

**United Nations
Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
Expert Group Meeting
Achievements, gaps and challenges
in linking the implementation
of the Beijing Platform for Action and
the Millennium Declaration and
Millennium Development Goals
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**Achievements and Challenges in Linking the Implementation of the
Beijing Platform for Action, Convention on the Elimination of All
Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium
Development Goals**

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* The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations

I. INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Declaration, an unprecedented global consensus by United Nations Member States, Development Agencies, etc., presents a vision for improving the condition of humanity throughout the world in the areas of sustainable development, poverty eradication, peace and security, human rights and democracy.

The set of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets and indicators are an important political outcome of the Millennium Summit. It is an essential platform for pressing for the renewal of national commitments and the fulfilment of political pledges on gender equality, as well as serving as benchmarks for measuring progress and holding governments accountable for commitments made.

Since gender equality has been declared in the Millennium Declaration as a Goal on its own, and bearing in mind that the MDGs represent the consolidation of such important international documents as the Beijing Platform for Action (Platform), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and the Cairo Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the MDGs are an entry point for up-scaling national measures towards implementation of Beijing and CEDAW commitments, not only through Goal 3 on gender equality and empowerment of women, but also by mainstreaming gender in all MDGs. Thus, the MDGs should be treated not as a new political agenda, but more as a vehicle for further CEDAW and Beijing reaffirmation and implementation. The strategies used in the past for promoting gender equality can be up-scaled and utilized in strategies to achieve MDGs: all three processes can become mutually supportive.

This paper presents one of several practices supported by UNIFEM of how the MDG process, Beijing and CEDAW can be used to promote gender equality within the higher-level framework of policy analysis and development planning at national level. It outlines challenges and opportunities for promoting gender equality using the MDGs at national level, and is based on the findings of government and civil society initiatives implemented in Kyrgyzstan. However, this and other examples of using MDGs to promote gender equality and linking to Beijing implementation do not exhaust the pool of other possible opportunities and the Baku Expert Meeting could provide further instances of good practice. Besides this, it is crucial to note that the example described hereafter is first step of larger, long-term process taking place in this country, w/ larin Coa

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adequately respond to the country specific situation and development needs. And in this context, CEDAW, Beijing and other international documents, in turn, can be used to fine-tune MDG agenda at national level.

To be more specific, we would like to highlight the following opportunities in linking MDGs, Beijing and other documents:

- *MDGs represent a mechanism for assessing progress and holding stakeholders accountable towards their political commitments. MDGs provide an important tool for consolidating government and civil society efforts around the set of cle s*

The following examples, we hope, would illustrate the possible ways in which MDGs are implemented through the lens of CEDAW and Beijing.

KYRGYSTAN: GENDER POLICY MONITORING

Background

In 2004 the National Machinery in Kyrgyzstan (Secretariat to the National Council on Gender equality and empowerment of women

