

**Issues Paper**  
**CSW Interactive Panel Discussion on**  
**"Integration of gender perspectives in macro-economics"**  
**10 March 2005, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Background**

Beijing Platform for Action, several Governments indicated that over the past policies (for example, liberalization and privatization) driven by economic goods and services, capital and labour; diffusion of innovations and ideas) with opportunities and challenges for the fulfillment of the commitments and of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Governments reported that increased jobs opportunities, incomes, trade and investment markets were only a small proportion of women—the better educated and multi-skilled women workers. Women workers, in particular in rural areas and in export processing zones, were among those who experienced job instability, low income without employee benefits, intensive work loads,

long work hours and hazardous working environments. It was noted that equal access to education, training and upgrading of skills of women and girls, as well as knowledge and information, including on international standards and information and communication technologies, was crucial to avoid exclusion of women from fast-growing sectors.

Some countries emphasized that poor performance of the national economy was likely to affect women more adversely than men, given women's multiple roles as mothers, wives, food providers, care providers, heads of households and workers. Reduced public expenditures in the social sector had serious impact on women, who had to assume responsibility of health care and education of household dependents. A robust economy could enhance women's opportunities and capacity to effectively participate in and contribute to the national economy and the welfare of