



7th South Asia Regional Ministerial
Conference
Commemorating Beijing
- *Delivering for Women in South Asia* -
Dhaka, Bangladesh
3-5 October 2010



Organized by:

Ministry of Women & Children's Affairs
Government of Bangladesh

UNIFEM
(part of UN Women)

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Seventh South Asia Regional Ministerial Conference, “Commemorating Beijing”
3 – 5 October 2010
Dhaka, Bangladesh

- ❖ In 1995 the **Fourth World Conference on Women** was held in Beijing where world leaders from 189 countries promised equality and gender justice to the world's women, making a commitment to undertake concrete actions towards it. Over 40,000 women and men from around the world worked together to develop a global action plan - the Beijing Platform for Action, which has become the base document, for measuring progress on gender justice and women's empowerment.
- ❖ The South Asia region has been witness to a **unique accountability mechanism**. Governments and civil society have very successfully deployed regional review mechanisms, as a strategy to address the BPFA and CEDAW. These participatory and transparent review meetings between Governments and women's groups have entailed a process of cross regional peer learning and sharing of best practices, introspection, gap identification, addressing challenges and developing a common South Asia agenda of priorities for action.
- ❖ In an effort to keep the **spirit and momentum of Beijing alive as also to review progress** in the region, UNIFEM-South Asia Regional Office in collaboration with the host governments has been organizing South Asia Regional Ministerial conferences to commemorate Beijing. So far 6 such conferences have been held - in Delhi in September 1996, in Kathmandu in 1998, in Bandos Island, Maldives in 2000, in Paro, Bhutan in 2003, in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2005 and in Delhi, India in 2008.
- ❖ **The Seventh South Asia Regional Ministerial Conference, “Commemorating Beijing” is being co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and UNIFEM.**
- ❖ **The Honourable Prime Minister of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina is the Chief Guest and has kindly consented to inaugurate the Conference.**
- ❖ **Remarks will be made by the Special Guest, Dr. Shirin Sharman Chaudhury, Honourable State Minister for the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.**

- ❖ **Remarks will be made by Mr. Tariq-ul-Islam, Secretary-in-Charge, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.**
- ❖ **Welcome Remarks will be made by Ms. Anne. F. Stenhammer, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM South Asia**
- ❖ The meeting is focusing on two critical challenges to gender equality in the region – **the economic security and rights of women and violence against women.**
- ❖ This Conference acquires **special significance** since 2010 marks **the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)**. The implementation of the BPfA was appraised at the 54th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2010.
- ❖ At the end of the Conference, delegates will draft and **adopt recommendations** on violence against women and their economic security and rights, providing guiding principles of work for the next two years.
- ❖ The delegates are from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka**. Delegations are being led by Ministers and Secretaries in charge of Women's Development. Other delegates include senior officers of governments of the region, representatives of women's organizations from the region and gender experts.

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