



in cooperation with



Bayer HealthCare
Bayer Schering Pharma



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



7th International Dialogue on Population and Sustainable Development

“Exploring Cultural Diversity and Gender Equality: towards universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights”

15-16 October 2008

KfW Berlin Branch, 'Historischer Kassensaal', Entrance: Behrenstrasse 33, 10117 Berlin

as of 26.09.2008

Background

Fourteen years after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, the goal of "universal access to reproductive health by 2015" is still far from being a reality. Although there have been recent successes in combating maternal mortality, maternal health is proving to be the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) where fewest advances have been made. An estimated 536,000 women continue to die each year from avoidable complications in pregnancy and birth. Over 200 million women and couples continue to have no access to contraceptives even though they have expressed the wish to use them. Women make up around half of all those infected with HIV/AIDS, and their risk of infection is increased by the legal, economic and social inequality they daily face.

Undoubtedly, one reason for this situation is that sexual and reproductive health is not only a controversial and sensitive issue but also broad and complex. It is anchored in the societal context and touches cultural values, norms and taboos. Moreover, it is strongly related to gender issues and is accompanied by problems that are largely different on the local, regional and transnational levels.

This year's 7th International Dialogue is focused on the nexus between culture, gender, human rights, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. This will be the first time that discussions on these highly sensitive issues have been included in the International Dialogue. Specific country examples are intended to show how a sensitive cultural approach can help to achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, information and education by 2015.

Panel Discussion

The conference opens on the evening of 15 October with a panel discussion designed to appeal to a broad general audience. The guests are drawn from different sectors of society and will be presenting their own particular perspective on sexuality, gender and culture. The issues addressed focus on globalisation, the situation of young people, and the role of power, politics and culture, and raise questions about the role that religion and tradition play in the area of sexuality.

Conference

The conference on 16 October will be opened by high-ranking keynote speakers whose specialist expertise will illustrate selected aspects of the complex issues in the 7th International Dialogue. Subsequently, all the international experts will be gathering at a "World Café" event for an exchange of

experience structured towards finding joint answers from a range of perspectives – from development policy, academia and science to industry and politics. The questions to be addressed include how to combine due respect for culturally determined values, norms and taboos with the focus on sexual and reproductive health and associated rights.

An exhibition (Cultural Forum) will be presenting numerous country examples and providing an insight into the chances and experiences in promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights in diverse cultures. The exhibition will be officially opened during the panel discussion. It can be visited from the start of the conference on 16 October and during lunch and the coffee breaks.

Programme:

Panel Discussion Wednesday, 15 October, 2008

Between freedom and suppression: Gender and sexuality in the 21st century

5.30 pm

Registration and 'happy hour' at the 'Cultural Forum' poster exhibition

6 pm

Welcome

Claudia Radeke, First Vice President East and West Africa, KfW Entwicklungsbank

Andreas Busch, Member of the Board of Management, Bayer Schering Pharma AG

Gender equality, empowerment and women's rights – change through social reforms

Yasmina Baddou (tbc), Minister of Health, Morocco

Men and gender equality

Douglas Mendoza Urrutia, Capacity and Alliance Building Officer
Nicaragua and Centroamerica, Fundación Puntos de Encuentro

Religion, sexuality and reproduction

Friederike von Kirchbach, Provost of the German Protestant Church Berlin-Brandenburg-schlesische Oberlausitz (EKBO)

Young and in love in a globalising world – young peoples' voices

Itchyban, Member of the music group Culcha Candela

Politics and policy making

Sibylle Pfeiffer, Member of German Parliament, Chairwoman of DSW's Parliamentary Advisory Committee

8 pm

Closing remarks

Bernd Hoffmann, Deputy Director Planning and Development, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

Reception at the 'Cultural Forum'

Conference Thursday, 16 October 2008

9 am

Registration and coffee

'Cultural forum' exhibition with poster session

9.30 am

Welcome

Claudia Radeke, First Vice President East and West Africa, KfW Entwicklungsbank, Frankfurt

Klaus Brill, Vice President Corporate Commercial Relations, Bayer Schering Pharma AG, Berlin

9.40 am

Opening address

Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New York

10 – 12 am

Keynote speeches on the following topics:

Towards 'gendered' health systems – a new perspective on gender equity in health

Gita Sen, Professor, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore and Adjunct Professor, Harvard School of Public Health; Co-coordinator of the Knowledge Network and Gender Equity for the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health

Human rights and maternal mortality

Paul Hunt, Former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, Professor, University of Essex, UK

Promoting gender equity in global funding

Françoise Ndayishimiye, Senior Gender Adviser, Former Board Member, Communities delegation in the Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Geneva

Gender – culture - reproductive rights and health: a scope for action in German development cooperation

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Lunch

1.30 – 5.30 pm

'World Café of opportunities'

following

'Town Hall Meeting' presenting the main discussion results in plenary

5.30 pm

Wrap-up of the day and outlook

Gill Greer

Director General, International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), UK

6 pm

End of conference