



Anhang 2

Where does Beijing Meet the SDGs?

Ladies & gentlemen

It is a great honor to represent Zonta International, and NGO of 30.000 professionals in 67 countries, enjoying consultative status at the UN and participatory status at the Council of Europe, in this Round Table focusing on Violence against Women.

Let us jump into the subject

Where does Beijing meet the Sustainable Development Goals?

I wish I could say that violence against women had been eliminated and that there was not reason for Beijing and the SDGs to meet!

But here we are witnessing that the reality is different, and that the 3 goals have not been achieved.

Strategic objective D.1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women.

Strategic objective D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures.

Strategic objective D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.

And why not, you may ask?

For the last 20 years, we have heard about multiple goals relating many issues in women's life, including education, health, equal rights and a life free of violence. And actions have been initiated to achieve the individual goals.

However, it seems we have not been successful in addressing the interconnectedness between them.

What do I mean with this, you may ask?

Let me give you one of the many reported examples from an HIV-positive young mother woman from Papua New Guinea. This young mother had to walk several kilometers to a nearby urban medical center to receive her treatment. Due to increased criminal activities and an insecure environment, she sometimes does not go to the hospital to get her medication because she is afraid of being raped or attacked. She had to think what is the best to do: to run the risk of being raped in order to get the medication, or not to get medication at all but staying safe at home.

Her story **demands a collective response**. Isolated approaches to health, protection from violence and the rule of law and not efficient. Health services and policing efforts need flexible solutions to increase coverage in remote areas, and laws need improved enforcement and gender sensitivity.

Her story and many others show clearly the needs of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals

We in Zonta believe that

Equal rights and a life free of violence can only be achieved with a strong human rights approach in post-2015 agenda.

Beijing meets the Sustainable Development Goals in Goal no 5 in the Zero draft agenda of the Open Working Group (June 2014) **“Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”** is crucial to ensure the strongly needed sustainable change. It is, in fact, a **prerequisite** for reaching any of the other goals.

The targets of this goal are very clear:

1. End all forms of discrimination, violence and harmful practices
2. Ensure equal access to all resources and opportunities at all levels
3. Undertake the necessary reforms to achieve 1) & 2)

What is not clear at this point is the **“HOWs”**. We know where we are, and we are not in doubt of where we want to be. **Let us shape the path!**

We believe that **the path forward is Prevention of the root causes through education**. With its return of \$10–15 for every \$1 invested, education is the single best investment countries can make towards building prosperous, healthy and equitable societies.

To eradicate once for all violence against women and girls, the perpetrator has to become the maker of the change.

- a) VICTIMS need One Stop Centers not just for medical/legal/social help for victims but to provide education about women’s rights and empowering them so they themselves claim the rights are respected.
- b) The PERPETRATORS need to be persecuted through laws that clearly blame them and not the victims, the police and legal professionals need to be trained to understand the issues, but the true change will start through education of the perpetrators and make them to do the mindset change that will contribute to the sustainable development.
- c) The only way to build the new future is through PREVENTIVE programs promoting gender-equal norms and violence-free environments and the adoption of a human rights-based approach through and in education: **Learning of** human rights, **Respect of** human rights, **Practice of** human rights within the education system.

Equal rights and a life free of violence is not a women’s issue. It is a societal issue we men and women have to solve together.

**We can not change the past. Let us build the future – TOGETHER!
Prevention of root causes through education is the path forward.**

Respectfully submitted
Maria Jose Landeira Oestergaard,

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