

2003-2006 Quadrennial Report of “International Federation of Business and Professional Women”, an NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC since 1947

This report is presented on behalf of the *International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International)*. The organisation was founded in 1930 to bring together women in the paid workforce in business and the professions from all parts of the world to work for equal opportunity in economic, civil and political life in their communities, both national and international. It aims to develop professional and leadership potential for women at all levels, to strive toward equal participation of women and men in power and decision making roles. BPW International has over 100 affiliates in 80 countries on all five continents.

I. Participation in the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its subsidiary bodies and major United Nations conferences

I.1 UN ECOSOC: BPW International attended substantive Sessions of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 28 July – 15 August 2003 and 7-25 August 2006.

I.2 United Nations Office – New York: BPW International has attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York annually. BPW International, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International (Project 5-O) have typically submitted joint written and/or oral statements. BPW International organized and/or co-organized workshops in parallel to CSW sessions. For the CSW 47th Session, 3-14 March 2003, Project 5-O submitted a joint statement on *Violence Against Women* and presented an oral statement on *Women and Media / Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*. BPW International co-organized Project 5-O workshops: *Good Practices to Handle High Priority in Violence against Women*, 4 March 2003 and *Equal Access to Knowledge for Women through Information and Communication Technologies and Media*, 6 March 2003. BPW International Vice President was a keynote speaker at the NGO/CSW Consultation on 1 March 2003 on *Women and ICT* and presented the BPW statement on the Fifth Women’s World Conference at the meeting of NGOs. For the CSW 48th Session, 1-12 March 2004, Project 5-O submitted Joint Statement on *Women and Armed Conflicts* and presented oral statement on *the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality*. BPW International co-organized the workshop *Women Enabling Peace Process: Opportunities and Partnerships to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325*, 1 March 2004, and organized the workshop *Women for Peace*, 2 March 2004. For the CSW 49th Session, 28 February-11 March 2005, Project 5-O submitted statement on *Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* and presented oral statement on *Forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women and girls*. BPW International organized the workshop *Beijing +10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back*, 1 March 2005. For the CSW 50th Session on 27 February-10 March 2006, BPW International organized the

workshop *Return on Investment When More Women Become Executives*, 28 February 2006. BPW representatives have also served as members and as co-chair of the NGO Planning Committee for NGO/CSW Consultation Day and other events of the CSW sessions; executive committee of the NGO Committee on Status of Women; executive committee of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, and have been actively involved in consultation activities at 2 week review of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 2003-2006.

I.3 United Nations Office - Vienna (UNOV): BPW Representatives in Vienna worked closely with the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) and were members of NGO Committees on Peace, on Narcotic Drugs, on Development, on UNIFEM, on Human Rights, on Family and on the Status of Women. BPW Representatives attended committee meetings monthly and helped develop Joint Statements to United Nations meetings. Key ones which BPW International co-signed included Joint statements on Women Trafficking and Women and Poverty for the CSW 49th Session in March 2005; Joint statement to UNECE Regional preparatory meeting for the 10 year review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action, 14-15 December 2004; Joint Statement for the 11th ministerial meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XI) in Sao Paolo, Brazil, 13-18 June 2004, etc.

I.4 UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - Vienna: BPW International attended UNODC meetings in Vienna: (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 12th session, 13-22 May 2003, 13th Session, 11-20 May 2004; (b) Commission on Narcotic Drugs 46th session, 16-17 April 2003 and 8-10 December 2003, and 47th Session, 16-25 March 2004; (c) Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) 1st session, 28 June -July 2004 and 2nd Session, 10-21 October 2005; (d) Expert Meeting on Drug Abuse Treatment for Women on 15-17 December 2003. BPW International attended the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare draft rules of procedure for Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against TOC, 13th session, 26 January– 6 February 2003 and Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Corruption, 4th-6th sessions in 2003.

I.5 International Labour Organization (ILO) - Geneva: BPW International attended (a) ILO Conferences 91st Session, 3-19 June 2003; 92nd Session, 1-17 June 2004; 93rd Session, 31 May -16 June 2005; and 94th Session, 7-23 February 2006; (b) *Meeting of Experts on Violence and Stress at Work*, 8-15 October 2003; (c) *Tripartite Meeting on Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society : The Media, Culture, Graphical Sector*, 18-22 October 2004.

I.6 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): BPW members attended WSIS Phase I in Geneva, Switzerland, 9-12 December 2003, and Phase II in Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005, and lobbied for gender-sensitive ICT indicators.

I.7 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) – Geneva: BPW International attended UNCTAD meetings in Geneva, Switzerland: *Preparatory committee for UNCTAD IX. Hearing with Civil Society and the Private Sector*, 22 April 2004; *the 35th Executive Session of Trade and Development Board*, 21 September 2004; *the Expert Meeting on Promoting the Export Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises*, 9-10 December 2004; *The 9th Session of Commission on Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities*, 15 March 2005; *Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues 10th Session*, 6-10 March 2006; *the Trade and Development Board, 53rd session*, 27 September – 10 October 2006; and *the Expert Meeting on Foreign Direct Investment in Natural Resources*, 20-22 November 2006.

I.8 World Health Organization (WHO) – Geneva: BPW International submitted 2002-2004 report for WHO to renew affiliation status in 2004. BPW International attended WHO Executive Board meetings in Geneva each January during 2003-2006. BPW International co-signed statements on Reproductive health and on Health Systems for the 113th session, 19-23 January 2004. Other meetings attended were *the 56th-59th World Health General Assembly* each May during 2003-2006, and *the 57th Regional WHO meeting in Western Pacific* in Auckland, New Zealand, 18-22 September 2006, where BPW International chair of health committee submitted a statement on gender discrimination and disadvantages relating to HIV/AIDS.

I.9 United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) - Vienna: BPW International attended UNIDO Industrial Development Board 27th session, August 2003; attended 29th Session, November 2004; submitted a statement to UNIDO General Conference 10th session, December 2003.

I.10 United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP): BPW International attended the 59th Commission Session of the UNESCAP Meetings in Bangkok, Thailand, 21-24 April 2003, and 1-4 September 2003. BPW International attended *UNESCAP Beijing+10 Review*, 7-10 September 2004 and lobbied UN officials on promoting Gender Mainstreaming by convincing the private sector that they will profit from supporting such initiatives, and on gender sensitive indicators / gender sensitive National ICT plans. BPW International, UNESCAP and Asia-Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC) co-organized in Bangkok: *e-Business and Opportunities for Women in Asia-Pacific* seminar, 28-30 March 2005, and *APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific*, 15 December 2006.

I.11 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): BPW International attended in Geneva: UNECE 59th Annual session, 24-26 February 2004; 60th Session, 22-25 February 2005; 61st Session, 21-23

February 2006; *Good Governance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*, 1-2 April 2004; *Executive Forum in Competing in changing Europe*, 11-12 May 2004; *Regional Preparatory Meeting for 10 year Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action*, 14-15 December 2004; and *AIDE, Federation des agences internationales pour le development*, 9-10 May 2006.

I.12 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): BPW International attended meetings in Beirut: *Western Ministerial Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Information Society*, 4-6 February 2003; *Arab Meeting for the Assessment of the 10th Anniversary of the International Family year*, 7-9 October 2003; *Arab Regional Conference 10 years after Beijing call for the peace*, 8-10 July 2004.

I.13 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC): BPW International attended *Commerce, Development and Poverty Conference* in Santiago, Chile, 4 May 2004; “*The High-level Panel about Global and Regional Development*” in Santiago, 17 June 2004; *Economic Integration and Social Cohesion lessons learned and perspectives* in Santiago, 11 November 2004; and *9th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* in Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004.

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

II.1 Ten Year Review Beijing Platform for Actions: (Beijing+10) Preparation: A BPW Representative worked with 6 other members of the NGO/CSW Committee in New York to produce *Ten Years After Beijing: Still More Promises than Progress: 1999-2005 Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action*, a report which was distributed at the NGO Consultation on 27 February 2005 and was the input at the CSW 49th Session in March 2005 and the five-year Millennium Development Goals review in September 2005. BPW International developed “*Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back*,” online archive on www.bpw-international.org, which collected evidences on advancement / setbacks pertaining to 40 countries. BPW members attended NGO Beijing+10 Review for Latin America and the Caribbean Forum in Mexico City, 7-8 June 2004, and Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+10 Review in Bangkok, 30 June–3 July 2004, where BPW International organized *Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back* workshop, 2 July 2004, and published *Financial Crisis that Breaks the Glass Ceiling: Advancement of Thai Women Executives in the Private Sector* in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum Beijing+10 Review booklet.

II.2 NGO/Department of Public Information (NGO/DPI): A BPW Representative was a member of 56th-59th NGO/DPI Planning Committee for the NGO/DPI Annual Conferences in New York from 2003-2006. BPW International, in partnership with other NGOs, organized workshops/panels: *Acting on Human Dignity and Security: From Participatory Theatre to Reality on the World Stage*, 56th NGO/DPI conference, 8 September 2003; *MDG 1: Poverty, International Migration and Development*, 57th NGO/DPI Conference, 8 September 2004;

Reducing Fear of Strangers/Reducing Strangers' Fears: The Challenges of Providing Services to Migrants and Refugees in a Hostile Environment, 58th NGO/DPI conference, 9 September 2005.

II.3 Migration: A BPW representative in New York was a member of the taskforce on Migration of the President of the General Assembly, which selected participants and organized the civil society hearings on 12-13 July 2006, in preparation for the High-Level Discussion on Migration, 14-15 September 2006. In her role as a member of the Subcommittee on Immigrants and Refugees in 2004-2006, she organized a workshop, *International Migration and Migrants: Critical Issues in Social Development and Human Well-Being* in parallel to the Commission for Social Development 42nd Session, 13 February 2004; co-convened meetings of the Migration Caucus at the CSW 50th session, 27 February-10 March 2006; and co-founded the NGO Committee on Migration in October 2006.

II.4 Collaboration with UNESCO: BPW International nominated members from 21 countries for UNESCO's Talent Bank of Women with International Societal Expertise (WISE) in April 2004. In 2004, BPW International submitted the report *IFBPW Monuments on Messengers of the Culture of Peace for UNESCO* to UNESCO. UNESCO published BPW activities from this report in its Culture of Peace Newsletter, issue 2, on "Gender and Culture of Peace", December 2004.

II.5 Human Rights: BPW International attended the 59th-62nd sessions of Commission for Human Rights; the 55th-58th sessions of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; and the 1st-3rd sessions of the newly installed Human Rights Council in 2006 in Geneva.

III. Actions to support Millennium Development Goals

BPW actions to support **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger** include literacy training for over 3,000 women in Nepal; skills training to help over 4,000 people in Nepal and Thailand, helping also with marketing to enable them to gain economic independence; and building 30 houses for displaced people in Sri Lanka. Actions to support **Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women** include micro-credit for over 6,500 women to start up their businesses in Nepal, Panama, Cyprus and Uzbekistan; career guidance for over 6,000 girls in high schools/universities in Korea; 360 scholarships for nursing students in Mexico from BPW Australia, Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, New York, New Jersey; and mentoring young women in 21 member countries. BPW New Zealand's Auckland Refugee and Migrant Women Resettlement Project helped 540 refugee women to integrate into New Zealand society. Action to support **Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development** includes BPW International partnership with UNESCAP and APWINC, with APEC Education Foundation's funding support, which enabled 39 women to receive 10 days of e-Business Training in Korea in 2004-2006 and enabled over 260 people to attend e-Business seminars in Bangkok in March 2005 and December 2006.