

PUTRAJAYA DECLARATION

1. We, the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation from Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) met in Putrajaya, Malaysia, from 9 to 10 May 2005, to discuss issues faced by women in the era of globalization recognize that the participation of women and the integration of their perspectives, in all sectors and at all levels, are essential to their empowerment and to the achievement of gender equality and equity. In conformity with the principles and obligations of NAM Members, we hereby:

2. Reaffirm our determination to preserve the noble ideals and principles of the Movement as initiated by its founders so as to further consolidate and make the Movement as the leading force in the 21st Century;

3. Recall that the Heads of State and Government of NAM Member Countries called upon States which are not parties to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to work actively towards ratification of or accession to it and encourage all members to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention;

4. Recognize the need for full and accelerated implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by States parties to the Convention;

5. Reaffirm also that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide and for achieving gender equality; especially the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and aggravation of the problems deriving from poverty and social injustices have particularly adverse impact on women.

6. Increasing globalization and trade liberalization have multiple impacts on the capacity of developing countries to create employment, livelihood opportunities and to achieve poverty eradication goals. Whilst women have enjoyed some benefits, most of them still suffer from increased poverty, deteriorating working conditions and job insecurity.

7. Structural adjustment programmes, the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries, in particular the LDCs, is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving progress, sustainable development and poverty eradication strategies, that particularly affect women and girls.

8. Women's empowerment, their active participation and direct involvement in the economic sphere are critical to the achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement Creating an environment which empowers women to achieve upward mobility in the economic sphere in both the formal and informal sectors is an essential part of the national agenda.

9. In this regard, the role of the family unit that respects the human rights of all its members as an institution that provides the highest degree of material and moral well being is extremely important as stated in the Doha Declaration on Family adopted on 30 November 2004.

- Promote research on the impacts of globalization and trade liberalization on women's economic status to develop better understanding and mainstreaming of women's issues in

decision-making processes;

- Formulate strategies to effectively address circumstances causing negative impacts of globalization on the situation of women and girls worldwide;
- Provide women, especially marginalized and vulnerable categories of women, access to financing, in particular micro-credit and marketing facilities, and provide corresponding capacity-building programmes in gender awareness, fund management, and other appropriate skills;
- Provide an enabling environment that removes gender specific barriers and creates opportunities for women's entrepreneurial development;
- Strengthen the incentive role of the public sector as employer to develop an environment that effectively affirms and empowers women;
- Include gender perspectives in finance and trade negotiations at all levels;
- Strengthen networking and communication at all levels to broaden and enhance women's potential in economic activities;
- Facilitate creation of sustainable jobs and livelihood opportunities to improve women's position in the labour market and ensure favourable working conditions for all women, including migrant women, consistent with all their human rights;
- Enact and enforce legislation to guarantee the rights of women and men to equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;
- bodies, among others, set up by the government with the view to achieving equal representation of women;
- Affirmative action policies to increase the proportion of women at the decision-making level, at least to a minimum 30 percent in both public and private sector bodies including in the legislatures;
- Review the criteria and process of appointment to decision-making bodies in the public and private sectors to encourage increased women's participation and representation;
- Take measures, as appropriate, to ensure that political parties, trade unions and all other private sector bodies commit themselves to women's equal access to and full participation in power structures and decision making at all levels;
- Raise awareness among women and men on the importance of women's participation in decision making processes at all- levels in political, economic and financial sectors, and in this connection, develop leadership training programmes for women, especially for young women, to enable them to exercise responsibilities at all levels;
- Promote equal access to education, property rights and inheritance rights and to information technology and business and economic opportunities, including in international trade, in order to provide women with the tools that - enable them to take part fully and equally in decision making processes at all levels; and
- Facilitate and create enabling conditions to have access and to ensure active participation of women in decision-making positions both in urban and rural areas.

Take all appropriate measures to ensure the equal participation of women in decision-making and management level in education system

Provide women and girls on equal basis with men and boys access to scholarships, study grants, financial aids and all other relevant facilities;

- Eliminate negative stereotyping in all curricula and teaching materials made available to male and female students to fight discrimination against women;
- Ensure that private sector educational institutions adhere to gender equality policy to encourage equal education of women and girls;
- Take all necessary measures to strengthen public educational system to improve women's and girls' access to all levels of education;
- Promote illiteracy eradication programme and provide increased opportunities and facilities for lifelong learning for women;
- Provide equal opportunities for women and girls to participate actively in all school programmes and activities;
- Remove structural and cultural impediments to increase the enrolment of female students in science and technology disciplines at the tertiary level; And
- Facilitate access to professional education to widows in war affected' countries.
- Ensure that women have equal access to health care services, information and education throughout the life cycle;
- Ensure safe motherhood and safe birthing for women living in conflict areas or in areas of natural catastrophes;
- Ensure the protection of women and girls from sexual abuse in conflict areas;
- Reaffirm the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, protect and promote the attainment of this right for women and girls and incorporate it in national legislation;
- Provide adequate and gender-sensitive services to address all reproductive health needs and increase resources to such services;
- Establish training centre and raise funds to support and educate community-based health workers in remote areas;
- Raise awareness and understanding among men and boys about their responsibilities of protecting women's health needs, particularly their reproductive health;
- Provide necessary sexual education at school level as an effective HIV and AIDS prevention tool;
- Promote gender-specific economic, social and legal measures aimed at combating persistent and emerging infectious diseases, inter alia the HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis pandemics and intensify prevention campaigns;
- Establish, as appropriate, gender indicators to monitor healthcare programmes, goals and outcomes, particularly for HIV and AIDS; and
- Educate the society on the importance of social inclusion of people living with HIV and AIDS in particular women and girls.

Women, the Media and ICT

1. The emergence of new information and communication technologies (ICT) poses opportunities and challenges for the promotion of gender equality. The role of ICT as a tool for

development cannot be over-emphasized and is central to the empowerment of women in the developing countries.

2. It is particularly important to address gender-based discrimination and inequalities that undermine women's access to opportunities in the emerging knowledge and information society, and that diminish the potential of ICT and the media to be an effective tool for the promotion of gender equality.

3. The media in many countries do not provide a balanced picture of women's diverse lives and contributions to society. In addition, violent and degrading or pornographic media products are also negatively affecting women and their participation in society. Efforts must be made to stop the projection of negative and degrading images of women in the media communications electronics, print, visual and audio.

4. We hereby commit ourselves to:

- Develop domestic policies to ensure that gender perspective is fully integrated into ICT programmes, including in education and training at all
- Promote effective participation of women in national, regional and international forums on ICT;
- Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and the ICT;
- Promote women's full participation in the media, including management, programming, education, training and research;
- Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media;
- Strengthen national and international measures to deter and stop cyber-crimes such as the utilization of the internet for trafficking of women and girls;
- Promote the use of ICT network to connect the member countries of NAM for sharing of experiences and best practices; and
- Call upon the media to promote gender equality and the advancement of women and to intensify its contribution to combat violence against women including through awareness raising campaigns.

Women and Armed Conflict

1. War and militarism have profound adverse consequences on women and children.
2. Casualties of war, armed conflicts, including in situations of foreign occupation, are mostly civilians, the majority of whom are women and children.
3. For women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

- Address the various dimensions of rehabilitation and reintegration of women and girl refugees, including the psychological consequences of rape and other forms of gender-based violence;
- Put in place mechanisms and programmes for the protection of women and girls in refugee and Internally Displaced Persons camps against violence and all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation and to ensure the enforcement of action against the perpetrators in accordance

with the law;

- Provide humanitarian assistance including the health needs, especially reproductive and sexual health of women and girls in conflict, refugee, and IDP situations;
- Increase and hasten, as appropriate, subject to national, security considerations, the conversion of military resources and related industries to development and peaceful purposes;
- Reject the adoption of and demand to put an end to unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected country, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being and that creates' obstacles to the full enjoyment of all their human rights;
- Encourage, by all means, education on human rights and peace and to promote non-violence; and
- Educate men and boys to respect women and girls as equal partners in all spheres of life and society and mobilize them against gender-based violence;
- Enact and enforce legislation against the perpetrators of practices and acts of violence against women and children;
- Develop and implement national, regional and international plans, multi-sectoral strategies and measures to combat all forms of violence, including trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, child sexual exploitation and protection of migrant workers;
- Document and disseminate case studies of good practices in combating violence against women and girls;
- Create an enabling environment to combat all forms of violence against women and children living in situations of armed conflict and foreign occupation;
- Establish appropriate national monitoring mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating implementation of measures taken to eliminate violence against women and girls;
- Support development at the national level. of a collaborative relationship with relevant non-governmental and community-based organizations and other relevant actors of civil society aimed at the development and effective implementation of provisions and policies relating to violence against women and girls;

Gender Mainstreaming

1. NAM member countries recognize that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and its follow-up processes and the promotion of gender equality and of women's empowerment and participation, together with the widely accepted strategy of gender mainstreaming, are among the essential elements for advancing the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, with a view, in particular, to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions.

2. Gender mainstreaming in all legislation, policies, and programmes is an essential process to women's empowerment and their full participation in all spheres of society. It facilitates the integration of women's differing experience and needs into the development process, as well into the society and helps to change the negative social norms that discriminate against women. NAM member States recognize that effective gender mainstreaming is critical to the empowerment of women and to the achievement of gender equality.

3. We hereby commit ourselves to: a) Take all necessary measures, including in the area of

law, policy, programme and activities to eliminate discrimination against women within public and private sectors;

- Implement affirmative action's, where needed, to accelerate de facto equality rights of women in all spheres;
- Raise awareness about women's right to equality and the importance of women's participation and representation in all spheres and at all levels in order to eliminate obstacles to women's equality; local, regional and national levels including through open and participatory dialogue; and
- Encourage cooperation and interaction between Governments and members of civil society, including non-governmental organizations and private sector, in the implementation of all of the above commitments to the advancement of women to ensure their empowerment and their full participation in all sectors and at all levels.

- We, the Ministers and other Heads of Delegation from Member Countries of the Non-Aligned Movement hereby:

- Agree to recommend to the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement that the issue of the- advancement of women be integrated into the mainstream programmes and activities of NAM and that the NAM Ministerial Meeting on the Advancement of Women be convened on a biennial basis; and
- Welcome the proposal of Malaysia to initiate the establishment of a centre on gender and development for NAM in Malaysia, which will serve as an international institution dedicated to women's development and empowerment through a lifelong learning approach.

PUTRAJAYA MALAYSIA 10TH MAY 2005