

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

AI Index: ACT 77/010/2005 (Public)
News Service No: 50
1 March 2005

Beijing Plus 10: NGO statement on the US proposed amendment to the draft declaration of the 49th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The purpose of this Session of the Commission on the Status of Women - the UN body charged specifically with advancing the status of women - is to reaffirm the Beijing Platform for Action, not to move backward or undermine it.

We, representatives of civil society organizations from all regions of the world, celebrate the historic achievement for women's human rights that the Platform represents. We strongly applaud the statement by Secretary General Kofi Annan that the Platform adopted in 1995 was "a giant step forward" and "that gender equality is critical to the development and peace of every nation," and we affirm his call for specific targeted actions to realize women's rights in ALL areas. In this light, we urge government delegations to oppose unequivocally the amendment to the Draft Declaration proposed by the United States. The amendment addresses what the Platform is NOT, not what it IS. Let's affirm the Platform fully and move forward.

ACPD (Canada); Articulacion Feminista Mercosur; AHIP (Nigeria); ALVF (Cameroun); Amnesty International; ARROW; Articulação de ONGs de Mulheres Negras Brasileiras; Asia Pacific Women's Watch; Association Tunisienne de Femmes Democratiques; ASTRA; AWID; Banulacht; CAFRA; Campaña 28 de Septiembre; Caribbean Women's Health Network; Catholics for a Free Choice; Centre for Global Women's Leadership; Centre for Reproductive Rights; CHOICE; CIPAF (Dominican Republic); CLADEM; Cotidiano Mujer (Uruguay); DAWN; Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights; Elige (Mexico); Equidad de Genero (Mexico); Eve and the Snake; FAFIA(Canada); FCI; FEIM (Argentina); Filipina; NZFPA; GELEDES (Brazil); GIRE (México); GPI (Nigeria); Human Rights Watch; IUCN; IGLHRC; ILGA; INCRESE (Nigeria); INFORM (Sri Lanka); Iniciativa CA de Seguimiento a Beijing (Honduras); Ipas; International Women's Health Coalition; IPPF; JOICP (Japan); Las Dignas (El Salvador); Lebanese FPA; Lentswe La Rona; MADRE; Mujer y Salud (Uruguay); NAPY; NWRC (Egypt); PAI; Pilipina Legal Resources Center; RedLac; Red Siempre; REPEM; SAF (Yemen); SIECUS; SMLAC/LACWHN; WEDO; WIDE; WILDAF; Women in HIV/AIDS Leadership Initiative; Women's Front (Norway); Women's Health Foundation; WWHR - New Ways (Turkey); YouACT; Youth Coalition