

ROBERTA CLARKE

Regional Director, UN Women, Asia Pacific, Bangkok

Thank you very much Chandni, fellow panelists, Ms. Renana Jhabvala, Martha and Chris from WIEGO, Shova from SABAH Nepal, Ms. Devaki Jain what an honor for me to be on this panel with you. I do have to take the photographs that I can show off to my colleagues back home, and if you may allow me, my colleague from UN women office for India, representative, Ms. Rebecca, delegates, participants, brothers and sisters, ladies and gentlemen, all Good afternoon.

I want to start by bringing greetings on behalf of the UN women, and thank HomeNet South Asia and WIEGO for this invitation and inclusion of UN women at this milestone meeting of network, to my understanding, 24 countries around the world, in the continuing quest for ensuring the homebased workers enjoy the full range of human rights and participate more and benefit more equitably from growth and development. I congratulate you all on your first Global conference that is wonderful, and I celebrate with you as you have adopted Delhi Declaration as well as your action plan which clearly specifies the range of factors who have implicated in ensuring and securing reorganization and valuing the women's work in particular women homebased workers.

Chandni ji, I understand UNIFEM, as we were there, HomeNet and WIEGO have a long established partnership including the co-hosting of the conference in 2000, from which the Kathmandu Declaration was issued and that was in the agenda as we have been reminded this morning, which strengthens the accountability for the conditions in which the homebased workers worked as well as for ensuring the access to social protection, markets and economic resources. The Kathmandu Declaration was quite historic, building on ILO convention C-177.

But also coming after the Beijing platform for action, which also spoke to the inadequate labor standards, poor working conditions, the lack of social security providing in the informal sectors, and in particular homebased workers, this is a document that I keep going back to read, you know the Beijing platform fact, I encourage you to do that, and I started at how comprehensive that document it is and how far reaching, and how unethical and deep, so you know back in 1995, homebased workers were also component focus of the Beijing platform of actions. And in this regard i want to, especially recognize Ms. Chandni Joshi who is pioneer of this work within UNIFEM along with Ms. Firoza Mehrotra who was deputy RPD in UNIFEM, Delhi. When I joined UNIFEM, Chandni joshi was a big name, a legend in the UNIFEM and we were never on the same page or table or the same status at the UNIFEM ever. Well she is kind to suggest that, so of course when she asked me on the face book if I'd like to come to Delhi in February, I really had no choice but to say of course, and specially as now she has title of ENFORCER, there was no way I could say no to her. But thank you very much for your kind invitation, I am very happy to be here.

I want to speak a little bit about the Beijing platform and connect it to what you are doing here as well as to the ongoing review of the platform for the action and post 2015 agenda setting which is also ongoing right now. The platform action contains quite comprehensive recommendations to governments, trade unions, the private sector to ensure a more appropriate or expansion to the protection of the labor laws, social security benefits for homebased workers, the platform for action also speaks to strengthen the women's economic capacity including the access through finance, credits, markets and commissions network, much of which you have here today in the adoption of your Delhi declaration and importantly the platform for action also promotes organizing as a mechanism for advancing women's rights. So friends, the timing of this first Global Conference on these hbws is significant.

This year 2015 is crucial because we have now also reviewing at the global level, the implementation of the Beijing platform for action and we've marked up in the beginning as the new year of our development through the purpose sustainable development goals which are under negotiation as we speak.

At regional and national level much as Devaki has her idea eluded to, that is what I call or what I think of it is in increasing politicization of the widening inequalities within and between countries and why do I say politicization, I say that because a sense with the greater awareness that this is the status goal, that is harmful, that must end, and that we must all put the inequalities and the funding in the center of the act.

In Asia for e.g. I understand 0.001%, I don't even know mathematically what it would look like, population owns up to 30% of the regions wealth and this is a general experience that women continue to form the bulk of the poor, where as unpaid family workers or engaged in informal economy for any former social protection across the life cycle.

Women's movements have therefore challenged the human rights; they have challenged quality and sustainability which they argue you cannot realize without transformation about the dominant global macro economic agenda to which Devaki has also already eluded. It is for this reason that they recently have their Asian pacific region conference in Beijing +20, so the society organization has some 187 of them from across asia and the pacific called for what they defined in as justice, a justice that requires governments to end the goals and equalities of wealth, powers & resources in opportunities that exists both between the countries between rich and poor ; between men and women within the countries, and so because of this increasing global attention to inequalities of more and more open working group.

The group of members states with developing a proposal for the post 2015 agenda, that working group has recommended a standalone goal, and on the goal no. 5, which refers to the achievements of gender inequality and importantly their empowerment of women and girls, so I think that's actually one step even in the title of the goal, we are one step beyond on what we had and this goal focuses on and all forms of discrimination against women and girls, included in the stay of economic activity, specifically has been and much given. We are saying to gender quality because it is universal no matter where we are in the world, developed or whichever country, a high GDP country, low GDP country, gender inequality is a picture of a women's life. Its cross cutting that is the co-exist with and compound with the other inequalities for eg: class inequalities, labor inequalities as is the case with the homebased workers and third, exposure to the public and the private atmosphere and I want to come back to this public and private spheres sometime later in the talks.

In our consultations then, the women globally we mean UNWOMEN, they tell us that women need voice, choice and safety. We need international and national commitments to ensure that women participation in decision making the public sphere but also in the private sector and in the context of the household to influence our location resources power and importantly authority, and women need more choice to enhance capability, means to education, work, access to productive resources, land, credit, keep it up with health service and social protection which you've also covered in your Delhi Declaration today, and finally violence against the women in constraining factor again in the lives of all women and girls, we need to eliminate these things for sure that's safety.

So much of this voice, choice and safety agenda articulated by women globally, is now contained in the proposed goal #5, sustainable development goals. But beyond that, given the centrality around inequalities, open working group has recommended another goal, goal #10, which says that inequalities must be reduced within an amount of the countries, under the goal which I urge to go and look at targets includes social protection, labor rights promotions of safe working environments for all workers, and especially those in precarious employment. Now open working group never speaks about the homebased workers and called the negotiation to think about how you bring a declaration to the attention to the members states as they move forward with the sustainable development goals. And also I think in

this context we are all quite independent better understand from the spaces where we have influence, here we live and dwell and participate how macro economic and social policies can be instruments by the instruments of justice promoting inclusive growth and disturbing and redistributing its benefits. In this regard I think we need to much better understand the homebased work and we need more research and more data collection to enable the policy makers to respond to the realities and specificity of the homebased workers, to ensure the protection, respect and fulfillment to their rights of workers in the stay of their home.

I am looking at your declaration and I am stuck on the emphasis given to the challenges of the interactively between the homebased workers and the public sphere, the markets, for eg: for the private sector and I am wondering about the challenges which homebased workers also have in their interaction in the private sphere, so for what we have to say about the height and vulnerability homebased workers to balance in the home given the isolation certainly one of the features of height and vulnerability were also towards we want to say the reproductive burden of care which homebased workers also carry along with the productive responsibilities at which of course bring an income to the household these are the ways to think about the comprehensive of agenda that breaks between reproductive and productive and private and public. Something has to be think about us as we move along, so we approach this moment, this SCG moment, this Beijing review moment, knowing this is the time for both vision and activism, knowing that there has never been such in as now when we reach the limits of the planter boundaries of the resources. But suppressing these operations, in private sphere and the public sphere, requires something profoundly integrated ways and acting participant's solidary for the common good of interests of majority. The post benefit in the agenda needs us to be directly the imperatively structural change. Thank you Devaki for the reminder. We need to close the implementation gap with political will, with allocation resources, and with strengthening up the situations for accountability. We need implementations and otherwise all the things we have agreed to globally, regionally and internationally. That's what we call accountability, to secure the transformation, the lives of women and girls especially the most marginalized, the most invisibly, across our diversities and this accountability.

I think we should agree to the non-stage actors, and I was very intrigued about the discussion on how corporate private sector and our demand and I wish to note that in July 2014, the human rights council established a working group in human rights in transnational corporations with the mandate to promote the effective and comprehensive dissemination and implementation of something called "guiding principles" on human rights. Including of gender perspective the special attention to people living in vulnerable situations and I also do urge WIEGO & HomeNet South Asia to have a look at the document which comes from the working group on human rights and business because I think that is directly relevant to this, to the agenda of homebased workers. So let us not be naïve, I don't think anyone in this room is naïve, let us acknowledge this tremendous resistance to this quest has for equality and development, equitable development by homebased workers. Power and power, and we'll be talking about the power in the context, which in power of capital accumulation, power of private sector, does not give up without a fight and unlike Martin Luther king who speaks about the more arch of justice, you knew he is very optimistic about that, I think it's more arch than the justice but it's our activism and our advocacy and our accountability that makes that arch move towards justice. So the work of advance and gender inequality work essentially for confronting and destructing for relationships where women's work and women's work is more and more valued.

Finally I want to end by recalling our solidarity and determination which is needed to end isolation, visibility and pressuring on hbws. Our determination is needed to ensure for those who are working from home are equally protected and can access resources for self development for some foremost and equitable participation in the

economic growth. Our Vigilance is needed to monitor how state protects and respects women's rights and how private sector held to account the labor practices and for equitable market access.

Let me congratulate you on adoption of your Delhi Declaration and National Plan of Action and let's celebrate this milestone along the common road to ensure common rights especially for hbws. I want to assure you UNWOMEN's commitment which stands for the common cause of strengthening and expanding of partnerships which you have mentioned in your Delhi Declaration.

We stand with you in advocacy for larger convention of ILO convention c-177 and in contribution of hbws in national economies and also in visibility of families and communities.

I want to urge you to develop perhaps a short term agenda in the context of post 2015 where you bring declaration to the attention of member states that are kindly negotiating sustainable development goals.

Finally I want to end by thanking Chandni thinking about UNWOMEN and bringing back into the fold and indirectly empowering simplicity saying UNWOMEN have accountability here..

Thank you very much..