thus contributing to nutritional deficiencies and food insecurity.

Climate change and its variability is an exogenous shock that poses potential challenges for developing countries infrastructural systems and economic growth path (Ackerman 2009). Climate change imposes additional hardship and increases the care burden of women and girls. This may occur for at least three primary reasons. First, climate variability and change is associated with the intensification of food shortages and rising food insecurity. Second, extreme weather events, such as heat waves, increase respiratory diseases among women, men and children. Third, women and children tend to experience increasing episodes of exhaustion from traveling further and further distances for water when nearby wells and other naturally occurring drinking water sources dry up or are contaminated by climate activities. These factors may create more stresses, increase women's time burden and further compromise the human security (especially bodily integrity, due to the greater likelihood of rape, malnutrition etc.) of women and girls.

The challenges posed by climate change point to the need to put in place serious adaptation and mitigation measures to avoid global warming greater than 2° C. Successfully attaining the climate change target of below 2C and 450 ppmv is dependent on changing the behavior of women and men in their multiple roles as managers of households, entrepreneurs and economic decision-makers. The triple strategies of adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer are being put in place at the global, regional and national levels to address the complex challenges of climate change.

Adapting to climate change involves focusing on strategies and tactics that reduce the losses and damages that can be caused by climate induced weather events. The goal is to reduce the vulnerability of households and economies to storm surges, droughts and hurricanes. Adaptation activities may therefore range from changing the mix of crops, plant varieties, live-stock and fish species to modifications of irrigation and flood control systems. Ultimately successful adaptation policies must also include pest and disease management, fire management, increased coastal defenses, expanded health systems, infrastructural development, re-location and migration.

Mitigation actions are focuses on reducing GHG emissions and furthering the transition to a low carbon economy. Mitigation activities therefore include the development of projects oriented towards generating renewable energy, clean energy and energy efficiency in the commercial, industrial, residential, and transportation sectors.

Women play a significant role in this process, especially with regard to adaptation and mitigation efforts. Women are managers of land, forestry and bio diversity. Women also have vested interests in water management and distribution as well as in the development of clean and efficient energy technology for household and productive activities.

Women's response and ability to adapt to climate change issues are critically dependent, in the first case, on the robustness of their underlying health, and well being and the depth of their social and economic resources. These include women's control 'over land, credit and tools, good health and personal mobility, household entitlement and personal security, secure housing in safe location, freedom from violence (Bridge 2008). If these are not well established, the affected groups of women will be at a severe disadvantage.

Women are also undertaking independent adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change out of their own individual and family resources. For example Ghanaian women, who have experienced the deleterious impact of chronic changes in climate on their livelihoods in the fishing sectors, have also observed the disturbing on-going effect of climate change phenomena in their communities. Using their informal, historical, social, and cultural knowledge of the atmosphere of the coastline and the behaviour and character of fish they have anticipated the dire consequences of the resulting shallowing of water for fish bearing (ibid). In response, the women both in Ghana (as well as in Senegal) have developed their own informal saving schemes and have organized themselves into cooperative type organizations to finance boats that can venture into deeper waters for viable fish catches. In farming areas, groups of women have undertaken similar activities to learn and share options for mitigating the harmful effects of greenhouse gases by embarking on 'household modernisation' projects, including the purchase of butane stoves (Mensah-Kutin 2007 cited in WEDO 2008).

Many women are undertaking adaptation and mitigation activities without access to credit or extension services. The challenge, however, is that these activities need to be much more widespread and made sustainable for the long run. They should be replicated on a much larger scale. Such expansion will require access to greater amounts of financing and investment flows for equipment and other resources. Financing is also needed for the systematization of traditional and emerging indigenous adaptation and mitigation technologies within and across coastal, rural and peri-urban areas of all countries. Thus women's group will require access to growing streams of climate change financing at global, regional and national levels.

It is therefore important that proactive attention is focused on ensuring that women have equitable access to, decision-making and control over climate change financing funds and instruments for adaptation, mitigation and technology development and transfer. (This matter will be pursued further in section II, below.)

The Financial Crisis

The financial crisis, which arose in the latter part of 2007 and continued in 2008 has aggravated the food crisis and has the potential to negatively impact attempts to deal with climate change at global and national levels. The financial crisis was the product of casino type banking activities in the US and the UK. It has spread like wildfires to those economies which are well integrated in to this giant cross-border casino. Since then it has be transformed into a global economic crisis that is affecting trade, investment, remittances, and tax revenues.

The financial crisis can be attributed to at least four broad categories of casual factors that cut across multiple levels of analyses. There is 1) the micro/meso level analysis focusing on the behavior of individual, households, banking and non-banking actors; 2) macro level policies by the monetary authorities such as the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance or Treasury Departments; 3) the nature of domestic and international financial regulation; and 4) problems in the global monetary system, including past and present attempts to reform the overall dynamics of the system. (A synoptic exposition of these factors is presented in appendix II).

Consequences of the financial crisis for the Global South:

In the global south, those countries with high export dependency on U.S. and European markets have found their export volume and value contracting. This has led to slow down in their export sector resulting in domestic restructuring at home. This may involve business closures, or dampened economic activities including the laying off workers. In countries, such as in the Caribbean, tourism may continue to suffer. Remittances flow, which is critical for many developing countries also show some decline (current data shows that it may fall by over \$24 billion 2010). These factors will combine to have high human costs. Already, there are predictions that as a result of the financial shock, "there will be

between 200,000 and 400,000 additional infant deaths per year on average in the 2009 to 2015 period-- or a total of 1.4 million to 2.8 million more infant deaths, if the crisis persists”(World Bank 2009). The World Bank is projecting that about 100 million people will be added to poverty (using the \$1 plus per day metric). In Latin America alone it is likely that 2. 4 million may lose jobs this will be associated with a rise in poverty of about 15%.

Export revenues are down (Africa US\$251 billion 2009/2010) and Foreign Direct Investment expected to fall by 30% (2009). This has prompted the World Bank to predict that as many as 59 countries will be in peril. The International Labour Organization (ILO) predicts that approximately 50 million jobs will be lost worldwide in 2009-2010, due to the crisis. Furthermore, depreciating currencies in developing countries will be associated with rising costs of debt services for dollar denominated debt. Many countries in the Caribbean, such as Jamaica, are already experiencing challenges defending their currency and are turning to the IMF for support.

Credit for the micro sectors and remittances have been two stabilizing factors against poverty in many poor developing countries. Hence, in the context of widening job losses, stagnating real wages, falling remittances and declining access to credit, more people will look toward governments to ensure food security and access to social services. However many governments are already cutting back on their spending due to declining revenues.

While the developed and some emerging market economies such as China and Brazil are seemingly recovering from the initial effects of the financial crisis, albeit with a pronouncedly jobless growth trajectory in some rich nations, the full effect of the crisis is being felt in the global peripheries.

Initially, Sub Saharan Africa (SSA), which was the least implicated in the financial melt down, seemed relatively removed from the destructive path of the crisis that consumed rich nations such as Iceland, Ireland and left others such as Latvia, Ukraine and Hungary in near economic depression in 2007 in the early months of 2008. (Currently Greece and Spain in the Euro Zone seem to be the next wave of basket cases in the developed area.) However, since the mid 2008, some SSA countries (Botswana, Ghana, Mozambique, South Africa etc.) have been increasingly negatively impacted by the crisis in terms of slowed growth rates, subdued exports, falling tourism receipts, declining agricultural prices (tea and coffee, due to decline in demand) and rising capital outflows. In addition, data shows, depreciating exchange rates and rising interest rates are depressing phenomena across all developing countries, including SSA. In addition, trade liberalisation has contributed to loss of trade taxes with negative implications for tax revenues and widened deficits (Please see for example Tanzania and trade integration).

These factors have led to budgetary resource and financing gaps. Currently, over two years after the crisis, many Commonwealth countries in Africa and the Caribbean are experiencing the throes of serious aftershock with governments having to impose a salary freeze on public sector workers (i.e., Botswana and Jamaica), impose spending cuts including in areas such as health and HIV Aids spending in the face of rising debt services. Many countries in the face of rapid declines in financial flows have been forced to turn to the International Monetary Fund for financial support. (Commonwealth countries that have sought IMF assistance with financing gap due to external generated crises include: Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya and Tanzania.)

The Intertwined Crises

The food-fuel, finance and climate crises are critically inter-linked and inextricably intertwined. For example, rising oil prices induce demand for bio fuels as well as engenders rising costs for fertilizer production, crop drying and transportation. Crisis in the financial markets engender increased commodity speculation as index funds, pension fund, hedge funds and investment banks seek portfolio diversification from financial assets.

Climate change, which is most concretely manifested in terms of increasing fires, storms, droughts and flooding events, can significantly impacts agriculture, forestry, fishing and water supplies. It therefore can cause alterations in crop yields and growth, farming and animal husbandry as well as the distribution and productivity of fisheries. Ultimately, it may intensify food shortages, thereby worsening the food crisis. At the same time the financial crisis can negatively impact the commitment, incentives and financing available for dealing with climate change by reinforcing a business as usual scenario. Governments, firms, households and individuals facing severe budget, profitability and income constraints may be detracted from taking the required adaptation, mitigation and technology upgrading strategies required to confront dangerous climate change.

The financial crisis poses significant negative feedback and pass through effects for the food and fuel crises: a) to the extent that it worsens global economic and trade situations; b) through its impact on the prices of commodities and fuel which have worsened the livelihood opportunities for the millions of poor and near poor men and women living in the global south; and c) through its likely negative impacts on the revenues of governments, which would portend dramatic cuts in social spending. Given the heavy constraints of debt services payments, falling growth rates, various policy conditionality regimes imposed by international financial institutions, many poor developing countries find that their ability to meet necessary spending on a broad range of projects (so called fiscal/policy space) is greatly limited.

The IMF (2009) argues that:

“The global financial crisis will worsen the budgetary position of many LIC governments. Government revenues are expected to suffer as economic activity slows and commodity prices fall. Potential declines in donor support and tighter financing conditions will likely impose further pressures on LICs’ budgets. At the same time, many countries will need to increase spending to protect the poor, and additional spending pressures may arise from currency depreciation and rising interest rates, which could raise debt service costs.”

Table 2: Linkages between the Triple threats and women’s lives

	Capability	Resources & Opp.: Economic resources	Resources & Opp: financial resources (FR)
Food Crisis	Food insecurity Malnutrition Ill-health/Morbidity Maternal & infant deaths Time burden HIV AIDs Family planning /antenatal care/home deliveries Violence against women	Safety nets Access to inputs etc (fertilize) Land tenure/security Literacy/Education & Training	Asset to finance Access to Subsidy HH Budget effect
Financial Crisis	Same as food crisis But negatives greatly intensified Less access to health care	Same as above PLUS Livelihood Employment Access to social services Social protection Social Insurance Access to housing Real Wage/disposable income	Asset valuation effect Access to credit Insurance Savings/wealth effect Pension etc
Climate Change	Same as Food and Financial crisis plus Food shortage higher rt. malnutrition Increase respiratory diseases Stress related illness Exhaustion (travel further for water or fire wood) Increase in water born diseases Heat related mortality; heat stress work load increase Increase risk of Sexual harassment & violence New skill set for survival (tree climbing & swimming)	Same as Food & Financial crisis PLUS Housing/Land Information asymmetry in the transmittal of warning Hazard management Disaster preparedness and management Control of early warning system Weather related hazard Training & capacity building	Adaptation financing Mitigation financing Technology transfer R&D

II. The state of play in managing the global three-fold crises, gender equality and women’s empowerment

The interlinked crises of food-fuel, finance and climate are multi-dimensional having implications for a diverse range of economic (for example, employment and income), political (i.e., governance & democracy) and social (i.e., nutrition, life expectancy, well-being) factors that are critical to the lives of women, children and men. Thus, individually and jointly these crises pose significant dangers for human development, human security, human rights (i.e., the right to be free from hunger) and the forward progression of gender equality initiatives. The severity of these negative impacts on the lives of men and women will depend on the nature, comprehensiveness and speed of policy responses to the crises.

The big question, as with the social and economic issues, for most especially the MDGs and overall gender equality and women's empowerment is: what will be the impact of the current financial and economic crisis on the available resources government will now be willing to commit to these ends.

The triple crises have implications for all dimensions of women's lives, gender equality and women empowerment. These include:

- Women's access to employment and living wages;
- Impacts on food and nutrition availability, educational attainment and life expectancy
- Women's health, morbidity and mortality. The outcomes are acutely linked to incidences of domestic violence, increased trafficking and prostitution.
- Women's dignity and ability to achieve self realization.

Responses to the Food Crisis

The issues of food security and food sovereignty are of paramount concern for women both in their roles as food producers and as the primary caretakers of the household. Food security/sovereignty is both a practical and strategic gender concern. Yet emphasis on new issues of food security (including the issue of hybrid plant varieties and new seeds), water management (water harvesting and storage) and disaster management demonstrate no awareness of the underlying gender dynamics. The old and continuing issues of gender differentiated access to extension management, distortions of farm-gate pricing, and the nature and extent of the phenomenon of rising indebtedness in the farm sector as well as intellectual property on existing gender dynamics needs to be at the forefront of discussion in this sector.

Global policy responses to the Food crisis include:

- The L'Aquila summit's Comprehensive Food Security Initiative^{vi} (July 2009): commitment of \$20 Billion over three year for agricultural development
- The Gates Foundation \$1.4 billion commitment to food production/security

- The World Bank's Food Crisis Response Fund (GFRP) to finance medium- and long-term investments that boost agricultural productivity and market access in low-income countries.
- The World Bank has scaled up its resources to address the impact of the food crisis in low-income countries. (In this context, it has implemented temporary flexibilities of its usual conditionalities.)
- The Comprehensive Framework for Action (CFA) through the UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (July 2008)
- The recent High Level Conference on World Food Security and the Challenges of Climate Change and Bio Energy (Rome, June 2008)
- IMF has presumably reformed its Exogenous Shock Facility (ESF). This facility traditionally provide short-term and concessional emergency financing for low-income countries “with a balance of payments need whose primary source is an exogenous shock”.

However, none of these response mechanisms is particularly gender friendly. In order to be effective in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, reform modalities and measures must seek to shift the balance of power in favor of rural women. This includes greater emphasis on increasing women's access to and ownership of land (land tenure and security) especially for indigenous women and female heads of households. Thus there is a need for a radical departure from gender blind or so called gender neutral policies that do not take into account women's roles, contributions, priorities and concerns in food production and household welfare for women. Agriculture and land policies must take into account the priorities—in terms of access to resources and benefits such as land, energy, water, credit and all inputs for production. This must be differentiated for different groups of women according to age, ethnicity, race and class in the different development contexts (Baden 2008, Morden 2008). Such an approach must also be grounded in comprehensive outreach that includes attention to related issues of basic health care, child care, reproductive and sexual health and other social reproduction issues (Baden). Such an approach must also seek to confront issues of environmental and ecological sustainability and climate change.

Responses to Climate Change

Under the auspices of United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol a financial system to support climate adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer actions has developed. This financial architecture initially grounded in strong reliance on public fiscal instruments has evolved over the years to be lean more heavily on private financing activities such as carbon trading.

Public finance, under the financing arm of the convention, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies, include the set of multilateral development banks as well as the active participation of UN agencies. The key mechanisms are the non market system of ODA based on

voluntary contributions and distributed in the form of grants and the market mechanisms of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), the Joint implementation (JI) and Emissions trading (ET). Other funds under the UNFCCC specific umbrella and administered by GEF include: the adaptation fund (created by Kyoto), the Least Developing Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) funds. GEF also have its own Strategic priority on adaptation. There is also the small grants program for SIDs and LDCs. Since Bali (2007), the REDD is also emerging as a highly desirable fund, under partnership with the UN.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

A developed country with an emission-reduction or emission limitations commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (article 12, Annex B countries) may implement an emission reduction project in the developing countries. Such project can earn salable certified emission reduction credits (CERs=1 ton CO₂) to count towards KP targets. CDM stimulate emission which give industrial countries some flexibility in how to meet the emissions reduction or limitations. Thus the CDM is a global environmental investment and credit scheme with a standardized emissions offset instruments (CERs). CDM projects can have tremendous community benefits such as rural electrification program with solar panels/more energy efficient boiler, or increased employment and income. Carbon revenues from CDM projects may also support basic social services such as irrigation and schools. Total demand for emissions reduction credits (CERs) in 2020 is estimated to generate about \$10-34 billion in additional investment in developing countries

At the national level, there is also a wide range of fiscal incentives to stimulate private actors, including: subsidies, tax allowances and public investment. Private sector financing is quite extensively focused on carbon financing and investments in clean and renewable energy technologies involving different types of financial instruments/products and services that lead to climate change mitigation and adaptation. For example: carbon credits/CERs, and emissions trading.

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). An initiative to cut greenhouse gas emissions associated with forest clearing by the inclusion of “avoided deforestation” in carbon market mechanisms. More simply, payment in return for the active preservation of existing forests.

Under the umbrella of UN REDD, three UN Agencies – UNEP, UNDP and the FAO – have collaborated in the establishment of the UN-REDD programme, a multi-donor trust fund that allows donors to pool resources and provide funding with the aim of significantly reducing global emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Increasingly, there is also the growing web of public private partnerships between, public financial entities/mechanisms and private sector entities/mechanisms. Given the growing role of the private sector and the fact that some mechanisms administered by public institutions are financed through emission trading involving market participants, such as the Adaptation fund, which is financed by 2% levy on CDM activities, the climate change financing system is well integrated into the overall system of global finance.

The existing climate change financing policy environment including its mechanisms, instruments and processes is very important for enabling the acquisition of resources that women and men require to successfully undertake adaptation and mitigation strategies and to acquire the necessary technologies for these actions. But there are clear differences in men and women being able to take advantage of opportunities and deal with the challenges that accompany the operations of the climate change financing systems.

As result of these and others factors, there are strong imperatives to enable a gender sensitive and gender equitable climate change financing system. In the first place, the UNFCCC, as the normative framework for climate change financing, has provisions for equity and enshrines the rights of developing countries to develop on a steady state path. Subsequent COP decisions have consistently re-affirmed the idea of 'targeting to the most vulnerable.'

Secondly, the Equity principle of UNFCCC provides more than an adequate basis for integrating a gender equity approach into climate change financing.

Third, the current system has no institutional framework for promoting gender equitable outcomes or the empowerment of women, to which its member states have made binding commitments under CEDAW and other human rights oriented instruments.

Fourth, at best, climate change finance should strive to ensure that economic and financial resources for adaptation and mitigation meet women's needs and priorities and bolster and upgrade their skills, knowledge, ownership and access to resources such as land, credit and technology. At worst, it should seek to 'do no harm', hence have no negative impacts on women's access to and ownership of existing assets and resources.

Lastly, strong UNFCCC leadership on gender sensitisation of the financing of adaptation and mitigation is important in setting the framework for market and non-market mechanisms that promote gender equality and women's empowerment outcomes.

Ultimately, there is need to design, develop and implement pro active strategies, plans, and projects that are focused on eliminating the challenges and constraints that women experience in the face of climate change events. There are likely to be strong, positive and lasting benefits to be gained from integrating gender sensitive and women’s empowerment criteria and guidelines within the framework of climate change financing mechanisms and instruments.

Managing the Financial crisis

The twin approach to managing the financial crisis has been on the monetary and fiscal policy side. But the manipulation of monetary policy tools has not been very effective in mitigating the crisis. Central Banks’ attempts to deal with financial crises relying on decreasing interest rates and expanding the monetary supply with the consequential inflationary impact on prices as well as depreciation of currencies. Since the dollar is still the major currency in the food market this has significant negative impact on food prices. At the same time, rising oil and food prices impinge on household budgets, thus impacting all forms of expenditures including mortgage payments.

The less than stellar effect of monetary policy in abating the most negative effects of the crisis has led to a focus on fiscal stimulus as a way out of the economic crisis generated by failures in the financial markets. Initially economic decision-makers have focused on fiscal stimulus providing millions of dollars to the banking sector and to selected industries.

At the global level, leaders of the twenty largest economies (the G-20) have focused on fiscal stimulus measures totaling about \$692 billion for 2009 (about 1.4% of their combined GDP and a little over 1.1 percent of global GDP^{vii} (Prasad and Sorkin, 2009); The G-20 leaders’ summits^{viii}, which has since become the managers of the crisis at the global level, have consistently endorsed this approach and have argued that it has saved or created at least 7-11 million jobs across their economies (Pittsburg Communiqué and Prasad and Sorkin (2009).

Box1: The G-20 and the Financial Crisis: Commitments and promises

London November 2008	Washington April 2009	Pittsburg 2009
Common understanding of the root causes of the global crisis; Reviewed actions countries had taken and would take in the future to address the immediate crisis and strengthen	Financial commitments: \$1.1 trillion (international finance, credit, trade, and overall economic stability and recovery). Regulation: global regulation of	Reaffirmation of London and Washington plus: strong international standards for bank capital and strong international standards for executive compensation (in order to mitigate excessive risk-taking). Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth (grounded in demand driven

<p>growth; Agreed on common principles for reforming their financial markets; Established 47 short and mid-term objectives by March 2009. set around five principles: strengthening transparency and accountability; enhancing sound regulation; promoting integrity in financial markets; reinforcing international cooperation; and reforming the international financial institutions</p>	<p>hedge funds and credit-rating agencies, a common approach to cleaning up bank toxic assets. Financial Stability Forum (now the Financial Stability Board)/ IMF to ensure wider global co-operation and to provide an early-warning system for future financial crises.</p>	<p>macroeconomic policies)</p> <p>Creating a 21st Century International Economic Architecture: 1) the G-20 the premier forum international economic cooperation; 2) realignment of voting weights at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) -- a shift of at least 5% in IMF quota share from over-represented countries to under-represented countries an increase of at least 3% in the voting power of developing and transition countries at the World Bank.</p> <p>Partnering on Food Security;</p> <p>Acting on our Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges</p> <p>Support for the Most Vulnerable</p> <p><i>Please see box below for expansion of these last three items.</i></p>
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The G20 consists of 19 of the following 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The EU as a whole makes the 20th.

Unfortunately, the G-20 has not delivered much on the greatest perils of the financial crisis: rising unemployment and growing poverty. There has been little focused attention on job creation and more of an emphasis on a return to business as usual. Thus, for the millions of men and women who comprise the global bottom fifth living in poverty, the G-20's response and grand promises does not deal with poverty, the employment crisis or the malingering and worsening food crisis. This is particularly perilous for women and children.

Typically, in a financial or economic crisis, there are asymmetric effects on women. Contrary to the picture currently emerging in the US, where it is men who are seeing the most direct negative impact in terms of unemployment, in many developing countries the sectors likely to lose jobs are those dominated by women: sales, financial services, tourism and domestic employment. But there

also other impacts including women having to make up for the shortfall in domestic income by increasing their labor both in job market (where such can be found, likely at cheaper wages than men), in the informal sector, and in the home. Women's well being is also likely to be more negatively impacted due to rising stress from household management and trying to maintain household living standards, adjusting dietary intake to ensure children, elders and spouses have enough etc. A recent analysis by the World Bank (2009) points out that:

Women and girls in poor households in developing countries everywhere, but especially in the countries characterized by pre-existing child mortality rates and/or low female schooling, are highly vulnerable to the effects of the global economic and food crises. Their situation is especially precarious in the sub-set of 15 countries, mostly in Africa, that are affected by both low female schooling and high infant and child deaths. In countries with pre-existing high child mortality rates, the fall in household incomes could further increase infant and child deaths, with disproportionate effects on women and girls.

Current stimulus needed to abate the negative effects of the financial crisis is estimated to be about 2% of global GDP (IMF 2009). While this (rather conservative) figure seems relatively small, compared to that of climate change, it does not take account of losses to output and direct bailouts of financial and non-financial firms across the global economy. Ultimately, many researches argue that, based on past experience and depending on how the crisis plays out, it could demand upwards of 20% of global GDP. Thus, the financial crisis and the recession it is engendering pose significant obstacles to women's control over economic and financial resources as women's, more so than men's direct access to credit, employment and income are likely to be compromised.

Furthermore, if budgetary short falls occur (due to declining trade and tax revenues and increased fiscal spending to backstop the financial system), this will directly impact the availability of social services and governmental contributions to climate change activities. Overall, in the face of global fiscal stimulus that is not directed at enabling the survival of the poor, this will place greater pressures on the natural environment and may curtail governmental pledging to finance climate change at the multilateral level.

Both in the case of the fiscal stimulus, and in the specific case of climate change financing, it is not clear just how accessible these funds are to women, or how many and how much have been accessed by them.

A contracting, tightened, or frozen credit market means that women will be the first agents crowded out of the market. Already, the microfinance sector is facing difficulty with refinancing. If the crisis is short lived, then there will only be temporary short term impacts on women's access to credit. However, if the crisis deepens, then it will be increasingly difficult for women to access credit for

housing, or commercial activities, unless governments create compensating financing funds that focus on lending to women and women' micro and small businesses.

The gendered impact of the fiscal stimulus is more dependent on its composition than its size. So it does matter whether the primary form of the stimulus package is in terms of tax cuts versus spending on stimulating domestic demands or in the form of targeted poverty reduction programs. The small numbers of commonwealth developing countries that have implemented fiscal stimulus measures have tended to favor stimulating demand over outright tax cuts. As the table 3 below shows, in the case of India and South Africa, 100% of stimulus packages were on the direct spending side whereas for developed countries such as Canada (45.4%), Australia (41.2%)and the UK (73%) sizable part of the total stimulus seems geared to tax cuts (Prasad and Sorkin 2009). However in the case of Jamaica much of the fiscal stimulus (50% cut in General Consumption Tax (GCT) for industry, a loan scheme, and an increased marketing budget support) seems geared to supporting business expenditures and not necessarily for protecting the poor or employment generation. Mauritius' additional stimulus seemed to have been targeting to protection jobs and was credited with saving over 1700 jobs.

The data is still out and the relative employment impact of most of the tax cuts are not clear at this time. It can only be surmised that tax cuts and loan promotion, if they do not include special provisions that are targeted to ensure access and distribution of funds to female-owned businesses or sectors that are large employers of women, may accrue greater benefits men relative to women. In the case where fiscal stimuli are geared around infrastructural projects, unless special outreaches are made to include women workers and suppliers it may be the case that the employment benefits accrue mainly to men. Transportation and fuel subsidies that are designed to reach and benefit the final consumer will be quite beneficial to women.

Table 3: Profiles of Fiscal Stimulus (FS) in Commonwealth Developing and Developed countries

Country	Total FS US\$ (b) 2009	Percent 2008 GDP	Tax cut share
Australia	\$19.3	1.8%	41.2%
Canada	43.6	2.8	45.4
India	6.5	0.5	0.0
South Africa	7.9	2.0	0.0
United Kingdom	40.8	1.5	73%
Other Commonwealth Countries with assorted stimulus type-packages include: Guyana: US\$400 million for the rice industry. Jamaica: (Dec 2008). Approximately US\$1billion through a variety of mechanisms including 50% cut in General Consumption taxes, loans to and marketing support to the tourism sector. Assorted customs and other tax relief to			

car and auto sector.
Mauritius: (December 2008). Additional stimulus package of US\$330 million. It is reputed to have saved 1,700 jobs including in the textile sector.
Uganda: US\$35.35 million through commercial banks for large scale farmers and agro producers

Source: top table- Prasad and Sorkin (2009); bottom cell: Assorted news reports from national papers.

Responses to the triple crisis

While the global approach to the food crisis has been left up to UN agencies, national governments and the auspices of the Bank and the Fund, the climate crisis has been left up to the UNFCCC framework and ministers of environment/climate change. Climate change financing architecture has an established institutional process (under the auspices of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) are related climate change financing instruments such as the Clean Development Mechanism, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and the Adaptation Fund. The big challenge is, of course, to en-gender these processes so that funds can easily flow to meet women's needs, priorities and concerns.

As noted above, the financial crisis is the purview of the G-20 (leaders meetings and ministers of finance) with key roles assigned to the Bank and the Fund. The G-20 Leaders' Summits have been convened early in 2008 and multiple times since then. At each summit there have been multi-packed remedies proposed that covers the multi-dimensional aspects of the current global recession.

Box 2: G-20 Commitments on Food/fuel, Climate and Financial Stability goals

The G-20 Pittsburg meeting committed to increase access to food, fuel and finance among the world's poorest, though:

Partnering on Food Security

The G-20:

- Reaffirmed the outcomes/commitments of the L'Aquila summit's Comprehensive Food Security Initiative (July 2009). These commitments included: 1) \$22 plus Billion over three year for agricultural development and 2) assistance for emergency food aid and nutrition programs.
- Call for a World Bank Food Security Trust Fund / and a Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (building on the success of the World Bank's Food Crisis Response Fund (GFRP) to finance medium- and long-term investments that boost agricultural productivity and market access in low-income countries.

Acting on our Global Energy and Climate Change Challenges

The G-20 focused on:

- Phasing Out Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Increase Energy Market Transparency in the context of targeted support to help the poorest.
- Better Oversight and regulation of oil commodity futures markets and improve oil market transparency by increasing reporting of oil production, consumption and stock data.

Support for the Most Vulnerable

The G-20 called for:

- A new World Bank Trust Fund to finance investments in food security, a commitment to fund programs that expand access to renewable energy;
- G-20 Financial Inclusion Experts Group to recommend innovative approaches to providing financial services to the poor, including through national regulatory and policy efforts.
- Launch of a new Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Finance Challenge which will partner with the private sector to support entrepreneurs in poor countries.

While the immediate focus of G-20 governments was on protecting the financial system and securing bank activities as the crisis has infected the real economies, there is need for stronger regional and country based approaches that are focused on specifying regional differences through integrated impact assessments. These impact assessments must include gender, human development and human rights frameworks and tools.

More importantly the crises cannot be solved by reliance on old and problematic forms of transactional, quid pro quo leadership in the context of business as usual.

Yet, despite growing inequalities and rising impoverishment, including retrogression in some social indicators (for example, Aids induced 20 years drop in life expectancy in Sub Saharan Africa), the multiple layers of reforms being engineered for and with developing countries are likely to persist in the current direction. From aid effectiveness, to public sector effectiveness to trade effectiveness, the underlying message of restrictive fiscal and inflation fighting, trade liberalization, privatization and financial deregulation, at any cost, are likely to have the most traction^x. The recent tepid response of the G20, through the now thrice leaders meetings from 2008 to the present, to the financial crisis and their unequivocal endorsement and resuscitation of the IMF with its conditionality framework unreformed does not leave a great deal of room for optimism about

the future direction of macroeconomic policy making as it relates to developing countries (Williams 2009a).

What are the challenges/threats and opportunities with regard to gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment? How can gender networks interface in a constructive way with new G-20 multilateralism? Is the momentum of women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance, endangered or at a crossroad?

Development is a complex, multi dimensional process that must focus on social progress, human development, gender and social equality, and environmental and ecological sustainability. It must be grounded in food sovereignty of which food security is a necessary but not a sufficient element. It must also be grounded in sustainable employment of which the quality, condition, and adequacy of pay are essential prerequisites. Development must be about securing the wellbeing of boys, girls, women and men in the local community. Thus it must also be grounded in a way that contributes to women's economic and social empowerment.

For example, there already exists a multitude of funding windows for climate change. The challenge is to ensure that this is in the first case used to promote sustainable development that is gender sensitive and friendly to women's empowerment. This necessitates reform of the current set of climate change financing mechanisms, such as the clean development mechanism (CDM). In the first case, they should operate on 'less than burdensome' criteria. This means eliminating the often onerous prerequisites, costly financial and human resource applications, registration, monitoring and evaluation processes. Mechanisms, such as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), must be designed to also handle small to medium scale activities with moderate economies of scale. This includes outreach to micro, small and medium sized firms owned and operated by women that are working in the area of adaptation and mitigation and technology development. It should also seek to ensure women's and indigenous people's access to, control and ownership of land and forests.

Finally, the financing mechanisms for climate change as well as the financial reform mechanism developed for the economy as a whole must promote and ensure household and community infrastructure that eases men's and women's time burden and reduces or eliminates their vulnerability to cyclical economic as well as climate events. This includes the financing of technologies and renewable energies for the household sector and provisions for food security.

Gender issues must hence be confronted decisively with gender remaining highly visible to policy-makers, especially when it comes to issues of macroeconomic policy. Though gender has been flagged in many programs as a

cross-cutting issue, gender empowerment and welfare indicators are the weakest among MDGs targets and gender equality is very narrowly targeted. Currently, it would seem that despite the activism and advocacy across a wide spate of actors, gender is in danger of falling off the development agenda.

A gender sensitive alternative development agenda must focus on getting back to basics (such as child care and early childhood education, reproductive health care and support social services) and physical infrastructure (such as roads, electricity, sanitation and housing). This is especially important in the face of climate change and variability. The current data shows that women are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Women and children are 14 more times likely to die from natural disasters than men. Natural disaster leads to both migration and internal displacement, which puts women at great disadvantages and subjects them to personal insecurity and vulnerability to sexual harassment, sexual assault and other forms of gender-based violence.

What is needed in terms of climate, food and finance policies is adjustment mechanisms that facilitate better women's participation. These include: 1) programmes and projects that enhances women's coping strategies to deal with weather related hazards; 2) programmes and projects to increase women's role in adaptation and the adaptation of sustainable farm practices; 3) programmes and policies that identify and work to decrease the barriers to women's access to credit and new technologies, extension services and credit facility and 4) programmes that structure mitigation and adaptation strategies, food and nutrition and financial reform policies in a framework that enhances and expands women's access to capital beyond micro finance; build and ensure their access to intellectual property asset classes and involved women and girls in technology development and transfer.

This means interrogating the vision for development and the key determinants of what will ultimately deliver development in order to promote and enhance gender equality and women's economic and social empowerment. At the macro level, there need be strategic rethinking of the frameworks of fiscal policy and public finance and debt sustainability; monetary policy and exchange rate, financial market regulations; trade reform and the negotiations of trade agreement. At the meso level, it may mean funding, through tax credits etc, public banks, financial intermediaries and firms to increase loans, extend training and skill development for women and girls. It also means creating the enabling environment for the creation of employment in multiple sectors of the economy and finding creative ways of stimulating more healthy backward and forward linkages between the formal and informal economy. Ultimately, in some cases, governments may need to increase spending on public investment for sustainable job creation and social protection programs.

This re-envisioning also implies reducing and eliminating the worst effects of public poverty by governments providing the necessary infrastructure

(transportation, water, sanitation, public health) for men and women to perform social reproduction. It also means finding creative ways and incentives to shift the bargaining power within households in order to encourage more equitable division of labor and resources in the care economy.

In so far as the informal economy continues to grow and embed itself as a large contributing force in national economies, there will also be need to think carefully about the necessary expansion of social protection and access to basic services for the men and women actors in this aspect of the economy. The informal economy cuts across a number of different levels (self employment, include unpaid family labor), wage workers (including domestic workers), and homeworking (industrial outsourcing). Women dominate in most of these levels. So policies must focus on understanding and developing direct and indirect mechanisms to ensure that men and women in this sector have access to decent livelihoods and standards of living.

Gender inequality and women's empowerment stalled or de-railed in the face of the triple crisis?

At the present time, it is not clear the exact extent to which the outcomes of the triple crises and the strategies deployed to manage them impact gender equality and women's empowerment, positively or negatively. This is a matter for empirical verification. The imperative for undertaking a thorough review of such impacts is now, given that the negotiations for bolstering and re-girding the both the architecture of climate change finance and economy wide financial system is currently underway. An initial starting point in this direction is to de-mystify the subject matters by carefully exposing and examining the scope, composition and direction of financial and investment flows. This must be complemented by careful analysis and tracking of the specific dynamics and inter-relationship between gender and climate change financing, economic recovery programs and financial sector reform agendas.

With regard to climate change, gender advocates must also strategically begin to complement their traditional approach of gender analysis grounded in the explicit recognition of gender biased and gender discrimination -- within the contextual framework of climate change risk assessment financing. This will engender separating out the stylize facts and isolating how climate change increase their impacts for better or worse asking questions such as

- How does climate risk impacts gender equality and women's empowerment projects already on the ground? How should risks be addressed?
- What risks does the current pattern of climate change financing pose for gender equality and women's economic empowerment processes now underway in developing countries? Or, alternatively, do climate change financial and investment flows bypass or marginalize women's concerns and priorities?

The existence of climate risk means that gender analysis and strategies to improve the economic empowerment of women must go beyond traditional frameworks and push to incorporate financial and investment methodologies and framework in their analysis and program planning.

With regard to the financial crisis cum economic recession, it is clear that reform agendas and responses to the economic crisis must quickly move beyond fiscal stimulus geared to the financial sector and Central Bank interventions to unblock the financial constraints on the real sector and focus on poverty eradication, employment creation and sustaining economic development gains.

In this vein, there are at least six gender-wise virtues that can be advocated for:

- Gender sensitive employment generation focused global macro policies/sectoral policies.
- Gender sensitive and women friendly protection of the poor and vulnerable (social protection programs: public workers, school feeding, employment guarantee schemes/ring fence social services).
- Support for progressive and enhanced fiscal policies with appropriate levels of social investment and social transfers, including cash transfers.
- Economic/human development/social and gender impact assessments of proposed global financial system reform measures including the use of gender responsive budgeting (GRB).
- Inter-linked approach to food/fuel/financial/jobless and climate crises: Draw on the works of the various UN and global task forces and commissions that have been studying and involved with participatory dialogues on these issues.
- Move towards a new multilateralism based on the voice and points of views of the bottom fifth

III. The crisis of leadership and the triple crisis

Unfortunately, during crisis events, such as the finance crisis, the important responses, at the policy level, tends to focus on short term targets framed in the context of a transactional (reward and punishment/quid pro quo, win-lose) approach to leadership. However, in the context of the triple crises, the crises themselves are manifestations of failure not just of institutions and market activities, but of failures in leadership. This is a telling indictment of the transactional based type of leadership that is in played-out across governments, key policy making and private market institutions. Longer term proactive and far reaching resolutions of today's triplet of crises will require more resort to the type transformational (change oriented, participatory, inspiring-motivational) leadership skills that women have being developing and demonstrating in the public space for the last twenty years or so (Bass and Avolio (1994), Eagly (2007) and Rosener 1990). This kind of leadership involves an approach and a compulsion to raising 'higher levels of motivation and morality' in public economic

and social decision making. It also seeks to engender higher levels of 'human conduct and ethical aspirations of both the leader and led and, thus, has a transforming effect on both. (McGregor Burns, 1978).

Women's transformational leadership^x approach to economic, public and social policy is focused among other things on bringing a set of human gender sensitive values into the public policy space. Thus presage the call for endowing macroeconomic, financial and trade policy with a social content and redistributive emphasis that builds the capacities and enhances the functioning of the poor and marginalized even as it empowers their involvement in planning and decision-making. Another key elements of women's transformational approach to leadership that is critical to economic and climate management of the development agenda is the intellectual point of departure/stimulation in terms of the emphasis on a) the household as a site of production and reproduction, b) advancing thinking and analysis about gender roles, gaps and biases and their significance in economic performance and c) embedding a social content to macroeconomic and financial policies.

A focus on empowerment, values and social content in critical economic and financial decision-making blunts the tendency to focus on the short term (whether market-financial quarterly bottom lines or four-year political cycles).

The key challenges confronting the global economy in general and development in particular requires new visions and responses. The triplet of food, finance and climate crises require leadership that is visionary, inspiring and effective. So, whether recognized now or not, in as much as, an effective, sustainable long term path away from the trajectory of cyclical crisis demands a deeply structural approach to policy making and governance across all arenas, in which there will be the need for women's leadership at all levels.

The solution to the current development dilemma-cum crisis, as well as to economic revival in the global economy, food security/sovereignty and climate sustainability requires meeting two important challenges:

First, an active, agile and forward thinking state that can dynamize and activate the key ingredients of sustainable development.

Second, the approach to economic and social governance must be the values of gender equality, human security, broadly and women's social and economic empowerment.

Transformational leadership is critical for successfully dealing with the kinds of challenges presented by the economic recession and climate change. As we can see from the outcome of G-20 meetings and the stalemate-cum-failure of the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit, transactional quid pro quote leadership is

falling to make the kinds of changes that are needed to deal with global challenges and economic development crises in the South.

Now is therefore the time for women's leadership to take centre stage; from parliamentarians, to technical staff in ministries, to technical experts in research institutions working with civil society, to academic gender advocates, to seize the forward-looking policy agendas to work in the best interest of men and women in developed and developing countries.

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Appendix I: Causal Factors in the present Global Food Crisis

Long term Structural (in the making since 1980s & almost three decades of neglect of agriculture):

- Neo liberalism
- IMF and World Bank Structural adjustment programs—export crop promotion
- EU & US subsidies
- Declining ODA for the agricultural sector (since 1980s)
- Climate Change and weather shocks such as droughts
- Lack of international planning and foresight around food and agricultural production
- Mal development policies and projects

Short term/recent developments

- Decline in stocks
- Slow down in food supply growth
- Demand Growth*
- Distorted competition (i.e.: non competitive food markets dominated by a few key players as well as in the fertilizer markets where only a few companies play)
- Decline in funding for R&D
- Multilateral de-regulation of agriculture/unfair trade policy
- Oil price increase
- (food based) Bio fuels production (EU and US increased incentives via subsidies etc for bio fuel production)
- Speculation/financial crisis (Speculation in commodities future went from US\$45 billion in 2000 to \$175 billion in 2005—Globe and Mail, Toronto, 4/25/08)
- Exchange rate variations (particularly the US\$)

In sum,

demand side factors include: consumption of food, bio fuels, speculation by traders and financial speculation

Supply side factors include: production fall off— due to urbanization, climate & stagnating yields and dumping--, oil prices, fertilizer prices and export restrictions

Appendix II: A financial fable

The financial crisis of 2007-2008 onset early 2007 with a fall in home prices and rising default rates which led to the bursting of the housing/sub prime bubble. The crisis is argued to have begun with sub prime mortgages, which everyone acknowledged is a small fraction of the gigantic mortgage industry. So there must be deeper issues at work here. But that is another part of the forest. So let us start where we are, with proximate causal factor, the sub prime. Default on sub prime mortgages combined with falling home prices triggered deterioration across all assets backed by sub prime loans. Many years earlier in the forest, some very creative elves had found the sub primes and packaged them neatly in pretty little papers and sent them around to all the creatures in the forest that enjoyed playing with such novelties. These toys kept being repackaged and repacked until no one could even recognize them or could tell what they were. But everyone wanted them. So they went around and around eventually leaving the forest to go into other kingdoms nearby and further and further away. By June 2007 the big Bears and giant Oaks in the forest such as Bears and Stearns, Citi Bank and Merrill Lynch experienced decrease in the value of their holdings of the wonderful creative devices and their ever growing family of new friends (CDOs, SVUs etc). The Big Bears and Giant Oaks were finding that the products they held that were based on these new sub prime friends were losing values. Soon they had to take substantial write-downs of their holdings of the now troublesome toys (for example, Citi Bank and Merrill Lynch each wrote-down \$50 billion in the early stage).

In August 2007, there were unprecedented losses among the wilder creatures, known as hedge funds, in the forest. Some of the Bears and Stearns, who had kinships with these creatures, were forced to bail them out. By autumn (September 2007), everyone in the forest suspected that the other one was holding a basket of nothingness. In the faraway United Kingdom of many forests, the creatures there was certain it was so; so sure were that they began to lined up to remove their own good toys from among the now undesirable nothingness. And thence began the awful realization that one of the biggest rocks in the forest was not really solid at all. It was completely full of nothingness. And down went Northern Rock.

Meanwhile back at home, the Big Daddy Bear lowered the interest-rate-honey hoping to lure the wild things back into a safer part of the Forest where they could be contained. But it was only half a point reduction; and beyond that, it was just too little and too late. By then one of the really big Oaks, called Merrill had lost over \$5 billion and most other Oaks' third quarter roots were showing a sea of red. It was a disaster. By the end of the winter Solstice, none of the Bears would share with the Oaks or with each other. Even the ever busy squirrels, who were busy raising nuts, and the hard working eager beavers, who were busy building dams, could not get any credit to finance their activities. Not even, the best among the highest quality beavers could not find a willing lender. Things

started to deteriorate even more rapidly, spiraling out of control. So much so that the Big Daddy Bear had to rescue one of the biggest Oaks in the forest, J.P.

Everything crashed in the autumn of 2008, almost exactly one year from when the screw began to turn. And then, the biggest of the biggest Bear fell among his brothers. But even they could not help him up and the Big Daddy Bear said no. So Lehman and his brothers filed for bankruptcy on Sept 15th. But had the Big Daddy Bear been a wise bear, he would have lent a hand and lifted Lehman up. For when Lehman fell it brought down most of the bigger oaks in the forests and the rest of the bulls and all the bears went running for the hills and valleys. The hills in this case were a flight to the safe arms of the Treasury (treasury securities), the twin of the Big Daddy Bear. Others simply cashed out their honey pots (portfolios), took their money and ran.

Merrill Lynch took one look at the vacant spots all around it in the forest, shined itself up, and covered its grays for a younger, fitter, look and went in search of a suitor. It found or was led (by an old uncle, it is said) to Bank of America (who with a shotgun (the old uncle? or not behind it) had no time (option?) to look more closely at Merrill's before it took the plunge.

By 15 September 2008, there was total panic in the financial market. The Twin big brothers joined forces and the Fed and Treasury went to the rescue to save what was left of the forest. But by then the monsters had fled to Main Street leaving a trail of havoc and destruction in their path. It was ultimately lassoed and brought back to the Wall at the end of the forest. But there were not many brave bears, bulls or oaks willing to take it on. Lots of moral suasion and other kind's of persuasion ensued but it was not until the long lost Uncle arrived from the capital with a giant pot of new honey that the deal became too sweet to resist, even though the fears persist. But, then in no time at all, the Bears, the Bulls and the Oaks were back and standing tall. And everything was BAU, or so it seemed.

Only, the good news, nor, apparently, the overflowing honey pot had never quite reached Main Street. In fact the kind old Uncle, Sam, the people said appeared to be quite strict and stern with the squirrels and the beavers. The money only dribbled slightly there. So business as usual (BAU) did not fully return there. Instead there were continuing lay-offs and closures of the dams the beavers and so strongly toiled on. Many argue that they could see signs of the Great Recession on the way....

Appendix III: A synoptic presentation of the causal factors of the financial crisis

For ease of presentation the important casual factor behind the recent financial crisis can be grouped as follows^{xi}: Micro/meso level perspective, Macroeconomic policy perspective, and financial regulation perspective and International Monetary & Economic Dis-orders Perspective.

Micro/Meso level triggers

Micro and meso level triggers operated at the household, firm and industry. They include the problematic pricing of assets of financial products by market leaders. Excessive innovations (securitized products/derivative investment became a driver and a constituent part of part of broad liquidity. (78% of liquidity was created by derivative instruments and was 9.64 times larger than world GDP.). There was also a lack of financial supervision both at the departmental, division level as well as the upper management and boards and industry watch dogs. Some of this was because the opaqueness of the instruments led to lack of clear and deep understanding by others, beyond their creators and those who worked with them on a daily basis.

The growing network of shadow banking system (brokerage-dealers, hedge funds, private equity groups, structured investments, money market funds and non bank mortgage lenders) led liquidity to grow beyond the control of monetary authorities. Since actions by players in this market was incentive driven, there was tremendous impetus to create a wider range of assets to meet the excessive demand for credit emanating from households, businesses, speculators and other investors. Under-girding these factors were that actions of irresponsible credit rating agencies who apparently indiscriminately applied “AAA” ratings on all kinds of assets. Ultimately, there was excessive borrowing and over leverage of household and financial sectors contributing to the housing bubble.

Macro level triggers

Monetary policy was accommodative of the speculative and innovative behavior of market participants. The Fed allowed rapid growth in the money supply. It operated loose monetary policy (2001-2006), which kept real short term interest rate (3 months Treasury bond rate) at a historical low. This low cost of financing help to fuel excessive demand for credit. It also facilitated strong growth in the housing sector. IMF counter factual research shows that had the Fed not adopted low interest rate policy, the real estate bubble would have been contained to a certain extent ().

Fiscal policy was also quite accommodative with increasing government expenditures at the same time as implementing deep tax cuts. Thus there was high consumption and low saving both at the level of the household and the government. The US also ran persistent large trade deficit. Feeding the voracious consumption and borrowing appetite of its businesses and households.

Financial Regulation Triggers

With the repeal of the US's Glass Steagall Act 1933 coupled with the removal of interest rate ceiling (regulation Q) and the exemption of investment banks from holding reserves (2004), financial regulators such as the treasury, the various banking regulators, the Securities and exchange commission operated under a 'let it be attitude". Thus regulation was both inadequate and lax. This encouraged and provided incentive to financial innovation and high consumption of credit. Inadequate regulation allowed for riskier asset to be created and have the run of the marker. It also tolerated increasingly higher and higher leverage ratios (in the context of increase liability management) by banks and near bank institutions. This situation helped to push up the price of underlying assets and their derivatives. Assets ultimately became dangerously over priced.

Due to the revolving door relationship between key regulatory players at Treasury and the Fed and other regulatory agencies, who smoothly transition between the role of market plays/insiders and regulator, there was a high level of comfortability and trust that act as drawback on more diligent and proactive regulatory approach.

International Monetary Systems Triggers

US domestic drivers provided the major sources for the financial crisis. But some of the blame for the crisis and the rapidity with which it has been transmitted to the global economy is due to long standing financial and governance issues in the over-arching international monetary system. Primary among these is that since the breakdown of the Bretton Wood System, due to tensions and intransigence of the US and the resulting tension between it and the EU, there has been no systematic framework governing the international monetary system. Rather the existing international financial architecture is patchwork quilt of ad hoc G-8 decisions, half baked responses to intermittent outbreak of financial and monetary disorders that seem to work initially and then dissipate or is not implemented. Since the demise of Bretton Woods there has been no ceiling on the volume of dollar issuance. There is been runaway (and for many previous to the financial crisis), jobless growth. Despite being a rich country, the US has been getting more than half of the global capital inflow, not the developing countries that have more need of it (the capital flow paradox). This free access of the US to low borrowing in the international financial market (via bond issuance) has fuel internal US credit growth.

In addition, there was a certain degree of euphoria connected to the US economy with the decline of the former USSR, stagnation in Japan, slow growth in Europe and Asian financial crisis after 1997. Some of this trending down after 911 and the crash of the techno bubble. But soon there after there was a return to BAU. Euphoric market sentiment drove US investment, saving and consumption behavior.

ⁱ In a nut shell: Rising prices (by about 10% end 2008) and growing shortages of staples such as wheat, rice, corn, maize and soybeans as well as other foods and cooking oils are threatening to push about 100 million people into poverty and hunger. In addition, grain stockpiles of rice, wheat etc, which along with potato provide over half the plant based calories of the diet of most people, have declined sharply. The prices of wheat and maize have risen by about 130% since the mid part of 2007. The price of rice has more than doubled since January 2008.

ⁱⁱ According to both IAASTD and the World Bank, 'public and private investment in agriculture (especially in staple food production) in developing countries has been declining relatively (e.g., external assistance to agriculture dropped from 20% of Official Development Assistance in the early 1980s to 3% by 2007) (IAASTD, 2008; World Bank, 2008, cited in IPRI 2009).

ⁱⁱⁱ ... nearly half of the world's cereal production is used to produce animal feed, (UNEP 2009)

^{iv} It takes about 1,000 tonnes of water to produce every tonne of grain.

^v In addition to seasonal droughts in some parts of the island, there has been a severe drought in Jamaica severe drought that has severely impacted water supply to hospitals, homes and schools. This has been particularly so in the Kingston Metropolitan areas. St Lucia is already undergoing a water rationing program. In contrast, the island of Dominica, which receives 300 inches of rain 'totally clean water' each year, is contemplating exporting water worldwide.

^{vi} The food security initiative has been endorsed by a number of private foundation according to specific expertise and emphasis: GATES, Rockefeller (scaling up small scale agriculture and building climate change resilience into agricultural development programs), Hewlett (integrating small holder farmers into commercial agricultural value chains, especially in Africa) and Rabobank (small scale funding, technical assistance, fair trade financing, micro lending, guarantees in order to promote access to capital for small scale farmers and cooperatives).

^{vii} There has been some disagreement as to whether this is enough. For example, the IMF, argue in favor of stimulus equal to 2 percent of global GDP.

^{viii} The G-20 has met as at the Heads of States level at twice thus far. First, in November 2008 about nine months into the financial crisis and then earlier this year in April 2009 in the midst of the economic crisis

^{ix} It remains to be seen how developing countries' policy makers will react to the current seeming about face of the formerly very tightfisted, straight-laced, market purist, donor governments and their institutions, who now with unseemingly haste rush to pledge billion of dollars for financial rescue of both financial and productive firms. These same governments and institutions now speak reverentially about public investment, 'flexibility of deficit' rule and the lessening importance of sticking to inflation targets. This they do with one objective in mind, to rescue their institutions and economies from the vagaries and vicissitudes of the market. And this they do, in spite of the fact of the vast and highly evolved network of safety nets (unemployment compensation, social security, welfare grants, trade adjustment assistance and agricultural and industrial subsidies) and social infrastructure (water purification and delivery system, functioning and well established sanitation and interstate highways) that exist to cushion their population. Yet these same

states held fast and furious against allowing developing countries, with millions of people without any safety nets to cushion them from the harsh realities of market failure, from utilizing policies that they deem would 'compromise macroeconomic stability', and spook the vaunted and highly responsive and responsible financial markets.

^x UNIFEM defines Transformational Leadership as a visionary process that starts at the level of individual transformation and transcends the personal to express itself at the group and institutional levels. Transformational Leadership is grounded in the principles and values of equity, equality, democracy, justice, caring, non-violence and cooperation (CIWIL programming announcement).

^{xi} Please see appendix 1 for short explanation of the origins of the financial crisis.