

# Kvindernes U-landsudvalg

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## **Comments by K.U.L.U.-Women and Development (Kvindernes U-landsudvalg) til the Danish report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 and its update in 2000**

Kvindernes U-landsudvalg / KULU-Women and Development is happy to have the opportunity to follow up our comments on the Danish Government's response to the questionnaire on Denmark's implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 and the Outcome of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the UN General Assembly 2000.

We are happy to see that some of Denmark's international policy commitments, programs and initiatives, such as *gender equality and climate change* and the Danish *MDG3 Global Call to Action*, are included in this report, which otherwise mainly focuses on national implementation of national policy commitments and initiatives. We suggest that the inclusion of national implementation in the area of gender equality and development commitments and initiatives, possibly under the Critical area A. Women and Poverty, would be a constructive addition to national reporting in the future.

Our comments will mainly be directed at the introductory paragraphs concerning Denmark's cooperation with NGOs under Part One: Overview of achievements and challenges ... and Part Three: Institutional developments.

In general the report acknowledges the close cooperation and dialogue with NGOs and experts in the field as one of the strengths of official Danish gender equality work. We are happy about this recognition of NGO contributions and the Government's efforts to work with and draw on NGO expertise. Perhaps due to the national focus of the reporting, the considerable cooperation and work contributed in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment in development policy and development aid, including macro-economic policies such as trade policy, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark has not been highlighted. This considerable volume of NGO work done nationally on a professional but most often voluntary basis should be noted. Here KULU-Women and Development has played a particular role since its establishment in 1976, as the only development-NGO linking Danish women's organizations and development and environment NGOs:

### Part One, pp.2-3: Partnerships with NGOs

Denmark has a long history of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) taking active part in the work to promote gender equality between women and men, both in national policy and programs and international development policy and cooperation. On the international development policy front, Denmark cooperates with non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs), in particular K.U.L.U.-Women and Development, an umbrella organisation with focus on gender rights in development, in order to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in Danish

development policies and cooperation, employing gender mainstreaming as a fundamental principle for this work. Also on this front, NDGOs act as watchdogs vis-à-vis public initiatives, policies and strategies, as well as participating actively in the public debate in order to promote gender equality between women and men and women's empowerment nationally and internationally in development cooperation and aid policies, which also involves disseminating knowledge about the CEDAW Convention.

Part Three, p.22.: NGOs

Concerning Institutional development, Denmark has a long tradition of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) actively participating in the work to promote gender equality between women and men in both national policy and programs and international development policy and cooperation. In regards to the latter, Denmark cooperates with non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs), especially K.U.L.U.-Women and Development, an umbrella organisation for 25 member organisations plus local organisations and individual members, focusing on promoting gender rights and women's empowerment in Danish development policies and cooperation. K.U.L.U.-Women and Development is independently financed. The primary objective is once again to function together with member organisations as watchdogs over public initiatives and policies and as active participants in the public debate. These efforts have as their point of departure the CEDAW Convention, the final document from the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing 1995 "Platform for Action" as well as other relevant UN documents such as the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals and include increasing national awareness about the issues and commitments.

K.U.L.U.-Women and Development is also a founding member of the Gendernet, a network for Danish development NGOs' to promote capacity building in gender analysis and mainstreaming in their work at home and abroad, which is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs financially supports KVINFORM, Center for Information on Women and Gender, a national information, documentation and cultural center, which administers a fund for Dialogue and Cooperation with Women in the Arab Region.

It is also important to mention that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Department of Gender Equality facilitate regular meetings in the International Gender Equality Committee, a parliamentary convened committee, which meets with representatives of the political parties and NGOs (Danish Women's Society, K.U.L.U.-Women and Development, UNIFEM-Denmark, Women's Council in Denmark). K.U.L.U. is also happy to among the NGOs who participate in the official Danish delegations to the UN Conferences and meetings, as well as in major conferences and meetings in the EU.

On behalf of  
K.U.L.U.-Women and Development



Janice Goodson Foerde  
chairperson