

Synopsis of Women's Health is Society's Wealth 1st MWIA Webinar

Presented by Padmini (Mini) Murthy MD, MPH, MS on Feb 1st 2014

In spite of the global society advancing rapidly in the fields of science, technology and connectivity, women's health status continues to be a lowest rung of the ladder in many societies. This webinar will discuss and highlight the link between women's health and human rights and the influence of socio- cultural and political factors on their status in society. Since women's health is imperative to the economic well-being of societies, UN agencies such as the World Bank and IMF have been investing in prompting women's economic empowerment through microcredit and micro financing programs / projects.

MWIA has been at the forefront in promoting women's health through service delivery and advocacy efforts. The NGO community has been spearheading the effort to make sure the momentum of the MDGs is sustained through the SDGs and a Beijing Plus 20 campaign will be launched during March 2014. According to a work plan presented by ConGO which had the input of NGOs across the globe.

"Beijing Plus 20 in 2015 is a golden opportunity to "scale up and speed up" implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This paper proposes commemorating Beijing Plus 20 with an unprecedented year-long series of consultations, virtual conferences and calls to action—in short, a **global campaign**, anchored in five regional conferences, using the full power of new information technologies and social media. Much like the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence" campaign to combat violence against women, the global campaign will be the sum total of thousands of events in different countries, states, cities and villages. At the core of this campaign is the review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action as mandated by ECOSOC. The campaign will be launched in 2014 (possibly at the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting in March 2014), continue throughout the year and culminate in 2015 at a Special High-Level event at the General Assembly. This campaign has two goals. First, it will galvanize a powerful constituency to "scale up and speed up" implementation of the BPfA and CEDAW. It will also highlight the MDGs/SDGs as well as the post-2015 agenda and emerging goals related to climate change and natural disasters, migration, conflict and post-conflict. Second, it will strengthen the capacity and leadership in communications/social media of UN entities—including UN Women, UN agencies, regional social and economic commissions—as well as national machineries, NGOs and civil society, and youth." (Source : CoNGO)

On behalf of MWIA Drs. Keswani and Murthy as your NGO representatives to the UN have been working to advance women's health at many levels by working at grass roots following the vision and mission of MWIA.