

General recommendations included:

- The need to present practical recommendations to the Planning Commission
- The need for governance to be more participatory and the importance of hearing women's voices and concerns from the different regions
- The need for macro policies to move beyond a sectored approach

Key Recommendations from Jharkhand:

- Build capacity of Dais to handle greater responsibilities & train health workers
- Set in place a rehabilitation policy for women negatively affected by development
- Formulate a women's policy
- Set in place mechanisms for a stronger implementation of the PNDDT Act
- Provide adequate sanitary facilities for girls in schools & provide edible mid-day meals
- Control drop-out rates of school going girls

Key Recommendations from South Bengal:

- Make provisions for women in the unorganized sector and domestic service
- Provide Provident Fund, maternity benefits, crèche facilities for women in unorganized labour
- Address the issue of sexual harassment in domestic labour
- Make provisions for differently-abled women
- Set up shelters for deserted women
- Undertake police reforms
- Provide mobile education facilities for girl children

Recommendations from Bihar:

- Undertake training of Dais
- Provide enabling conditions to increase the number of women judges, doctors and teachers
- Put a stop to privatization and to an expensive education system
- Address needs of Dalit women and work towards 50% reservation for women

Recommendations from North Bengal and Sikkim:

- Address marginalization of women in the economy
- Address the problem of trafficking in North Bengal and Sikkim
- Ensure property rights for women in Sikkim
- Set in place/ strengthen support services to assist women deal with issues of VAW in the family, disability, issues of mental health, substance abuse and alcoholism
- Provide opportunities for alternate jobs for women in Darjeeling hills

Recommendations from Orissa:

- State to undertake responsibility in marketing products by SHGs
- Set in place rehabilitation policies for women affected by development
- State to provide access to credit facilities

- Provide job cards for women
- Review all programmes with a gender lens and provide human rights training
- Implement gender budget and women's component plan

Speaking in the inaugural session of the Conference the Ms. Chandni Joshi, Regional Programme Director of UNIFEM South Asia Regional Office, highlighted the strength of a collaborative platform, such as the one provided by the Consultation. Elaborating that one of UNIFEM's strengths is being able to provide such platforms, which link the voices of women with policymakers, she said that these consultations are an empowering exercise for women, which provide them with the opportunity to contribute to the national exercise. She appealed for a unified approach to issues and for recommendations that are doable. She also shared the success of the Think Tank process in Nepal, which has been instrumental in bringing about legal changes benefiting women and upholding their rights and dignity.