

## **In Depth-Session: Changing World Geopolitics and Global Governance: Making sense of the trends, actors and their implications for women's rights**

AWID INTERNATIONAL FORUM, 18 April 2012.

This in depth session takes place in the afternoon of day one and two of the AWID Forum. Overall length: 6 hours, divided into four panels, with each 1,5 hours.

Interpretation: Arabic, English, Spanish, Russian, Turkish.

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

Why and how is global governance relevant to women's rights and why is it so complex and difficult to talk about in the current world reality? With contributions from key leaders and thinkers in this field, participants will learn about relevant characteristics of the current global context, exploring for example the connections between how growth is defined and progress is measured, and other key phenomena within current global governance arrangements and shifts.

This session will look at some of the actors and institutions (new and old) defining what global governance looks like today. It will also provide a space for brainstorming about our vision of future global governance to advance women's rights, social justice, environmental sustainability and human rights. Then we will discuss the implications of this information, analysis and reflection for our own strategizing as women's rights activists. We'll close with a focus on 'what's next' on the global agenda, for example: the structures being proposed as part of the Rio+20 agenda, the Cairo and Beijing + 20 process, the proposals for reshaping global financial architecture, the proposed new global development partnership and the likely 'post-MDG' framework.

Objectives:

1. to enable participants to 'go deeper' on key issues and come away from the Forum with stronger understanding of the session theme and/or concrete strategy ideas to take home with them; and to facilitate deeper cross-regional and cross-movement engagement
2. Identify areas of common action for feminist critical engagement on the follow up of these agendas

### **Methodology**

- Pre-Forum: participants can subscribe to in depth session to receive more information in advance: final concept note with some background readings/links as food for thought. Also, participants can access selection of relevant documents on AWID Forum website.
- At Forum: Four moderated panel discussions, with speakers inputs followed by initial reaction from a discussant (except for last panel) and subsequently the opening of the floor for inputs and questions from the participants in the session, to then come back to the panel. Discussion will be informed by a concept note with key aspects/questions to pay attention to in each session. This will also constitute the basis for our contribution to the strategy planning at AWID on these issues.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Panel** (19 April, 14.30-16.00, Fener Auditorium)

Draft title: Global governance: what is at stake for women's rights and for deepening democracy?

Potential content and questions:

- Explanation of global governance and brief overview of what and who this all entails and why it is relevant for women's rights advocates; for more specific/detailed discussions of it all in the following three sessions.
- What is the situation today in relation to the multiple crisis that the world is facing? Where is national sovereignty standing in this landscape? What do we understand by an alternative global governance and what does it entail? Who would be the actors? Considering all, what are the implications for women rights organizations and, particularly, why is their engagement relevant. How do we engage with the different existing global institutions?

Moderator: Barbara Adams / Social Watch

Panelists:

- Gita Sen / Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN): What is at stake for women rights on the current geopolitical arena?
- Susan George / Transnational Institute (TNI): Interlocked crisis and implications for global governance
- Hoda Elsadda / Women and Memory Forum: Arab revolutions, religion and the geopolitics of knowledge production

Discussant: Yifat Suskind / Madre

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Panel** (19 April, 16.30-18.00, Fener Auditorium)

Draft title: Who's who in global governance and whose agenda is women's rights?

Potential content and questions: WTO, financial flows (visible and invisible) trade and food sovereignty, debt-related issues (who owes to whom and who is paying on behalf of whom), care economy-based alternatives, South-South and Triangular cooperation, how are realities constructed by these interactions and what do they mean for women's rights agendas? Given that the BRICs (and China in particular) way of 'doing business' both replicates the 'business as usual' of colonial powers but also challenges the hegemony of North-South power dynamics and enables potential for different kinds of south-south cooperation, what are the 1 or 2 most pressing questions or issues we, as women's rights advocates, need to address in our strategizing to respond to this new context?

Moderator: Bani Dugal / Baha'i International Community's United Nations Office

Panelists:

- Yoke Ling Chee / Third World Network (TWN): BRICs and the new geopolitics
- Savi Bisnath / Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL): Food sovereignty, fiscal and trade implications
- Lilián Celiberti / Articulación Feminista Marcosur (AFM): South-South Cooperation
- Roberto Bissio / Social Watch: Human Rights, whose agenda?

Discussant: Mary Wandia / African Feminist Forum (AFF)/AWDF

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Panel** (20 April, 14.30-16.00, Fener Auditorium)

Draft title: Emerging trends and actors and their implications on geopolitics and women's rights

Potential content and questions: The role of transnational corporations and advantages from the crisis, who should hold corporations accountable? Financing for Development, different visions (cosmovisions) of development. In addition, what opportunities may the crisis have brought about? What do these new alliances and geopolitical games mean for women's rights?

Moderator: Mayra Moro-Coco / AWID

Panelists:

- Jac SM Kee / Association for Progressive Communications (APC): Internet, private sector and the shaping of governances: a women's rights perspective
- Njoki Njoroge Njehu / Daughters Of Mumbi Global Resource Center/Jubilee South: The role of transnational co-operations
- Rosa Lizarde / Feminist Task Force (FTF) of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP): The United Nations, the G's and the gender equality agenda
- Mirna Cunningham Kain / UN Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues: Indigenous peoples role

Discussant: Rosalind P. Petchesky

### **4<sup>th</sup> Panel** (20 April, 16.30-18.00, Fener Auditorium)

Draft title: Implications for women rights struggles: Rio+20, MDG revision, and global financial architecture

Potential Questions to be addressed: What is the relevance of these spaces for women's rights? What kind of advocacy are we carrying out on these spaces? What do we want to achieve in these spaces? How are we going to measure our progress?

Moderator: Lydia Alpizar / AWID

Panelists:

- Mariama Williams / South Centre: Global financial architecture agenda
- Patti O'Neill / Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Development effectiveness and the post 2015 development agenda
- Violet Shivutse / GROOTS Kenya: Grassroots-bottom up mobilization on global governance agenda
- Victoria Tauli-Corpuz / Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education (Tebtebba): Sustainable development agenda and Rio
- Nalini Singh / Asian Pacific Resource and Research Centre For Women (ARROW): Cairo+20 agenda and youth mobilisation
- Lakshmi Puri / UN Women: The role of UN Women in transforming the global governance architecture into one that works for women's rights and the feminist movement

Final Remarks: Lydia Alpizar / AWID

**Some<sup>1</sup> readings/ links in relation to the in-depth session on Changing World Geopolitics and Global Governance: Making sense of the trends, actors and their implications for women's rights**

- AWID Forum website rubrique on [global governance](#)
- 56 session of the CSW presentation/paper by Lydia Alpizar Durán/AWID on [Strengthening Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Organizations](#)
- The aid and development effectiveness process from a women's rights perspective: [a snapshot](#) by Anne Schoenstein/AWID for the 12<sup>th</sup> AWID International Forum.
- Social Watch [Report 2012](#) – The Right to A Future
- [South-South collaboration and democracy in Myanmar](#) by Rolf Rosenkranz (DEVEX, 4 April 2012)
- China and the world. [What a difference a decade makes](#) by T.P. | BEIJING (The Economist, 28 February 2012)
- Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) [Research and Analyses](#)
- Third World Network (TWN) [Global Trends Series](#) by Martin Khor
- South Centre [Issues - Publications](#)

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<sup>1</sup> These readings are meant as food for thought. They capture AWID's perspective on some of these issues and others views.

## Bios

**Barbara Adams:** Barbara Adams is a board member of Global Policy Forum in New York. Her previous positions include: Director of the UN-Non-Governmental Liaison Service; Head of the Strategic Partnerships and Communications Section, UNIFEM, Member of the Board of Directors of CCIC.

**Lydia Alpizar:** Lydia is a Costa Rican feminist activist who lives in Sao Paulo. She has been the Executive Director of AWID since 2007, and was the manager of the Where is the Money for Women's Rights? and Building Feminist Movements and Organizations Strategic Initiatives of AWID from 2003-2006. Lydia is co-founder and advisor of ELIGE - Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights (Mexico), and she is also co-founder of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Network for Reproductive and Sexual Rights. She is on the Board of Directors for the Global Fund for Women and of the Central American Women's Fund.

**Nalini Singh:** joined ARROW as the Programme Manager (Advocacy and Capacity Building) in late 2009. Nalini is a motivated and dedicated programme administrator with a wide range of experience in the field of women's human rights, gender and development issues. She has over nine years experience working with regional human rights and women's human rights organisations. Prior to joining ARROW, Nalini was a Programme Officer with Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) based in Chiang Mai, Thailand where she coordinated, facilitated and managed two core programmes. Nalini is dedicated to the promotion of human rights, social justice and development for women in the region.

**Savi Bisnath:** in the early 1990s, Ms. Bisnath started her career with a philanthropist organization based in Los Angeles, mainly concentrating on issues relating to economic empowerment. She served "Regional Bureau of Latin America and the Caribbean" at UNDP Headquarters New York as a Programme Specialist from 1995 to 1997. She provided as well her professional services to various organizations ranging from public/private, organizations, family foundations, international telecommunication unions, to the UN agencies in Switzerland. She currently works as a researcher on issues related to economic, social and political rights at the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University, United States.

**Roberto Bissio:** is executive director of the Instituto del Tercer Mundo (Third World Institute), a non-profit research and advocacy organization based in Uruguay. He coordinates the secretariat of Social Watch, an international network of citizen organizations from around the world that report every year on how governments and international organizations implement their commitments on poverty eradication and gender equity. Roberto is a member of Third World Network's international committee and of the civil society advisory group to the UNDP administrator. As a journalist he has worked on development issues since 1973. He was the creator of "The World Guide", a reference book with a Southern perspective, published every two years in Spanish and English.

**Lilián Celiberti:** Lilián Celiberti has been a feminist activist for more than 20 years. She coordinates the feminist collective Cotidiano Mujer in Uruguay and the Articulación Feminista Marcosur, a group of feminist organizations and networks in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Chile and Peru. In 2006 and 2007, she headed the technical secretariat of the MERCOSUR Expert Meeting on Women, promoting a gender approach to regional integration. As Uruguay's national coordinator for the Youth and South American Integration Project, she is part of a research team made up of organizations and researchers from six countries seeking to promote participation by young people. Ms. Celiberti is a professor in the "Leading in a Gender Key" course sponsored by Urban Network 12: Women and the City. As a human rights activist, she

coordinates MERCOSUR's participation in the Inter-American Platform of Human Rights, Democracy and Development.

**Mirna Cunningham Kain:** is the UN Inpresident of the Center for Autonomy and Development for Indigenous Peoples, CADPI, located in Bilwi, Puerto Cabezas, Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN). She has been a Minister – Delegate in the RAAN, a National Representative, a member of the RAAN regional Autonomous Council and a Founding Rector of the University of the Autonomous Regions of the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, URACCAN. She is also Vice President and a founding member of the Indigenous Initiative for Peace and a member of the Board of Directors of the World Women's Fund. Mirna is a trained surgeon and a former Minister of Health and Governor of the North Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua. She has worked for more than 30 years at the local, national, and international levels to advocate for human rights, the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples, and women's health. Her work has focused on public health issues and maternal health in particular, addressing the intersections of women's health, Indigenous rights, and the range of social and economic rights critical to eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development. She is an activist for human rights and human dignity for Indigenous Peoples in Nicaragua, Central America and at the international level.

**Bani Dugal:** is the Principal Representative of the Bahá'í International Community to the United Nations. As part of the community of international NGOs at the United Nations, she currently serves on the Executive Committees of the NGO Committee on Human Rights and is the President of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, as well as a past Chair of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. She has also served as Chair of the Global Forum of the NGO Committee on UNICEF, member of the Steering Committee of the NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls, Convener of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, and Convener of the Advocates for African Food Security. Ms. Dugal has worked at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and holds a Masters degree in Environmental Law from Pace University School of Law, New York and a law degree from the University of Delhi, India. Prior to relocating to the U.S. in 1988, she practiced law before the Supreme Court of India.

**Susan George:** is Transnational Institute (TNI) fellow, President of the Board of TNI and honorary president of ATTAC-France [Association for Taxation of Financial Transaction to Aid Citizens]. She is one of TNI's most renowned fellows for her long-term and ground-breaking analysis of global issues. Author of fourteen widely translated books, she describes her work in a cogent way that has come to define TNI: "The job of the responsible social scientist is first to uncover these forces [of wealth, power and control], to write about them clearly, without jargon... and finally... to take an advocacy position in favour of the disadvantaged, the underdogs, the victims of injustice."

**Yoke Ling Chee:** Director of Third World Network (TWN), she is based in the Beijing office of TWN. She has been very active in policy research and advocacy, focusing on trade, environment and development issues from the perspective of developing countries since the 1980s. Her current focus areas are: climate change, the interface between biodiversity/traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights, the relationship between multilateral environmental agreements and trade agreements, environmentally-sound technology transfer, and developments on these issues at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, World Trade Organisation, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation. TWN is a non-profit international network of organisations and individuals involved in sustainable development issues, the South and North-South relations. Yoke Ling Chee is trained in international law, with degrees from the University of Malaya (Malaysia) and Cambridge University (UK).

**Rosa Lizarde:** Rosa Lizarde is the global coordinator of the Feminist Task Force (FTF), an advocacy and campaigning organization which emphasizes the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in eradicating poverty. In September 2008, as news of the Wall Street collapse spread, Rosa and FTF partners organized a women's tribunal on poverty in New York City. Under her leadership, the FTF began monitoring the G20 in 2009 highlighting the feminization of poverty and the global financial crisis. Over the past five years, FTF partners have organized over twenty international women's tribunals on poverty and climate justice, providing women's testimony about the impacts of economic crisis and climate change on their lives, while highlighting the key role that women should play in economic and climate change policy.

**Njoki Njoroge Njehu:** is the executive director of the Daughters of Mumbi Global Resource Centre in Kenya, where she works on food sovereignty, climate justice, finance and women's land rights. She's a founding member of the international council of the World Social Forum, as well as co-coordinator of Africa Jubilee South, the network of organisations and movements campaigning on debt and development.

**Hoda Elsadda:** Hoda Elsadda is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Cairo. She was previously Chair in the Study of the Contemporary Arab World at the University of Manchester and Co-Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World. She is Associate Editor of the Online Edition of the *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures*, member of the Board of Directors of the Global Fund for Women, member of the Advisory Board of the Durham Modern Languages Series, and Core Group Member of the Arab Families Working Group. Elsadda is also the Co-founder and current Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Women and Memory Forum. In 1992, she co-founded and co-edited *Hagar*, an interdisciplinary journal in women's studies published in Arabic. She has written articles and edited books dealing with discourses on gender in modern Arab history, particularly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

**Mayra Moro-Coco:** Mayra is a feminist and has a Ph.D on Political Science at the University of Montreal (Canada) and Master on International Relations at the Autonomia University (Madrid). As a researcher, feminist activist and consultant on International NGOs and at the UN, her career has focused on Women Human Rights, women and conflict, gender and development, SRHR and conflict and violence against women. She also has published on these themes in several academic reviews and has lectured in English, French and Spanish. Mayra is currently working with AWID as Development Policy and Advocacy Manager.

**Patti O'Neill:** Patti O'Neill has been the coordinator of the OECD-DAC Network on Gender Equality since 2004. Before joining the OECD, she worked as a Senior Advisor for the New Zealand Agency for International Development. For 10 years she worked at Deputy Secretary Level for the New Zealand Ministry of Women's Affairs. Earlier in her career, she was both a librarian and a trade unionist. She was also an anti-apartheid activist. In all her roles she has always been a proud (and sometimes, loud) feminist.

**Rosalind P. Petchesky** is Distinguished Professor of Political Science at Hunter College, City University of New York. She is the founder of the International Reproductive Rights Research Action Group (IRRAG). She graduated from Smith College *summa cum laude* with a B.A., and holds a Ph.D. from Columbia University in Political Science.

**Lakshmi Puri:** Ms. Lakshmi Puri has more than 37 years' experience in economic and development policy-making as well as in political, peace and security, humanitarian and human rights-related diplomacy. More than twenty years of these have been in relation to the United Nations system. Ms. Puri's education has been in history, public policy and administration, international relations and law, and economic development.

She has a B.A. in First Division from Delhi University and a postgraduate degree from Punjab University, as well as professional diplomas.

**Anne Schoenstein:** has worked in the last years to ensure that gender equality and women's rights are an integral part of development cooperation debates. Anne is Lead Advocacy Associate at AWID and an active member of the BetterAid Coordination Group, and its facilitation group. In 2009 she completed a training course on Monitoring Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. Prior to joining AWID, Anne worked as project officer at WOMNET Gender and Global Governance in Bonn, Germany. Anne holds a Masters in Gender and Development from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in the UK; a German degree (Diplom-Betriebswirtin) in Business Studies with specialization in Market and Communications Research; and has spent exchange semesters at the Hiroshima University of Economics in Japan and the Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.

**Gita Sen:** Gita Sen is Professor of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore (IIMB), India, and Adjunct Professor of Global Health and Population, Harvard School of Public Health. She received her M.A. from the Delhi School of Economics, and her Ph.D. from Stanford University. Her recent work includes research and policy advocacy on the gender dimensions of population policies, and the equity dimensions of health.

**Violet Shivutse:** is the founder and coordinator of Shibuye Community Health Workers, and of the Kenya Home-Based Care Alliance. In addition to providing direct care and support to hundreds of HIV-positive people, including orphans, elderly and critically ill, as a community health worker, she has worked with local authorities to prevent the prolific practice of land grabbing directed at widows and orphans. Shivutse is an active leader in the GROOTS Kenya network, GROOTS International, and the Huairou Commission, and holds a seat on the steering committee of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS.

**Jac Sm Kee:** is a feminist activist committed to transformative politics in the issues of violence against women, culture, 'race', identities, communications & information rights and sexualities. Born in 1976, Jac is a Malaysian and received her tertiary education through two scholarship awards by the British Council at the University of London and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LLB [Hons]; MSc Gender). Jac sm Kee coordinates the OpenNet Initiative-Asia Gender Research Framework project, EROTICS research (Exploratory Research on Sexuality and the Internet) and APC's "Take Back The Tech!" campaign. Jac is the focal point for APC's work on human rights, and is based in Malaysia.

**Yifat Susskind:** is MADRE's Executive Director, works to make human rights a reality for all people. Before joining the staff of MADRE, she was part of a joint Israeli-Palestinian human rights organization in Jerusalem, using journalism, advocacy and political organizing in her work for peace. At MADRE, Yifat has worked with women's human rights activists from Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East to create programs in their communities to address violence against women, women's health, peace building, and economic and environmental justice. She spearheaded the development of programming focused on food sovereignty, the global water crisis and climate change, and she developed MADRE's programs in Iraq and Afghanistan. She has provided expertise on emerging human rights and international development issues, and she has represented MADRE at various international conferences, including at the United Nations.

**Victoria Tauli-Corpuz:** is the Executive Director of the Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research & Education), an organization that has United Nations consultative status and is based in Baguio City, Philippines. She is an indigenous activist belonging to the Kankana-ey Igorot peoples



of the Cordillera region in the Philippines. With 30 years of experience, Victoria is committed to, and continues to work for, the recognition, protection, and promotion of Indigenous Peoples' rights and women's rights at the national and global level. Victoria was centrally involved in the drafting and negotiations of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples until this was adopted in 2007. Victoria also founded the Asia Indigenous Women's Network (AIWN) and since 2005, has been the Chairperson of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Victoria also plays a few other roles: Co-President of the International Forum on Globalization, Indigenous and Gender Adviser of the Third World Network, and Commissioner of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, among others.

**Mary Wandia:** Mary Wandia is an African feminist whose feminist journeys started at the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) in 1999 where she worked as a Programme Officer leading on advocacy around gender mainstreaming in the transition from the Organisation of African Unity to the African Union (AU), as well as trade and financing for development. Until March 2009, she worked as the Women's Rights Coordinator at the Africa Secretariat of Action Aid International in Nairobi, and then working as the Pan Africa Gender Justice and Governance Lead at Oxfam's Pan Africa Programme. She is now with the Open Society Initiatives for East Africa. Part of OSI.

**Mariama Williams:** is an international economics and trade consultant and an Adjunct Associate at the Center of Concern, Washington, D.C. She is the Research Associate with the International Gender and Trade Network (IGTN), Co-research Coordinator, Political Economy of Globalization (Trade)—Development Alternative with Women for a New Era (DAWN) and a Director of the Institute of Law and Economics (ILE-Jamaica). Mariama is also a member of the design team and the resource person for the course 'Gender, Trade and Export Promotion', which has been utilized with women's business associations and governmental institutions in East Africa, the Caribbean and South Asia. Mariama is the author of 'Gender Issues in the Multilateral Trading System' and a consultant adviser on gender and international trade to the Commonwealth Secretariat, London. She also served on the International Advisory Committee of Progress of the World's Women—a biennial report published by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and was a member of the Director General's Advisory Council, a resource person to the Commonwealth Business Women's Network and past member of the board of AWID.