

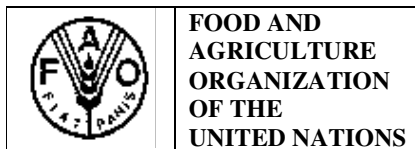
REPORT

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

**Rome,
Italy
15 April 2009**

Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development

Thirteenth (Special) Session



EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)

REPORT

of the

**THIRTEENTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY
ON WOMEN AND THE FAMILY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rome, Italy, 15 April 2009

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, 2009**

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

For the attention of FAO

The Session recommended that:

1. The Secretariat should use the opportunity of the FAO Reform process to streamline the WPW activities and make these more efficient and relevant.
2. The WPW Regular Sessions were proposed to be incorporated into the agenda of the ERC.
3. The secretariat was requested to prepare a paper for the next WPW Session with options for
 - 3.1. financing from FAO Regular Programme and from extra-budgetary resources of gender mainstreaming and WPW activities, taking into account that gender is an FAO Strategic Objective and
 - 3.2. modalities for including the WPW session as a regular item into the ECA and ERC agenda.
4. The secretariat was encouraged to prepare by September 2009 an appeal to replenish the Trust Fund.
5. The 14th regular WPW Session to address the impact of migrations on rural communities and the situation of women to be held in Budapest, Hungary, by end of June 2009.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth (Special) Session of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW) of the FAO European Commission on Agriculture (ECA) was held on 15 April 2009 in FAO HQ, Rome with the participation of 28 Member States and one Member Organization with 44 participants. The Chairperson and Members of the ECA Executive Committee also participated in the Session. The Session Agenda and List of Participants are attached to this Report as Annexes 1 and 2, respectively.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. Ms Maria Kadlecikova, Regional Representative of Europe and Central Asia, Assistant Director-General in her opening remarks reviewed the history of the WPW and emphasized the challenges faced both by the member countries following the political and economic changes that occurred in the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Central Asia (CA) sub-regions and, also by FAO, following the discontinuation of the funding of the outposted Gender in Rural Development Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division (ESW) from Economic and Social Development Department that was the WPW Secretary. Since 2004, the gender related activities, including technical support to the regular session of the WPW and the organization of Expert Meetings (EM) were funded through a mix of FAO ESW Regular Programme allocations to Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) and Subregional Office for Central and Eastern Europe (SEU) and extra-budgetary funding through the Trust Fund, created with the support of the Board of WPW. She emphasized the new challenges faced by the member countries in the context of the global economic and financial crisis and also related to the ongoing reform process within FAO.

3. The Session commemorated with one minute of silence the recent earthquake victims in Abruzzi, Italy and the passing away of the former Chair of the Board of WPW, Ms. Celia Fernandez Fontannillas from Spain.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

4. The Session adopted the Agenda, as attached as Annex 3 to the Report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The Session elected H. E. Agnes van Ardenne – Van der Hoeven, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of The Netherlands to FAO as Chairperson and Ms Marina Calvino, International Affairs Officer, International Relations Office and Italian FAO liaison Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies as Rapporteur.

GENDER ISSUES IN RURAL AREAS IN EUROPE AND ECA WPW ACTIVITIES ¹

6. The Agenda Item was introduced by Tomasz Lonc, Senior Policy Officer, SEU, Secretary of the WPW, emphasizing that the Session technical documents are based on the conclusions and recommendations of the EMs organized in recent years, as well as on the outcomes of a needs assessment and survey conducted by REU among 200 respondents in 2009 addressing gender issues in the Region. The technical areas as well as the specific subregions and country groups where the WPW wishes to focus future gender related activities were summarized.

7. Ms Wendy Peter Hodel in her capacity as Chair of the Board of WPW emphasized that gender is one of the FAO Strategic Objectives and the WPW has built up knowledge and experience in this field. The voices of rural women and men must be heard. The WPW is the only FAO statutory body in the European Region which specifically addresses gender issues and provides a forum that makes policy recommendations and decisions both to the member countries at ministries' level as well as for FAO. While acknowledging FAO's financial constraints, the Chair of the WPW Board emphasized that the Special Session will revitalize the WPW and thus bring power and energy to its work in rural areas of the European Region.

8. The Representative of Turkey expressed his Government's support to the reinforcement of FAO's work on gender issues and the continuation of the activities of the WPW. He informed that the Turkish Government recognizes the importance of women not only in agriculture and rural development but also in the overall development challenges faced by societies. Turkey has developed a national programme on gender and within that context created a new structure within the Ministry of Agriculture to deal with the development of women affairs and support to the related structural adjustments. The Government of Turkey believes in the importance of interactive cooperation among different institutions and ministries both at national as well as international level. He emphasized the importance to understand different cultures and approaches in the Region and urged for more dialogue among member countries to understand the historical, cultural, and socio-economic differences and to find common solutions.

9. The Chair thanked for the strong support to the WPW and emphasized the need to share good practices and build partnerships and to support a constructive dialogue among the member countries, using also the tools provided by IT communication technologies.

10. The ESW presentation ² provided by Ms Eve Crowley, ESW Deputy Director and O-i-C on FAO activities related to gender, globally and in the European Region, underlined the main issues in gender mainstreaming in Europe and the ensuing potential impact, guidelines and approaches for WPW activities, including:

1. focus on poverty alleviation and the high share of women in excluded, food insecure population groups,
2. focus of FAO programmes and activities to improve access to education, health and social services and improving women's access to water and land,
3. aligning and collaboration with UN Country Teams at country level and including gender into the One UN, Joint Programmes and other initiatives and

¹ ECA: WPW/09/2

² Available on the REU ECA WPW website.

4. gender is one of the Strategic Objectives; as such the Regional Office should propose specific targeted activities and measurable achievements. The ERC in turn should propose gender-related priorities for the PWB and biennial allocations towards the Region for gender related activities, as part of the Results-Based-Management approach.
11. A number of countries expressed recognition and support for WPW activities and proposed the following areas and approaches for future activities:
1. exchange of East-West experience in period of transition in the Region, including in land reform
 2. networking to ensure exchange of experience and lessons learned in other regions and
 3. Expert Meetings were recognized as a useful sub regional forum to exchange practical community and project level experience in gender mainstreaming.

REVIEW OF THE WPW MANDATE AND MANNER OF WORKING ³

12. Following introduction and discussion of Agenda items 5 and 6, the Session agreed upon the FAO European Union Regional Group's recommendation that reiterated the WPW as an important forum and FAO's only statutory body addressing gender issues in the Region, and proposed

1. using the opportunity of the FAO Reform process to streamline the WPW activities and make these more efficient and relevant,
 2. to include the Regular Sessions of the WPW into the agenda of the ERC, to strengthen the ERC, in line with the methodologies recommended by FAO's Immediate Plan of Action (IPA) and to take into account the Results Based Framework, the 11 Strategic Objectives - including the one on gender policy and to discuss and propose gender-related priorities for the Europe and Central Asia Region.
13. The secretariat was requested to prepare an issues/position paper for the next regular Session of the WPW that would outline options for
1. financing from FAO Regular Programme (RP) and from extra-budgetary resources of gender mainstreaming and WPW activities in the European Region, taking into account
 2. the view of some countries that gender being an FAO priority and constituting a Strategic Objective, RP resource should be earmarked for activities in following biennia and
 3. modalities for including the WPW activities as a regular item into the ECA and ERC agenda , to be reviewed by the ERC with a view to prioritization of FAO work in the Region and for most efficient ways of mainstreaming gender issues into FAO policies and national programmes.

³ ECA: WPW/09/3

WPW TRUST FUND ACTIVITIES AND REPLENISHMENT

14. The secretariat was encouraged to prepare by September 2009 an appeal to replenish the Trust Fund.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 14TH WPW SESSION, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

15. The Session agreed, following introduction by the Secretariat of preparations for the 14th regular WPW Session to address the impact of migrations on rural communities and the situation of women, invited by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary, for the 14th Session to be held in Budapest, Hungary, by end of June 2009.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. There were no issues raised under this agenda item.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17. The draft Report was adopted by the Session. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and the Rapporteur for their efficient work. The Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia and the Secretary of the WPW were given responsibility for finalizing the Report and implementing the decisions adopted.

ANNEX 1

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)

THIRTEENTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON
WOMEN AND THE FAMILY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rome, Italy, 15 April 2009

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ANNEX 2

EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)

THIRTEENTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON
WOMEN AND THE FAMILY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rome, Italy, 15 April 2009

AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Time	Agenda Item
9.00 am	Registration
9.30 am	1 Opening of the Session - FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia Assistant Director-General
	2 Adoption of the Agenda: <i>for decision</i> (ECA: WPW/09/1)
	3 Election of the Session Officers: Session Chairperson(s) and Rapporteur: <i>for decision</i>
10.00 am	4 Gender Issues in Rural Areas in Europe and ECA WPW Activities: <i>for information</i> (ECA: WPW/09/2) 4.1 Importance of gender issues in European Region rural areas and development – Introduction by the REU Secretariat 4.2 Gender issues in rural development in the European Region and FAO normative work and projects and WPW activities – Presentation by the REU Secretariat and WPW Chairperson Rural development and regional policies in the European Region need to consider gender aspects of employment, migration as well as gender focus in support programmes for job creation and differentiation of income sources. Governments are invited to review and make recommendations on FAO gender-focused work in the Region and project activities, in particular the Working Party on Women Sessions and Expert Meetings to achieve value-added and targeted assistance.
10.30 am	5 Review of the WPW Mandate and Manner of Working: <i>for decision</i> (ECA: WPW/09/3 and ECA: WPW/09/3 Sup.) 5.1 Form and organization of WPW activities – REU Secretariat Present arrangements and proposals for improvements and enhancement of collaboration among ECA WPW, REU Secretariat, Economic and Social Development Department, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division (ESW)

Time	Agenda Item
	<p>5.2 Communication and cooperation among the ECA Executive Committee, ESW, the WPW Board and the REU Secretariat; Present arrangements for WPW servicing and RP resources – REU Secretariat</p> <p>Reporting to the ECA Executive Committee and informing the European Regional Group on WPW activities – Discussion</p> <p>WPW Sessions and Expert Meetings provide a subregional/regional forum to review gender-focused policies and programmes and present project experience, and offer training in social and economic research and assessment of the situation of women in rural areas. Governments are invited to make recommendations and propose options to revise the format and content of WPW activities, including collaboration modalities and communication with the ECA Executive Committee.</p> <p>Conclusions for formal submission to the 36th Session of the ECA – REU Secretariat</p>
12.30–2.00 pm	<p>Lunch Break</p>
2.00 pm	<p>6</p>
	<p>WPW Trust Fund Activities and Replenishment: <i>for information</i> (ECA: WPW/09/4)</p> <p>– Trust Fund Resources used in 2007-2008 and List of Donors – REU Secretariat</p> <p>A Trust Fund was created in 2006 to support selected WPW activities such as consultations and inputs by resource persons and the publication of outcomes. Governments are invited to make recommendations regarding the scope, objectives and approaches for the replenishment of this Fund and, where appropriate, linking WPW activities with other gender-targeted programmes supported by multilateral and bilateral donors.</p>
2.45 pm	<p>7</p>
	<p>Preparations for the 14th WPW Session, Budapest, Hungary, June 2009 (TBC): <i>for information and decision</i> (ECA: WPW/09/5)</p> <p>The 14th Session of the WPW will be held in Budapest, Hungary, in June 2009 (TBC), and will be hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.</p> <p>The technical theme for the 14th Session will be: <i>Impacts of Migrations on the Livelihoods of Rural Households and Better Management of Agricultural Resources at Origin.</i></p> <p>Governments are invited to review and make recommendations on the draft Agenda and Programme prepared by the FAO REU WPW Secretariat.</p>
3.30 pm	<p>8</p>
	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Adoption of the Report</p> <p>Closure of the Session</p>

ANNEX 3**EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE (ECA)****THIRTEENTH (SPECIAL) SESSION OF THE WORKING PARTY ON
WOMEN AND THE FAMILY IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT****Rome, Italy, 15 April 2009****LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

ECA: WPW/09/1	Provisional Agenda and Timetable
ECA: WPW/09/2	Gender Issues in Rural Areas in Europe and ECA WPW Activities
ECA: WPW/09/3	Organization of WPW Activities and Communication
ECA: WPW/09/3 Sup.	2009 Survey on WPW Activities in the European Region
ECA: WPW/09/4	WPW Trust Fund Activities and Replenishment
ECA: WPW/09/5	Preparations for the 14 th WPW Session, Budapest, Hungary, June 2009 (TBC)
ECA: WPW/09/6	List of Documents