Call for Action - PNG

**Call for Action**

**8 June 2010**

**Women in decision-making: A key to sustainable development**

Women continue to be dramatically underrepresented in decision-making positions in Papua New Guinea (PNG). It is necessary to ensure full and equal representation and participation of women in the decision-making processes to address social and economic issues in an integrated way. It is also imperative to have a State consistent program with a budgetary allocation for effective implementation and monitoring mechanisms on women’s political empowerment.

**Women's participation in political processes is crucial for reaching Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);** States and donors must remember their commitments to gender equality. They must also remember the findings of the *Global Monitoring Report of the World Bank* and the *Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum,* which demonstrates that countries score high on competitiveness, also enjoy high levels of gender equality.

The PNG government committed itself in Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA), under Article 190 *“To establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions”.*

In May 2010, as a result of the tireless efforts of PNG women, the PNG government tabled the Bill as a Notice, once again proposing 22 seats reserved for women in the Parliament. This Bill will be put up for debate and voting in July 2010. The constitutional amendment will ensure close to 20% seats reserved for women.

***Recognising positive steps of the PNG state towards the implementation of MDGs, BPFA and Convention on the Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); We the women from Asia Pacific region call upon the PNG State to implement international and national commitments made for women’s political empowerment through the following:***

1. Implement special measures to increase the level of women’s representation to at least 33% in parliaments, national and local governments, parliamentary standing committees and political parties.
2. Implement gender budgeting initiatives and allocate adequate State finances for gender equality.

**List of Signatories:**

1. Avazkan Ormonova

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Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

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1. Rhoda Sikilabu

Minister for Community Affairs

Isabel Provincial Government

Honiara, Solomon Islands

Dear All,

Women's rights groups, activists and political leaders across Asia-Pacific have been campaigning for quota legislation in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Parliament, under CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA).  The Campaign started in 2009 and received heavy opposition.  But tireless efforts by women's rights groups, activists and political leaders resulted in the PNG government tabling the Bill this year in May.  This time, there were more people who showed support to the Bill. The Bill will be put to vote in July 2010.

APWLD recently organised a Gender and Politics workshop for women political leaders and activists, in Malaysia.  As an outcome of that workshop, the participants prepared a 'Call for Action' urging the PNG Parliament to seriously adopt and implement articles under CEDAW and BPFA to promote and institutionalise women's particiaption and leadership in political processes.

APWLD would like to circulate this 'Call for Action' amongst other political leaders and activists to endorse it.  Please either add your name and signature to the document or send your name and scanned signature to us and we will include it in the Statement.

The deadline for this is **30th June 2010**, after which the 'Call for Action' will be sent to concerned groups in Papua New Guinea.

Looking forward to your support and solidarity.

Rohini Ghadiok
Programme Officer
Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
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[www.apwld.org](http://www.apwld.org/)

Dear friends,

 I am so proud that a new network of political leaders is making its voice heard and I believe that it will lead to needed results!

Of course I am signing!

With all best wishes to our sisters in NPG!

with warm greetings to friends from the training!

I have just came from our conflict zone to set up a process of documentation of VAW cases and a mechanism to address it in our turbulent a blood conflict South of Kyrgyzstan.

**Nurgul Djanaeva**

President

Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan

Please add my name in the endorsement list

Tahira Khan

--- On **Fri, 6/25/10, Priya SK *<******priyavas@hotmail.com******>*** wrote:

From: Priya SK <priyavas@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Endorse the PNG "Call for Action' - deadline 30th June 2010
To: apwld\_wip2009@googlegroups.com
Date: Friday, June 25, 2010, 5:09 AM

I endorse the statement.

Please include my name and Indonesian Women's Coalition as well in the Statement.
Titiek K Hendrastiti
Indonesia

pls add my name also. thnks

Virada Somswasdi
Head
Women's Studies Center
Faculty of Social Sciences
Chiang Mai University
Chiang Mai 50200
THAILAND

President
Foundation for Women, Law and Rural Development (FORWARD)
Women's Studies Building
Chiang Mai University
Chiang Mai 50200
THAILAND

Please include my signature, as a sign of my affirmation to support the PNG Call to Action. I suggest APWLD led by its WIP programme release a press release in support of this campaign on the day when the PNG Parliament opens its sessions.

Cristina Palabay

Deputy Secretary General, People's Democratic Coalition-Philippines

*Zohra Andi Baso [zohrabaso@hotmail.com]*

Please add my name in the endorsement list
Zohra Andi Baso
Women concern forum of South Sulawesi, Indonesia

Awesome,please add my name also.

Regards

Priscilla Singh

prisnaidu@connect.com.fj

I support this too,

Temarewe Tekaatau

K-WAN (Kiribati)

[temteata@gmail.com]

rohini, please include my name as one of the signatories:

Elisa Tita Lubi

Founding Vice-Chair, Gabriela Women's Party, Philippines

Please add my name in support. All the best!.  PNG can be a role model to all the Pacific countries. I can assure you it will make a difference in our political arena and the wellbeing of our people.

Wish Samoa would consider this!!!

regards

Roina Faatauvaa-Vavatau

**Chief Executive Officer**

SUNGO, P.O. Box 1858, Apia -SAMOA

Phone: (0685)22804  Mobile: (0685) 7522804:  Fax : (0685) 20654

Dear Rohini

Tamil Nadu Women's Forum Endorses the statement urging the PNG Parliament to seriously adopt and implement articles under CEDAW and BPFA to promote and institutionalise women's particiaption and leadership in political processes.

Fatima.N

Tamil Nadu Women's Forum [tnwforum@gmail.com]

Please include my name and as well NGO "Taraz Initiative Centre", (Kazakhstan) in the Statement.

Svetlana Beissova,

Thanks

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С уважением,

 sbeisova mailto:sbeisova@mail.ru

Dear Rohini

Please include my name to that very worthy endeavour.

Kindest Regards

Tupou

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