

## Asia Pacific Caucus Statement at the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of CSW

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Title : The United Nations as if Women Mattered:  
The establishment of a "**Women's Taskforce on the reform of the UN**"

I speak on behalf of the women of the Asia Pacific region; this is 60% of the world's women and represents the greatest diversity of women in the world.

In the past 50 years, gains for women in the areas of health and education have been recorded. However, there has also been a critical shift in the focus of the UN through wars, displacement of persons, movement of refugees, feminization of poverty, violence against women in all its forms and globalization which has resulted in a move from development recognizing the rights of the poor, to a focus on humanitarian and crisis aid. This shift has been detrimental to women and communities in addressing their rights in development.

The UN has recognized the necessity for women to engage and fully participate in the development process. Therefore, the UN must reflect the equal participation of women and men in decision-making through processes that are transparent, accountable and democratic.

In the current United Nations reform process, there is a notable under-representation of women in decision making roles. We urge the UN system to be a role model of its member states in the equal participation of women and men.

The effectiveness of UN programs and processes will only be enhanced with diversity of perspectives and experiences such as agencies, donors, partners, beneficiaries and, above all, the inclusion of women's voices.

Women need their own space where they can bring their experiences into the reform process through NGO participation and within UN agencies and programs.

We, the women of the Asia Pacific Region, call for **the setting up of a women's task force on the Reform of the UN.**

It is essential that the UN reform process reflect the equal participation of women and men in all high level decision-making. This will strengthen the gender architecture of the UN structure, processes and mechanisms, reinforce the commitments to CEDAW, Security Council Resolution 1325 and move us beyond the Beijing Platform for Action, **bringing about real change for many women around the world.**