

GENDER

In Central Asia

№ 2 (9) February 2008

and WATER

Newsletter of GWANET Network

Remarks of UN Secretary-General to the Commission on the Status of Women

25 February 2008

Mr. President of ECOSOC,
Distinguished Ministers,
Mr. Chairperson of the Commission,
Excellencies,
Civil society representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured and moved to be with you today. Standing here before the Commission on the Status of Women, whose members have done so much for gender equality worldwide, I am energized by your activism and inspired by your achievements.

Today, we come together to launch a global campaign to end violence against women. I am counting on you -- advocates from Government, civil society and the UN -- to carry our message around the world.

Violence against women is an issue that cannot wait. A brief look at the statistics makes it clear. At least one out of every three women is likely to be beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Through the practice of prenatal sex selection, countless others are denied the right even to exist. No country, no culture, no woman young or old is immune to this scourge. Far too often, the crimes go unpunished, the perpetrators walk free.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launches the campaign to end violence against women during a meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women on "Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women."

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War has always been devastating, but now, women and girls are themselves targets in the war zone. Today's weapons of armed conflict include rape, sexual violence, and the abduction of children conscripted as soldiers or forced into sexual slavery.

On my visits to conflict-torn areas around the world, I have spoken with women who have endured horrific forms of violence. I will forever be haunted by their suffering -- but equally, I will always be inspired by their courage. These mothers, sisters, daughters and friends are determined to reclaim their lives.

This is a campaign for them. It is a campaign for the women and girls who have the right to live free of violence, today and in the future. It is a campaign to stop the untold cost that violence against women inflicts on all humankind.

We know that gender inequality is hampering progress towards the Millennium Development Goals -- our common vision to build a better world in the 21st century.

We know that violence against women compounds the enormous social and economic toll on families, communities, even whole nations.

And we know that when we work to eradicate violence against women, we empower our greatest resource for development: mothers raising children; law-makers in parliament; chief executives, negotiators, teachers; doctors, policewomen, peacekeepers and more.

And so my campaign to end violence against women will continue until 2015 to coincide with the target date for the Millennium Development Goals.

We have solid policy frameworks and initiatives to build on.

UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict brings together 12 entities across the United Nations family, from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to the World Health Organization.

The UN Task Force on violence against women is spearheading joint programming at the national level.

The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, set up eleven years ago, has supported partners in communities, nations and regions around the world.

Just last December, the General Assembly adopted a historic resolution on rape and sexual violence.

And the landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace and security adopted by the Security Council seven years ago raised the issue to the level it deserves.

Today, I call again on the Security Council to establish a mechanism dedicated to monitoring violence against women and girls, under the framework of resolution 1325.

Let us remember: there is no blanket approach to fighting violence against women. What works in one country may not lead to desired results in another. Each nation must devise its own strategy.

But there is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.

In this campaign, I will personally approach world leaders to spur action through national campaigns.

I will urge all States to review applicable laws, and to revise them or enact new ones to ensure that violence against women is always criminalized. And I will call on all States to enforce their laws to end impunity.

I will encourage the media to take our message far and wide, and urge regional organizations to set priorities and targets.

I will galvanize the UN system to provide stronger and more effective support to all stakeholders, at the local, national, regional and global level.

I will form a global network of male leaders to assist me in mobilizing men and boys -- men in Government, men in the arts and sports, men in business, men in the religious sphere, men in every walk of life, who know what leadership truly means.

I will work hand in hand with women's groups worldwide. The progress over the past century happened thanks to them, and they will be our chief standard bearers in the future too.

And I will propose a high-level event in 2010 to review what we have accomplished, exchange best practices and map out the steps ahead.

Dear friends,

Our campaign will build on a deep and broad partnership, bringing in all society to take us to the end of violence against women and girls everywhere.

To help us reach our destination, I call on young people around the world -- our leaders of tomorrow.

I call on the private sector around the world, whose reach is indispensable in advancing our cause.

I call on women's groups around the world, whose valiance and vision have brought us to where we are today, and who will keep charting the way forward.

I call on men around the world to lead by example: to make clear that violence against women is an act perpetrated by a coward, and that speaking up against it is a badge of honour.

I call on Member States around the world: the responsibility, above all, lies with you.

I call on all of you to pledge with me:
United We Shall Succeed.

Thank you very much.

Source: www.un.org

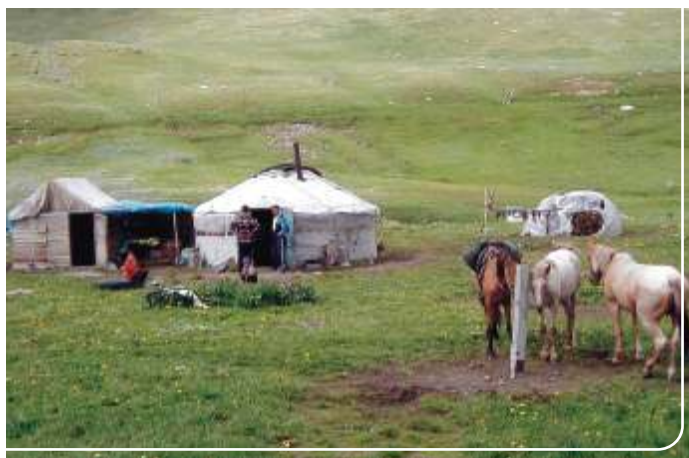


Analysis of gender situation in seven WUAs of Lailak district, Batkent province

Ye. Sakhvayeva

At present, about 450 WUAs operate in the Kyrgyz Republic. Those Water User Associations were established within the framework of “On-farm Irrigation” Project, which is to complete this year. Then, similar project OFI-2 will be started.

Livelihoods of WUA members are distributed as follows among men and women:



Seven WUAs: Qyrk-Bulak, Aikol, Omursu, Kozho-Bakyrbyn, Yrysmat, Toor-Dzhailo, Kulundu-Razzakov

	Total	Directly in WUA, peasant farm, %	Outside WUA, peasant farm, %
Men	100%	59	41
Women	100%	71	29

In other words, women have smaller possibilities to earn their livelihoods outside WUA compared to men.

In all WUAs, women's input in form of unpaid labor is considered as contribution to family's income - such answer was received from both men and women.

As to level of income (how much is earned by men and by women in seasonal dimension), both male and female respondents answered that major livelihoods of about 80% fall to April-September.

The structure of men's and women's expenditures is almost the same:

	Children education	Visiting health centers, recreation, resorts	Cultural functions theatre, concerts, tourism	Food	Cloths	Self-education	Total family budget
In all WUAs, % of budget							
Men	36	9	-	30	24	-	100
Women	39	13	-	29	19	-	100

One third of expenditures fall to food, about forty percent - education, and less than a third - to cloths. There are no expenditures of cultural functions and self-education.

Regarding decision making in WUAs, peasant farms and households. The answers show that the share of woman's involvement in decision making in WUA's and peasant farms is only 9%, while her role in household is three-fold higher - 24%.

Roughly the same picture is visible regarding land and water use rights. Household - 27%, WUA and peasant farms - only 9%.

As to access to agricultural output marketing: in household, woman has more possibilities to sell agricultural output than in WUA and peasant farms - 37% against 9-12%, respectively. However, these possibilities are much lower as compared to those of men, especially in WUA and peasant farms.

	Household	WUA	Peasant farm
In WUAs			
Men	63	91	88
Women	37	9	12

To the question of whether all types of agricultural labor are paid, the respondents answered that all types of labor are paid. Moreover, if woman and man do the same work, payment for this work is the same.

Both women and men have actual and equal access to credits, savings, and bank services.

All decisions on spending of family budget are made together with all family members. Based on the budget, first-priority decisions refer to food, cloths, children education, land treatments, animal feeding and care, and family life improvement.

In terms of food, after harvesting, each family tries to provide themselves with wheat and potato. Some families prefer to buy ready flour. Other food items are bought at the market.

The respondents deny the facts of domestic violence, except for few cases.

All children of school age go to school.



Regional news

WOMEN IN KYRGYZSTAN STRIVE FOR POWER

It is assumed that gender equality is one of principles for building democracy. In other words, equality and empowerment of women to allow them to make decisions in political and socio-economic spheres is a prerequisite of economic development, democratic government and society, openness, security, and, most importantly, of stability and peace-building.

However, though Kyrgyzstan has the legal framework necessary to ensure gender equality, actually, the government does not show a well-defined position in this respect. There are still many forms of gender inequality and most "chairs" are taken by men in the country.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/03-01-2008.htm

THE SUPREME COURT OF KYRGYZSTAN IS LED BY DJANYL ALIYEVA

The Parliament of Kyrgyzstan elected Djanyl Alieva as the chairman of the Supreme Court.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/20-09-2007.htm

CHILD MORTALITY DECREASED ALMOST A FOURTH IN THE WORLD OVER 16 YEARS

The child mortality rate in the world decreased almost a fourth since 1990 to 2006. Now it is less than 10 millions a year. As UN News Center informs, in 2006, 9.7 million children died until 5 years old. Yet, many of those kids could be saved through enhanced national health-care systems and developed purposeful strategies. This states the new UNICEF report "The Status of Children in the World 2008».

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/23-01-2008.htm

JOURNALIST AWARDING CEREMONY FOR THE BEST GENDER ARTICLES

The Uzbekistan's journalist awarding ceremony was held on 25 January 2008 in the city business-center NGMK within the framework of gender contest. Seventeen journalists throughout Uzbekistan submitted more than 50 articles to the contest. The judges including representatives of a number of international organizations reviewed the articles and selected winners.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-01-2008.htm

UZBEKISTAN SHARES THEIR EXPERIENCE IN ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

A meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference experts' group on "Involvement of women in decision making" was completed in Kuala-Lumpur. The delegation of Uzbekistan at the head of Svetlana Inamova, the chairman of Uzbekistan's Woman Committee took part in the meeting as well. As News Agency "Jahon" informed the meeting included discussions in the sessions "General review of women's involvement in decision making" and "Women and governance in policy, academia, public and corporate sector".

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-01-2008.htm

NOW GULSHARA ABDYKALIKOVA HEADS THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS AT THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

According to the decree of the Head of State, Gulshara Abdykalikova was appointed as the councilor of the President of Kazakhstan and the chairman of the National Commission for Family Affairs and Gender Policy and relieved of her former post of Executive Secretary at the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; Jumatai Aliyev was relieved of his post of Deputy Chairman of the Kazakhstan People's Assembly, responsible for the Secretariat of the Assembly.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/30-01-2008.htm

NEW STATISTICAL COLLECTION “WOMEN AND MEN IN UZBEKISTAN (2000-2005)” PUBLISHED

Presentation of the new statistical collection “Women and Men in Uzbekistan (2000-2005)” was held in Tashkent on 25th of January, 2008. This collection presents demographic statistics of health, education, employment and unemployment, social protection, breach of law and other indicators in gender terms.

This publication was prepared by the State Statistical Committee of Uzbekistan jointly with the Women's Committee within the framework of joint ADB and NNO “Civil Initiative Support Center” project.

Read more:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/01-02-2008.htm

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE IN UZBEKISTAN

Meeting of the Board of Uzbekistan Women's Committee was held and summarized work of the Committee in 2007 and set new tasks for the Youth Year 2008.

Read more:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/06-02-2008.htm

WOMEN STATUS RISES IN LIFE OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

A round-table discussion dedicated to the improvement of traditional republican training seminars for Deputy Khokims of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, provinces and the capital and for leaders of Women's Committees was held in the Academy of Public and Community Development at the President of Uzbekistan.

Chairmen of Women's Committees in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, provinces and Tashkent city and leaders of civil organizations for family and health issues took part in this event.

Read more:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/07-02-2008.htm

PREVENTIVE MEDICAL CHECK-UP FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SEMEAH

As Kazinform's correspondent informs, medical centers SEMEAH check-up children and childbearing age women according to the State program for health-care reformation and development.

Read more:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/08-02-2008.htm

FIRST WOMEN'S FILM FESTIVAL OPENED IN THE CAPITAL OF KYRGYZSTAN

The first women's film festival was opened on February 8 in the capital of Kyrgyzstan. This was informed by the News Agency REGNUM, which participated in the press-conference of this event. "Documentary films about the problems of women in Central Asian societies will be shown during the festival", told Anar Madaliyeva, representative of community organization “Koldoor”.

Read more:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/09-02-2008.htm

THE ROLE OF WOMAN-SCIENTISTS IN PROMOTING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSED DURING A CONFERENCE IN THE CAPITAL

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan jointly with the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education organized a republican scientific-practical conference in students' hostels “Yoshlik”. The conference was dedicated to the role of woman-scientists in promoting science and technology.

Read more:

www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/14-02-2008.htm

MEETING OF WOMEN'S COMMITTEE OF KARAKALPAKSTAN

The women's committee of Karakalpakstan held their meeting to discuss activities in the last year and work progress with respect to the tasks set in the report of the President of Uzbekistan Islam

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Karimov during the meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers as dedicated to the results of national socio-economic development in 2007 and top priorities of economic reformation in 2008.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/15-02-2008.htm

BUSINESS WOMEN UNITED IN ATYRAU

As Kazinform's correspondent informed, a presentation of the Republican Business Women Union's provincial branch was held in Atyrau. The main objective of new civil organization is to help women to take a leading position in areas of their specialization.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/26-02-2008.htm

REPRESENTATIVES OF WOMEN'S COUNCIL BECAME FAMILIAR WITH THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The National Center for Human Rights held a round-table for chairmen of women's councils from the Yunusabad district of Tashkent city in February 28, 2008. The UNDP Mission in Uzbekistan supported this event dedicated to 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/28-02-2008.htm

THE WELL-KNOWN WOMEN OF PAVLODAR PREIRTYSHIE CANNOT BE EMBRACED IN ONE BOOK

The second issue of bibliographic bulletin "The Well-Known Women of Pavlodar Preirtyshie" is in press as informs the Kazinform's correspondent. The first issue was published in an amount of 500 copies under support of the provincial program "Cultural Heritage". The bulletin contains information about 472 female residents of the province, who became famous in science, health-care, education, arts and deserved government awards. Among them are veterans of the Great Patriotic War, servers on the home front, leaders and ordinary workers in industrial plants. They were appreciated for their dedicated service and talent, and they added vivid pages to the province's history.

Read more:
www.gender.cawater-info.net/news/29-02-2008.htm

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