

From Beijing to 2030 Agenda: Lesson Learned and proposal to mainstream GID or “ Gender in Development” Approach in public policies

De Beijing a la Agenda 2030: aprendizajes para la transversalidad del enfoque GED o “Género en desarrollo” en las políticas públicas

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Abstract

The article contains a reflection on the internationalization of the proposals of feminism in the agendas of the United Nations, and especially in the Declaration and Platform for Action of Beijing, result of the IV World Conference on women: Equality, Development and Peace, that happened in 1995, and since then until the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in the UN General Assembly in September 2015.

This proposal is taking the thorough knowledge and lessons learnt of the application by 20 year *the Beijing Action Platform*, to propose recommendations and an itinerary that includes a model of seven steps for Beijing's strategies implementation (mainstreaming and empowerment) to facilitate gender equality achievements in *2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals* by the next years, in the public policies of different regions of the world.

Keywords

Gender mainstreaming, women empowerment, gender equality in the public policies, Gender in development approach, 2030 Agenda, Beijing Conference

Resumen

El artículo contiene una reflexión sobre la internacionalización de las propuestas del feminismo en las agendas de Naciones Unidas, y de manera especial en la Declaración y Plataforma de Acción de Beijing, resultado de la IV Conferencia Mundial sobre las mujeres: Igualdad, Desarrollo y Paz, celebrada en 1995, y desde entonces hasta la aprobación de la Agenda 2030 en la Asamblea General de la ONU en septiembre de 2015.

Esta propuesta busca extraer aprendizajes de la aplicación de las medidas planteadas en la Plataforma de Beijing para las políticas pública en diferentes países del mundo, a lo largo de los 20 años transcurridos desde 1995 a 2015. A partir de las conclusiones obtenidas, se plantean recomendaciones en un itinerario en 7 pasos que pueda ser de utilidad para simplificar la aplicación de la Agenda 2030 para la transversalidad de género en las políticas públicas y de desarrollo en las diferentes regiones del mundo.

Palabras clave

Gender mainstreaming, igualdad de género, enfoque de género en desarrollo, Agenda 2030, Conferencia de Beijing

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Introduction

This article is the result of a reflection shared in different international forums, especially during the UN yearly meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the meetings of Gender and Development Experts of the EU, GENDERNET of CAD/OECD, along with the analysis of the experience of more than twenty years of work in different countries and institutions for the integration of the gender perspective in public policy and in development policy in the double mandate of empowerment and mainstream that they have tried to implement since the Beijing Conference, to advance towards the formal and real equality of women and girls in the world.

Since I have been a member of the team of the Secretaría General de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación (SGCID/MAEC) that elaborated the Spanish position for the 2030 Agenda, I was invited to present about gender equality of the 2030 Agenda in the *IV Congreso Internacional de Cooperación al Desarrollo: Género y Desarrollo, en la Universidad Jaume I de Castellón* that took place on November 2015. There I was able to present for the first time in an academic environment the first conclusions about what we have learned from the difficulties of a transversal application of a gender perspective in the public policies required in the 2030 Agenda, using as a frame of reference the dual mandate of the Beijing Platform. Since gender equality has not been reached around the world, and this dual strategy is still valid to achieve this goal, the 2030 Agenda commits again to this mandate.

Since then and until today I have been reflecting on this issue, in the search of practical ideas that could help support organizations that try to implement the 2030 Agenda from a real and effective gender equality mainstreaming in the upcoming years. To develop that reflection, the article contains different parts:

1. The globalized context of feminism from Beijing: The Declaration and the Platform for Action are both the result and the synthesis of centuries of demands for women's rights, and the celebration of the Conference is a space in the UN agenda conquered by feminists. Ever since, the Platform has been considered as the navigation chart that defines, for the first time, concrete actions to be undertaken by different international actors, governments and civil society, in 12 critical areas. Another of the radically new novelties brought up by the Platform, is the proposal of a double strategy based in the joint effort of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. Although both had been mentioned in previous conferences and documents, it is from Beijing onwards that it universally starts to be conceived as a necessary and specific mandate for the actors involved.
2. Learning from the application of Beijing Platform As from 1995, the Platform became the road map to follow when making progress towards gender equality in different spheres of activity involving public policy, as well as in other areas associated with the economic and academic worlds, or in the structures of international organizations, where feminists, conscious of the inequality and injustice situation in which women live, are more and more found.

As a result of the evolution of two parallel and interconnected processes, on the one hand applying the Beijing Platform for equality by 20 years, and on the other hand the process of sustainable human development on the basis of the UN conferences of the 1990s, the 2000 MDGs and the Effectiveness Agenda, a great deal of learning has been acquired with respect to applying the Beijing dual strategy. This knowledge, about cross-cutting and empowerment of women is a result of analysis and experience in participating in international forums and in implementing gender and development policies, programs and projects in different countries and regions.

3. By way of conclusions and recommendations, an itinerary is proposed in 7 steps to speed up achievements towards gender equality on the Agenda 2030: Based upon the knowledge acquired throughout the 20 years since the adoption of the Beijing Platform, some fundamental itineraries can be proposed to speed up the achievements towards gender equality on the 2030 Agenda for the next years, and to serve as an asset to its implementation. In 2013 CSW, UN Women proposed including Beijing dual strategy of mainstreaming in all objectives and in one "stand-alone goal". To do so, the steps can be suggested to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with a real GID approach.

1. Globalized context of feminism

For several centuries, the vindication of "a few women" demanding equality and freedom for all, comparable to the rights acquired by men, have progressively constituted feminist movements all over the world. These movements have staunchly and permanently defended women's participation and recognition as key actors in establishing true democracies, development and justice for all.

Feminism is an advocacy movement based on peaceful struggle and for social, political, economic and cultural transformation, and in permanent dialogue with well established patriarchal power everywhere in the world. It arises to speak out against an obvious fact: that women are not considered as bearers of the same rights and duties as men. It demands the ending of this situation, and questions the hypocrisy of building up powers, societies and thought, that have excluded over half of the population on Earth for centuries. It is also, a movement permanently innovating and constructing itself. It is always searching for, first and foremost, alternatives and possibilities to ensure formal and real equality for women and girls, seeking fairer societies for all people discriminated against for any cause.

At the same time the feminist movement transforms itself and spreads throughout time across different regions of the world, a need to build up a feminist thought arises from different fields: philosophy, political and social sciences and even natural science and ecology; constantly questioning academia and reality. Both anthropology and sociology broadly disseminate gender theory in a quest to find a deep explanation as to why women are considered second-rate citizens in a world where whatever is associated to a male concept is central and beholds power, whilst anything thought of as female is considered, and perpetuates itself, as having a lower status (LAGARDE 2014: 99-109).

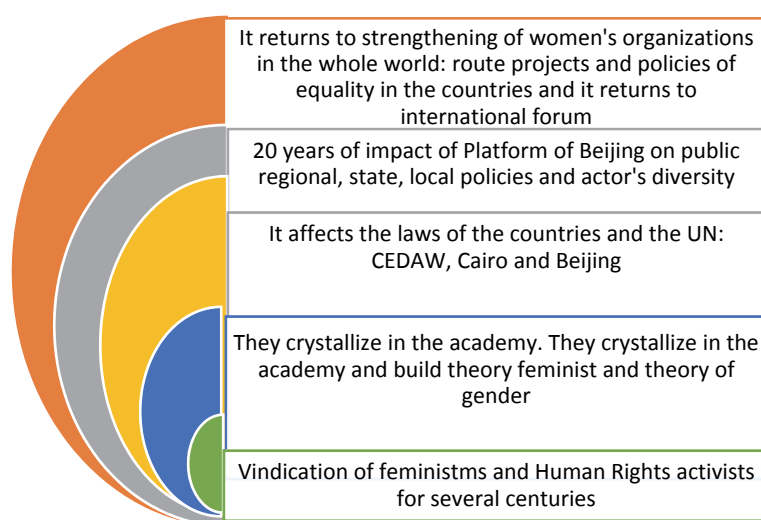
Some demands fought for from the 18th to the 20th centuries have been met, especially regarding the right to vote, working rights, and, although still reserved to a minority, participation in politics. Today feminists from both civil society organizations as well as national and international institutions have succeeded in having the UN assimilate their claims since its inception. The defense of the fundamental principles and rights of equality and non-discrimination have been materialized in the celebration of the First Conference of Women in Mexico, that established the Decade for Women from 1975 to 1985, in the approval of the CEDAW in 1979, and in the development of successive conferences, culminating in the IV World Conference held in Beijing in 1995 (INSTITUTO DE LA MUJER DE ESPAÑA 1999).

The Beijing Conference, together with its alternative parallel forum in Huairou, can be considered the first institutional space in the UN system to enshrine a global feminist road map. All participating countries made the commitment to take public measures and policies to advance towards gender equality. As the largest meeting of organizations from all around the world ever in which the outstanding respect for cultural diversity and different ways of "being women" was a key factor, it was an unprecedented historic event.

The Declaration and the Platform for Action are both the result and the synthesis of centuries of demands for women's rights, and the celebration of the Conference is a space in the UN agenda conquered by feminists. Ever since, the Platform has been considered as the navigation chart that defines, for the first time, concrete actions to be undertaken by different international actors, governments and civil society, in 12 critical areas. Another of the radically new novelties brought up by the Platform, is the proposal of a double strategy based in the joint effort of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment. Although both had been mentioned in previous conferences and documents, it is from Beijing onwards that it universally starts to be conceived as a necessary and specific mandate for the actors involved (INSTITUTO DE LA MUJER DE ESPAÑA 1996: 263-292)

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>

Hence, a virtuous circle is fulfilled, one that made it possible for the UN to claim feminist demands as its own, proposing concrete actions to all governments in order to strengthen civil society organizations and guarantee full citizenship for women.



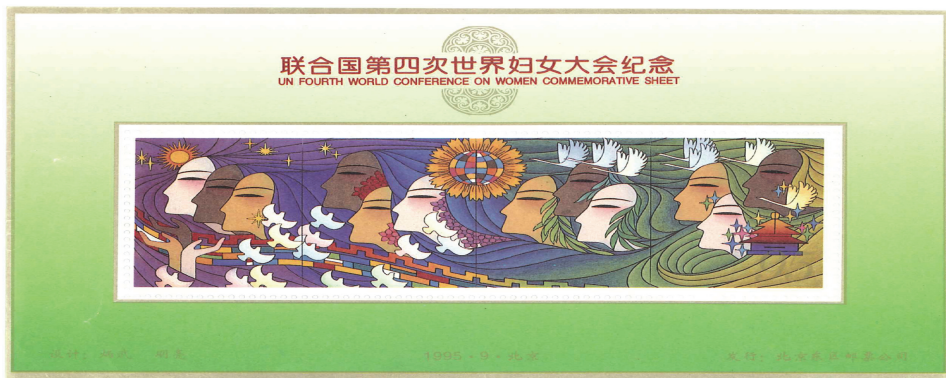
Graphic 1. Virtuous circle from feminism movements to UN and to National Policies. Elaboration of the autor

Since 1995, many of the 189 countries which signed the Platform have created mechanisms to ensure equality and public gender equality policies, to a greater or lesser extent, creating an unprecedented concrete itinerary for advancement of women. *Even though neither the Declaration, nor the Platform have legally-binding character*, they have had a major impact in benefiting equality in all regions of the world. They have also favored the application of the CEDAW as a law-binding international norm. Multiple efforts in all continents have promoted historical change for women's equality as well as for their participation in different realms of power in their countries, in order to move towards their labor, economic, sexual and reproductive, social, political and cultural rights, making way for the enjoyment of full citizenship for all people. Innumerable reports, studies and publications, developed by different UN agencies, regional organizations and states, and even civil society, are proof of this.

[\(http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/\)](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/)

Even though the tangible, unprecedented progress made in the last 20 years in gender equality has been recognized, there is also evidence that discrimination against women and girls is still the most universal, widely existing form of discrimination. And this is only the tip of the iceberg due to the still insufficient and unequal sex-disaggregated data collected in different parts of the world (MAEC 2007:12). The most recent information in connection with this matter is put forth in the different documents and reports emanating from the process of the Post 2015 Agenda. There arises, as a result of the thematic consultation on *Inequalities*, on of the SDG's need for a specific objective for gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as keeping the focus on a cross-cutting gender perspective, to be found in all objectives, guaranteeing a gender mainstream approach. Right now 17 objectives have been established at the 70th UN General Assembly, later of 3 years of consultations (UN.2015),

2. Learning from the application of Beijing Platform



Graphic 2: UN Fourth World Conference of Women Commemorative Sheet. Beijing, China 1995

As from 1995, the Platform became the road map to follow when making progress towards gender equality in different spheres of activity involving public policy, as well as in other areas associated with the economic and academic worlds, or in the structures of international organizations, where feminists, conscious of the inequality and injustice situation in which women live, are more and more found.

Although considerable progress has been achieved regarding the results of applying the strategies and courses of action put forward by the Platform, by subjects and by stakeholders, such initiatives are new in practice and have not been free from difficulties and trial-and-error processes throughout the years. As from 2005, when analysing these breakthroughs and their difficulties, *consideration has been given to discussing whether it would be necessary to hold a 5th World Conference on Women, this doubt being temporarily allayed by postponing the decision until approximately 2010*, placing the monitoring of the Platform mean while at the annual celebration of the successive CSW[*Commission on the Status of Women*] sessions, and prioritising the renewal of the UN gender architecture at such an important moment of transformation of the system. This situation culminated with the establishment of UN Women in 2010, as a means for raising gender matters to the highest level, the organization being positioned as an Under-Secretariat to the UN Secretary General. This is the first step towards reforming the entire System, 4 gender bodies that had hitherto existed being merged into 1 single organization, (DAW, INSTRAW, UNIFEM and OSAGI) as a real priority on the flowchart, in the world crisis context.

Major debates took place from 2005 to 2010 in the OECD and UN international forums, concerning the failure to eradicate world poverty, in spite of the international cooperation efforts to reduce it, and especially about the verification of the still prevalent universal feminisation of poverty and the failure to comply with the measures adopted at the Beijing Platform. The questions to be analysed were:

Whether or not the mainstreaming and empowerment strategies had been effective? and

If the implementation of those strategies was viable or it was otherwise necessary to seek new formulas for progressing towards gender equality in development policies?

It is within this context of debate concerning equality and cooperation policies for development that the Effectiveness Agenda arose, intended to evaluate the aid performed since the adoption of the 2005 OECD's Declaration of Paris, at its Second High level Forum on financing, and the subsequent Accra (2008) and Busan (2011) Agreements, an agenda that was established for speeding up compliance with the MDGs [*Millennium Development Goals*] by 2015, counting on principles of an operating nature, namely: harmonisation, alignment and association of stakeholders, management by results and mutual accountability between member and donor countries and institutions. In this development effectiveness framework, women who form part of GENDERNET/CAD, include of gender experts from UN and feminist networks from different world regions participating in these processes, constructing alliances to enable gender equality to become one of the cross-cutting subjects on the Effectiveness Agenda. Thus, defending the opportunity against the threat that the Effectiveness Agenda was posing on a fading of the gender topics, they tried to incorporate Beijing's dual strategy into the Accra and Busan Agreements, managing to ensure that the gender approach formed an integral part of the Global Partnership for aid effectiveness in 2011 (OECD 2011), by means of specific monitoring indicators and with the approval of a Joint action Plan of Busan on Gender Equality and Development for aid effectiveness (OECD 2012).

As a result of the evolution of these two parallel and interconnected processes, on the one hand applying the Beijing Platform for equality, and on the other hand the process of sustainable human development on the basis of the UN conferences of the 1990s, the 2000 MDGs and the Effectiveness Agenda, a great deal of learning has been acquired with respect to applying the Beijing dual strategy. This knowledge, about cross-cutting and empowerment of women is a result of analysis and experience in participating as a female advisor in international forums and in implementing gender and development policies, programmes and projects in different countries and regions, and the conclusions of some international and national evaluations about Gender in Development, for example: Evaluation of Joint Programming of Gender Equality of UN System of UN Women, FNUAP, UNICEF and PNUD (UN WOMEN 2013); the UN Women evaluation of Mopan (MOPAN 2014). Norway and Spain, were the donor countries that participated at first evaluation, and Netherland and Spain participated in the second. Another important evaluation was the *Evaluation of EU support to Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Partner Countries, that included the mid term evaluation of Eu Action Plan of GEWE in development cooperation 2010-2015 (EC 2015)*.

With all this inputs and lesson learned of the differents process and evaluations we could concluded son proposes:

Concerning real political willingness:

1. There has to be real political willingness where gender equality is concerned, explicitly as a public commitment expressed verbally and in writing in political documents, not only issued by the UN, but also by any state, regional or local institution.
2. Reaffirming international and regional commitments, to be integrated into the regulations from national-or regional institutions.
3. The decision-making processes for preparing UN documents such as those from CSW also need to be updated, so that they can establish deadlines, actions, results and indicators for their operability. Holding meetings every year does not lead to specific achievements, and negotiating with some states that are opposed to gender equality has a debilitating effect, not only at the UN conferences but also in regional areas, such as the EU.

Concerning language agreed upon and approaches already established:

4. Correctly conceptualising the gender approaches established since the 1990s, as well as accepting the implications from applying mainstreaming and empowerment strategies, when committing oneself to their integration. Accepting the GID [*Gender in Development*] approach], or the human rights approach, and sexual and reproduction rights, as opposed to other more traditional approaches such as the WID [*Women in Development*] approach], the maternal-infant one, which perpetuates the role of women as being mothers and carers, rather than approaches that promote freedom and the fair distribution of powers including women in such distribution.
5. It is essential that the link is conserved between the GID approach, on the one hand, and the Human Rights approach and the Sustainable Human Development approach, on the other hand. In spite of the difficulties and limitations involved in implementing it universally, the SDG [*Sustainable Development Goals*] and Post-2015 Agenda recuperate those approaches as the most suitable ones for a sustainable future focused on people.

6. Recognition of feminist genealogy inherent to the GID approaches and the Beijing dual strategy. Not doing so shows a lack of awareness where gender theory is concerned.
7. Qualified persons trained in gender studies, feminist theory, feminism, and in the international development agenda, are needed. That is why it is necessary to support gender and development study initiatives as a basic tool for applying the dual strategy. It is well known that the successful experiences in equality policies have been able to count on feminist women occupying political posts, or such women working as technical advisors in bodies and governments. At times women who lack training have been appointed to gender posts, just because they are women, minimising the impact of their position.
8. Dismantling the anti-feminist and anti-gender prejudices, that have distorted the concepts associated with mainstreaming and empowerment, reviling the content and the learning, as well as omitting the contributions that feminism has made to history. Concealing and discrediting feminism are merely ways of perpetuating machismo wherever it occurs.

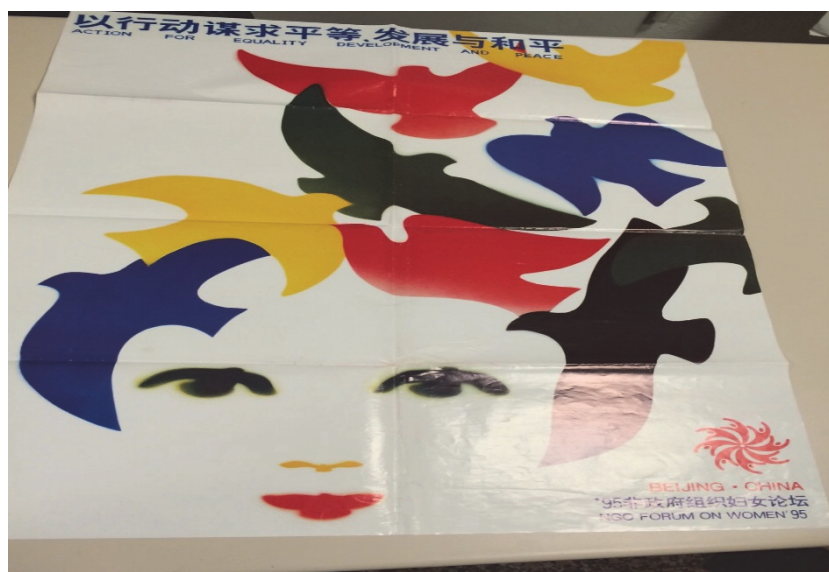
Concerning the application of the Beijing dual strategy:

9. Mainstreaming and empowerment strategies are essential for progressing towards equality, and if all the desired effects have not been achieved, this cannot be attributed to their ineffectiveness, but to the institutionalised machismo inherent to many structures and cultures that have prevented these strategies from being applied fully and in an unprejudiced way.
10. The two strategies are complementary and they have to be put into practice simultaneously. We, the gender female experts, have faced in many places restrictions when positioning them, yet results have been obtained all over the world with many policies, plans, programmes and projects. On many occasions however, they have had to be applied in a situation where political willingness in favour of equality is declared but not genuine, rendering the correct application of such strategies impossible.
11. One of the most difficult aspects to get rid of is institutionalised machismo, because apart from being found in language, societies or cultures, it has also established itself in the structures and power hierarchies of political institutions and international organization and, in some cases, it has fossilised those institutions to the extent that they have become virtually impervious to changes that lead to equality. Being difficult to bring about changes in organizational cultures, it is all the more difficult when it comes to changing institutionalized procedures, hierarchies and the distribution of patriarchal powers, managed by sexist men and women.
12. It is very important that the commitment to equality systematically includes incorporating the gender approach, both mainstream and specific, into all policy and strategic planning documents. Learning about all the development sectors is necessary for this purpose.
13. All of these difficulties lead to processes of great institutional complexity, because many organizations or policies explicitly state that equality is a priority where democratic processes are concerned, while at the same time real and specific actions that are conducive to this equality are curtailed, either manifestly or in a concealed way. For example, in many cases we have observed that the people who are working on these matters find themselves in a lower occupational bracket and are earning lower salaries, or limited resources are allocated to applying these policies, or there is a lack of genuine support, or that these policies are kept in isolation while others are clearly prioritized.
14. Difficulties have been found in understanding how to act or to incorporate gender specialists or to count on real support. That is why it is vital to obtain institutional initiatives at the very highest level. One major achievement has been the establishment and positioning of UN Women as an Under-secretariat within the UN System, as well as the setting up of regional and national mechanisms for equality over the last 20 years.
15. With respect to mainstreaming, it is essential to instigate training and awareness initiatives for the technical teams in the institutions, as well as to provide training for the people who are going to benefit from the development programs.
16. It is very important to try to learn about the construction of established gender identities that are subject to change, and about measures for reducing male misogyny towards women or female misogyny towards other women, by generating areas of recognition and solidarity among them. It is necessary to learn to respect women's leadership, to try out and give recognition to more democratic and less patriarchal leaderships, showing respect for individual knowledge and collective knowledge.
17. As far as management is concerned, it is very important to work towards a genuine institutionalism, and to allocate resources with a gradual increase in percentages in the projects, policies or programmes.

18. For combining the dual strategy, in addition to obtain real support for gender mainstreaming in all measures, it is also necessary to invariably incorporate specific empowerment actions for women, in order to reduce the discrimination gaps, especially for those women who suffer from double or multiple discrimination, involving ethnics, disability, age, LGBT, work, etc.
19. It is necessary to implement the gender approach in a cross-cutting way so it is applied to all the instruments, but it is also essential to devise initiatives and allocate specific funds for women's organizations in order to achieve empowerment for women and girls, such as the UN Women multi-donor Equality Fund promoted by Spain, the bilateral Flow Fund in the Netherlands, or, during the 1990s, the specific call for projects for women's organizations, an initiative from the Spanish Institute of Women that with little funding has achieved great results over the last 20 years in Latin America and the Maghreb (Instituto de la Mujer de España 2003). These funds could be benchmark financing instruments for applying the Agenda 2030.

Concerning the management of information and knowledge

20. In spite of the constant increase in the number of assessment units with gender trained staff, such as the UN Women evaluation division, and that great progress has been made in the field of assessment methods with a gender and human rights approach, their incorporation into most of the development assessments is still not widespread.
21. It is essential that gender equality policies make progress in implementing suitable processes for sharing information and knowledge that can serve as benchmark instruments for compiling, analysing and disseminating good practices concerning how to integrate the Beijing strategies, from planning to assessment, into policies, plans, programmes and projects, on an international, regional, national or local basis and for the different structures and actors. It is important to create application models with a multiplying and replicable effect, backed up by projects or observatories that cannot only count on information and progress regarding the condition of the women and girls in the world, based on disaggregated data, but can also generate data banks and learning procedures regarding practices and guidelines, with examples of initiatives for formal equality, real equality and specific initiatives for the empowerment of women.
22. One of the most significant achievements along these years, which gave a major boost to Beijing as the first global conference, is the ever-increasing establishment of global, regional and domestic networks, facilitating new forms of participation and information transfer in a more extensive way, accounting on the democratic use of the new technologies.
23. One of the lessons learned associated with the increasing availability of networks is the need for civil society to participate in the international forums in a more formalized way, and for the participating networks to represent a genuine cross-section of the different regions. Although it is important for an increasing number of organizations to participate, it is also necessary for those taking part to represent the feminist movements in every country or region. For example, through the NGO-D coordinators or the national or regional feminist platforms, such as Concord in Europe, CONGD's gender group in Spain, or the Marcosur Feminist Articulation in Latin America.



Graphic 3. Official Poster of NGO Forum on Women 95. Huairo, Beijing, China

3. 7 Step pathway to speed up achievements towards gender equality on the 2030 Agenda

Based upon the knowledge acquired throughout the 20 years since the adoption of the Beijing Platform, some fundamental itineraries can be proposed to speed up the achievements towards gender equality on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for the next 30 years, and to serve as an asset to its implementation. In 2013 57^oCSW, UN Women proposed including Beijing dual strategy of mainstreaming in all objectives and in one "stand-alone goal" (UN WOMEN 2013) <http://comms-authoring.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/post-2015>. To do so, the following steps can be suggested to facilitate the implementation of mainstream GID Approach of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, in policies, plans and programmes (SAN MIGUEL 2009 a:31-74):

- 1. Declaratory Step for Gender Equality:** Actual political will, expressly set out on oral communications and written political documents by international and regional entities, and by national and local governments. One example was the gender equality in the 2030 Agenda like a real priority by a lot of countries, and staff of UN and for the General Secretary.
- 2. Step to reaffirm Internationally Agreed Commitments:** Every organisation should commit itself to the basic agreements on gender: starting with the CEDAW, the documents of conferences of the 1990s, and in particular the Cairo Plan of Action, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Resolution 1325, and the final documents of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, as well as those resulting from the Finance Conference and the Security Council Meeting to be celebrated in October 2015. States should adopt their legislation to the provisions of those agreements.
- 3. Step to Define Approaches:** Every organisation should take position on these established approaches and concepts. This is a crucial point: although there is an agreed language on the UN, already defined more than 20 years ago, language debates are still carried out, thus delaying its effective implementation. We already have the UN Fundamental Principles of Equality and Non-Discrimination, GID (Gender in Development) against WID, the Human Rights approach or the SRHR approaches (Sexual and reproductive Health and Rights) against more traditional approaches of child and maternal health. If we add the operational principles of the aid effectiveness agenda to these approaches, we could achieve better results implementing the dual strategy of gender mainstreaming and specific actions for the Post-2015 Agenda (MAEC, 2007: 32-35)
- 4. Step of Strategic Planning:** Including systematically the right approaches on planning and operational programming procedures of any organisation already committed with the previous stages; i.e. any document integrating the GID mainstreaming approach with a specific section for the empowerment of women. This is quite a complex task, since the gender experts shall make a considerable effort to acquire knowledge in various subjects in order to include it properly in different sectors or processes.
- 5. Management Step:** Once GID approach is fully integrated on the planning procedures, it needs to be reflected in management. Some key points for that are:
 - Raising awareness among senior posts and
 - Developing gender specialized training for technical,
 - Integrating precise signals of changes on the organisational culture towards gender equality, and considering positive actions for women's greater presence in work positions. Gender balance.
 - On the other hand, it is crucial to assign budget funds, at least in % and progressively, to promote mainstreaming on every non-specific gender instrument, and to establish funds or specific plans and programmes for the gender equality, like those already mentioned: the UN Women Fund for gender equality multilateral instrument, (<http://www.unwomen.org/es/trust-funds/fund-for-gender-equality>), the Dutch FLOW fund (<http://www.flowprogramme.nl/Public/HomePage.aspx>), or the Gender and Development Programme of the Spanish Institute for Women's Affairs, with its two legs of training, and of funds for women organizations (MOLINA E y others 2009 c:283-382) other good practice of regional plans are the EU Action Plan of GEWE in development cooperation 2010-2015. and the new GAP II (UE 2010 and 2015 a). All of these will be examples to continue and to include at 2030 Agenda implementation.
- 6. Step of Policy Coherence and Harmonisation of Actors.** It is essential to consolidate ties between equality and development policies. For example, in order to do so, Spain has joined efforts to draft the Law of Equal 3/2007 (MINISTERIO DE IGUALDAD, 2009: 32,33) or the national plans for gender equality and their monitoring.

It is important to create joint spaces for dialogue among all the actors, both within the countries, between feminist and development movements, and with international networks. The Spanish Cooperation has launched some

interesting spaces, such as a Gender Group at the National Cooperation Council, operating for 10 years now, to implement the Gender Strategy of the Spanish Cooperation; at a regional level, the work developed by the GAD Expert Group of the EU to make the GAP I and GAP II (*EU Action Plan of Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Development 2010-2015*) (<http://www.enpi-info.eu/library/content/commission-staff-working-document-eu-action-plan-gender-equality-and-womens-empowerment-deve>) or the participation on the Gendernet/CAD (www.oecd.org/dac/gender-developmen) as well as the boost to the *Diálogos Consonantes* with Latin America (http://www.mujaeresdelsur-afm.org.uy/joomdocs/Book_ConsonantDialogues.pdf), that have carried out 7 dialogues to promote greater mutual acquaintance, accountability, and establishment of alliances among the feminist organisations of the member countries and the Spanish Cooperation.

7. Step of Knowledge Sharing and Management and Accountability. It is necessary to reinforce the information transfer, knowledge management, and transparency and accountability, with a broader vision than that of the evaluation, in order to achieve greater democratisation of information and learning. On this point, the establishment or reinforcement of observatories and good practice banks will provide for a better and continuous engagement of the feminist organisations to strengthen development policies (www.cepal.org/oig/ and www.uam/redgedea). Among the innovative experiences on this field are the procedures of working groups or building blocks towards Accra and Busan at the Aid Effectiveness Agenda, as well as the different modalities of participation, ground-breaking experiences in the history of the consultation process of the Post-2015 Agenda. Even though no procedure meets all expectations, these have been the widest processes concerning regional representations and a multiplicity of organisations and people all around the world, which enhances the inclusion of more opinions and ideas, reflecting a great wealth and diversity of opinions.

Along these lines it would be necessary to reform the procedures of the upcoming CSW every year regarding:

- a. Periodicity of the conferences because holding them every year actually diminishes their usefulness regarding the application of their recommendations, and they represent a high cost for the UN and the different countries.
- b. Assumption of recommendations or declarations by majority instead of consensus to avoid the repetition of the same discussions about concepts or principles already established, what makes more difficult the correct application of agreements and recommendations.

4. Conclusion

It will be also essential to make more and more use of the South-South and triangular cooperation as ways of exchange and mutual support based on experience, as well as the acknowledgement of all actors' learning and achievements.

2015 is a landmark year for the global gender agenda, development and sustainability. Along with the celebration of Beijing+20, Cairo+20, the World Conference in Sendai and the Finance Conference, it will culminate with the 2030 Development Agenda, where the proposal of all processes will be reflected on the 17 SDG. It is crucial that the dual strategy set in Beijing will be reflected on a specific itinerary of targets, goals, indicators, financing, and specific instruments, which may eventually turn into reality an equal world, guaranteeing full citizenship for everyone.

It is crucial that to advance in a organized way in all the regions, we achieve a realistic evaluation of the inequality gaps, counting on the strengthening of the statistics departments of the countries. Truthful analysis will allow us to build precise paths from the regional and national organizations that have real political will, to define approaches, goals and specific actions, regional and national plans, with assigned budget percentages, and with specific instruments, both in bilateral and multilateral areas, that in some cases already exist, and based on mutual learning. The compiling of good practices truly tested as such, as well as the South-South and Triangular cooperation can facilitate that these tools are used in continuous way. To draft paths and maps of application of the 2030 Agenda in a regional, national or even local way, with specific means to apply them will facilitate that 50/50 slogan chosen for 2030 in a more democratic, egalitarian and sustainable world.

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