SWAN's Strategic Planning Workshop
organized by
South Asia Women's Network (SWAN)
in collaboration with
Maldivian Network on Women's Rights
Male, 14-17 June, 2013

Concept Note

The South Asia Women's Network (SWAN) is a programme headquartered in the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University located in New Delhi (India). Professor Veena Sikri is the Convener of SWAN.

SWAN emerged from the Conference on "Women of South Asia: Partners in Development", organized at Jamia Millia Islamia on 30-31 March, 2009, with the objective of bringing together, in partnership, women from across nine countries of South Asia : Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SWAN provides women leaders and activists from across South Asia a unique forum to network and work with their counterparts in other countries where they can share experiences, learn from each other, identify best practices, and work towards issue-based collaboration across South Asia through agreed plans of action. In order to facilitate this process, eight sector networks, also called SWANs, have been formed. These cover the sectors of Livelihood Development and Entrepreneurship; Education; Arts and Literature; Women in Peacemaking; Environment; Health, Nutrition and Food Security; Women in Media; and Crafts and Textiles.

SWAN's Kathmandu Declaration, issued on 18th July 2012 at the end of its Fourth Annual Conference, initiated work on the Roadmap for Sustainable Development for the Women of South Asia, with the objective of empowering the women of South Asia to lead the transition to sustainability.

The Rio + 20 outcome document 'The Future we Want' has failed to recognize and accept the centrality of gender equity in the context of sustainable development. Gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment have proven to be accelerators in the process of development and inclusive growth, accepted as such in the evaluation by UNDP of the progress (or lack of it) in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These should be included as cross-cutting priority issues in all future development goals, and be recognized as a stand-alone priority issue as well. There should be a combined focus on the social, economic and political empowerment of women.

In all societies, women and children are the most seriously affected by domestic violence, discrimination in access to and control over resources and services, and the negative impact of all conflict situations, whether national, regional or international. Women's rights must be supported, including as enshrined in CEDAW and the relevant Security Council resolutions (especially

1325). The rights based approach should place women at the centre of development and conflict resolution, and recognize their role as agents of change.

SWAN has agreed that, rather than settling for rehashed, generalized MDGs, SWAN will work towards developing a new paradigm of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will recognize the centrality of women's role in every aspect of sustainability and accept the need for a rights based approach in finalizing the post-2015 agenda. Sustainable development must be recognized as the fundamental basis for the post-2015 development framework. Structural changes are needed, together with a comprehensive set of SDGs, to overcome poverty and deprivation, inequality and insecurity, and the multiple converging crises of food, fuel, finance and climate change caused by the current development model that is rooted in unsustainable production and consumption patterns, combined with the foisting of inappropriate technologies on developing economies. There should be corporate accountability, redress for damage and independent assessment of risks and damages from new and old technologies and corporate activities.

These structural changes must recognize and bring on board concepts of sustainable livelihood like Gross National Happiness, inclusive growth and welfare in harmonious balance with the ecological limits of planet Earth. Many such concepts are embedded in the traditions and cultures of South Asia, practiced by indigenous communities for millennia. The post-2015 agenda should build upon, support and enhance the resilience of such traditional practices. In formulating SDGs, regional diversities and needs should be accepted and accommodated within the overarching universal goals.

SWAN's strategic approach to developing the Roadmap, as enshrined in the Kathmandu Declaration, is based on partnership (including through institutional networks) for advocacy, leadership development and capacity building for change at all levels. The structure for implementation is through a series of workshops in identified areas covering each of the eight sectoral SWANs. These workshops are not ends in themselves : rather, they are the chosen methodology for creating consensus among the women of South Asia on policy recommendations, and on capacity building through the train the trainers approach. An important objective of each workshop is to conceptualize its link with the SDG relevant to the theme of the workshop. These workshops are the building blocks towards developing the Roadmap and agreeing upon the SDGs for the women of South Asia. Among the targets that has been discussed is for SWAN, through these Workshops held over the next three years, to train 100,000 women across South Asia on SDGs and how to attain them, as relevant to their respective areas of activity.

SWAN is a shared aspiration. The **SWAN Strategic Planning Workshop** will seek to develop SWAN's Mission and Vision statement, delineating the strategy for preparing the Roadmap for Sustainable Development for the Women of South Asia, and the modalities for its implementation. SWAN's Strategic Planning Workshop is a critical event to plan the Roadmap and align

SWAN's activities within the emerging post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

The participants in this strategy meeting will be the eight SWAN network coordinators and key experts on sustainable development from across South Asia. The methodology for the workshop will be roundtable discussions through planned sessions. The total number of participants in this workshop is expected to be around 20, excluding the participation from the Maldives.

SWAN Is organising this workshop in collaboration with the Maldivian Network on Women's Rights. This Workshop will be combined with a panel discussion between SWAN representatives and eminent representatives from the Maldives on Handicrafts, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship. Delegates are expected to arrive in Male on 14th June. The Workshop discussions will be spread over two days, 15th and 16th June. Departure from Maldives is scheduled for 17th June 2013.

Provisional Agenda for SWAN's Strategic Planning Workshop

Friday, 14th June 2013 :
Arrival of delegates

Saturday, 15th June 2013 :
Morning :
Inaugural Session:
1. Welcome Address by Fathimath Afiya,
2. Introduction to SWAN's Roadmap for Sustainable Development by Professor Veena Sikri
3. "Maldives and Climate Change : Challenges for Sustainable Development" Speaker from Maldives
4. "Sustainable Development Goals for the Women of South Asia" by Dr Vandana Shiva, Navdanya
5. "Participatory Governance and the Role of Civil Society Networks : Strategy for SWAN" by Deepak Dorje Tamang, CEO, Search Nepal
6. Address by Mrs Saroshi Dubash, Chairperson, Sri Lanka Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Colombo, on "An Overview of the 5th SWAN Annual Conference of SWAN"
7. Address by Ms Shinkai Zahine Karokhail, Member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan on "Women in Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution in South Asia"
8. Q & A Session
9. Vote of Thanks

Afternoon : **SWAN Strategies on Strengthening Gender Equity in Sustainable Development**

1. "Empowerment of Women through Crafts and Textiles" Jaya Jaitly, Founder President, Dastkari Haat Samiti, New Delhi

2. "Gender and Education in South Asia" Archana Dwivedi, Nirantar (India) and Tasneem Athar, Deputy Director, CAMPE-BD (Campaign for Popular Education), Dhaka, Bangladesh
3. "Gender Education and Peacemaking" Hasina Safi, Executive Director, Afghanistan Women's Education Centre (AWEC), Kabul
4. "Women in Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution" Susanna Hla Hla Soe, Chairperson, Women's Organizations' Network of Myanmar (WON), Yangon
5. "Sri Lanka's Experience in Micro-Credit" Rohini Nanayakkara, Chairperson and Board Member, Lanka Orix Leasing Company Ltd and Lanka Orix Microcredit Limited, Colombo
6. "Role of Women in Media for Sustainable Development" Nandini Sahai, Director, The International Centre, Goa (India), and Mariana Baabar, Diplomatic Editor, The News, Rawalpindi (Pakistan)
7. Discussions and Q & A

Sunday, 16th June, 2013 : **Strategy on Post 2015 SDG's for South Asian Women**
1. "Sustainable Development in the Post-2015 Agenda" by Hina Lotia, General Manager, LEAD Pakistan, Islamabad
2. "Sustainable Energy for All, with Particular Focus on the Women of South Asia" Vishaka Hidellage, South Asia Director, Practical Action South Asia, Colombo
3. "Gross National Happiness and Sustainable Development" Chime Paden Wangdi, Secretary General, Tarayana Foundation, Thimphu
4. "Women's Empowerment, Economic Growth and Sustainable Development" Achla Savyasachi, Vice President, Sa-Dhan, New Delhi
5. "Maternal Health, Nutrition and Food Sovereignty for Sustainable Development" Dr Mira Shiva, Director, Initiative for Health, Equity and Society, New Delhi
6. "Empowerment Through Livelihood and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development" Shaheen Anam, Executive Director, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Dhaka
7. Discussions and Q & A

Afternoon : **SWAN Organizational Strategy for the Sustainable Development Roadmap**
1. In-house discussions among SWAN members on their Vision and Mission Statement :

   a. How best to organize SWAN for the future?
   b. Key Goals and Challenges of the SWAN Roadmap for SD
   c. Key strategies to achieve SWAN Roadmap for SD
   d. Key Plans of the SWAN Networks and Convergence Strategies
      e. Resourcing SWAN and Strengthening the Networks

2. Conclusion/ Release of the SWAN statement

Monday, 17th June 2013
Departure of Delegates