HIGHLIGHT

DAY ONE: ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMITMENT

The first day of the Asia and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: Beijing+20 Review began with the clear goal of informing the global agenda on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The morning was spent reflecting on the achievements made thus far, while emphasizing the challenges we still face as a region and calling for renewed commitment and accelerated implementation of the demands of the Beijing Platform for Action.

In her opening statement, the Regional Director of UN Women Roberta Clarke, cautioned that, “Despite our many achievements, we dare not be complacent.” She called on all member states for support to reach the most marginalized women and girls, to strengthen feminist movements, and to ensure full support from a diverse range of men, boys and gender activists. This sentiment was echoed with a stirring address from the civil society representative from Cambodia who demanded more rights and recognition for migrant women and workers and the displaced across the region, as well as the need for more accountability from member states. The lively discussions that occurred during afternoon’s review of the draft outcome document reflected this demand for swift and direct action, while pushing for a broader and more closely monitored agenda.

Reported by: Christina Yiannakis/UN Women Timor-Leste

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“GENDER IS NOT BINARY, IT’S A CONTINUUM”

- Kevin Halim
Asia Pacific Transgender Association

UNFPA Launches State of World Population 2014

The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future

Developing countries with large youth populations could see their economies soar, provided they invest heavily in young people’s education and health and protect their rights, according to the new The State of World Population 2014 report released on 18 November by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund.

Today’s record 1.8 billion young people, more than half of which live in Asia and the Pacific, present an enormous opportunity to transform the future. How we meet their needs and aspirations and enable them to enjoy their rights will define our common future. #SWOP2014

Full report here: asiapacific.unfpa.org

YOUTH DIARY

Being a young Malaysian-Muslim feminist SOGIE ally can be quite the experience, both online and offline! Muslims find me too feminist. Feminists find me too Muslim.

How can my perspective be considered legitimate and informed as any other, when they are often overshadowed by the debate of my existence? In everyday conversation there are first persistent stereotypes to unpack, stereotypes that cause bigotry and damage lives. The events of the past few days never take me far from reflecting on this struggle.

I speak as a Muslim when I say all forms of inequality is un-Islamic. Being a Muslim should not endanger lives. Being a Muslim should not hinder reaching a consensus on how appropriate it is to commit to equality.

Power inequality too is un-Islamic, and is just one example of a concern that overshadows the voices speaking out against it. No one should speak for me just because we share a religion. When they do, I wrangle the consequences of their entitlement every day.

It is a concern to me that the infallibility of religion extends to the interpretation of a few. What a fallacy! If anyone believes their religion should stand the test of time, then they should move forward when time calls for it. To be enduring is to be progressive.

#Beijing20

Liyana Dizzy
Young Women Making Change
@lil

The Power of 1.8 Billion: Adolescents, Youth and the Transformation of the Future

Liyana Dizzy Young Women Making Change @lily
Special Session on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls constitutes an obstacle to gender equality, development and peace, violating and nullifying the Human Rights of women and girls worldwide – this was already recognized at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing twenty years ago.

On 25 November each year, we mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in an effort to come together as a global community to address this absolutely critical area.

This year, we will take the opportunity to mark the day in connection with the regional Beijing+20 review, in the form of a Special Session where we will learn about key actions and identify priorities for accelerating implementation of global and national commitments. It will be an inter-agency event implemented under the umbrella of the UNiTE to End Violence Against Women Campaign. Launched in 2008 by the UN Secretary-General, the Campaign aims to end violence against women by raising public awareness and increasing political will and resources.

As the Campaign enters its final year in 2015, this Special Session aims to galvanize high-level leadership and accelerate momentum for a successful final year of the campaign. In particular, participants will have the chance to make their own voices heard and sign a symbolic pledge to reaffirm their commitment to ending violence against women and girls once and for all.

Thursday, 20 November, 11:15 – 12:30 hrs | UNCC, CR-2