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Casablanca Process

Feminists for Progress

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Assessing and rebuilding progress through women's knowledge

Turning the global economic crisis into opportunity - Women's Ideas

deconcentrate economic and political power ..

stimulate public investment in "spread out" job creation

reorganize the regulatory mechanisms, financial institutions, credit mechanisms as women want it

Assessing and rebuilding progress through women's knowledge

The UNDP gender team in collaboration with an informal group of feminist scholar activists, *(see www.casablanca-dream.net for people, paper and process so far) drawn from diverse backgrounds, of geography, specialization and perspectives, is currently working on the preparation of an alternative framework for ensuring that justice is built into macro economic ideas and policies .

The process of this partnered project is to draw on messages that are coming from women led struggles, women's rebellions and women's grassroots efforts to transform ; and the special lived and reflective experience of women,- and propose some policies, projects strategies of intervention, which would enable the building/reconstruction of inclusive, "just" development

The process of questioning and trying to rebuild has had a long journey



First stop at Beijing plus 5, UN 2000
Second stop at Kampala Uganda 2002
Third stop in Casablanca Morocco
Whistle stops at Durban, New York, Essex
Fourth stop Istanbul, Turkey, 2007
Fifth at Rabat Morocco, 2008

Ideas need actors and in Uganda in 2002, it started with the feminist movement: to 'rethink the movement's premises in ways that are more inclusive, more grassroots-oriented, more culturally relevant and nuanced, and more apt to appeal to a large segment of the world's population that West-focused and initiated efforts of the past that were shaped primarily by the experience of the women of the developed world'. (Mahnaz Afkhami)

In Casablanca and Istanbul the group attempted to link women's understanding of reality into macro economic propositions. One of the frameworks that emerged after the two day meeting in Casablanca in 2007, was to hang the facts and analysis and evaluation, under the broad themes of, Women Water And Wealth shifting away from goals such as gender equality, mainstreaming

gender etc. Instead to see women as primary critical actors in the economy; water as the most critical issue for women, and related to poverty and environmental concerns, and wealth as the reflection of the kind of outcomes of inequality that has emerged globally .



In Rabat the attempt to build an analysis and proposals which can be negotiated with the global quest for another route to progress, drawn from very different spaces.

The overall objective of the discussions and the papers was to reconstitute economic reasoning, economic development strategies.

The process , the documents and the forthcoming book have key messages which are relevant to the ongoing economic crisis. They emphasise that there is need to bring women's voice into this debate. Given that women are located differently from men in the political and social economy, and given that their scholarship and experience of politics is different , they may have other ideas on types of economic and political arrangements that are called for to deal with the crises

Further it is necessary to discuss questions related to how to reorganize and re-strategies women's voice to deal with issues like global economic structures and policies.



Love in Digital Islam: Ibn Hazm is a Success on the Internet? "Ulfa Consumerism Clash"

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Nafis Sadik, Pakistan



Moving on and having identified some of the key concerns such as;

- that basic commodities like food and water are threatened
- that there is turbulence in economies and societies,
- that there are rising inequalities of wealth and income,
- rising affirmation of narrow identities and conflict over identities, perhaps coming from conflict over resources in turn suggesting unequal powers
- and there is loss of control over knowledge, livelihoods, even lives for a vast majority of people

They identified that there is need to

- Shift the understanding on how women are viewed: And view them as growth agents as channels of development rather than as victims or beneficiaries of welfare
- Direct the strategies that we evolve at redressing injustice rather than limited to relieving suffering
- Recognise that while poverty is a central issue, need to redefine it as deprivation water deprivation, food deprivation
- Understand the difference between a financial crisis and global recession and the implications of each as well as our response to each and finally, Reconstruct how growth is fuelled



Economic Growth and equitable development - the linkages Lessons from India

Devaki Jain (India) & Shubha Chacko (India)



Women Organizing Themselves: Forms of Women's Collectives

Renana Jhabvala (India)



Progressive Masculinities: Oxymoron or Achievable?

Jael Silliman (India)

Following this analysis some ideas that have emerged so far are;

First to reconstruct how growth is fuelled

The new paradigm is on changing the engines of growth, derived from the argument that the earlier engine has generated stark inequalities and acute deprivations and the current global crises. There is a quest for a more democratic engine putting livelihood and wage earning on a large scale which in turn would generate the demand for production which in turn could be the engine of growth

Spread the economic engine is the message that is coming out of everywhere, - from President Obama of the USA to leaders from other countries such as India.

Let the demand come from a dispersed platform of incomes, small business, workers on infrastructure projects. This programme demands public investment and credit flows to these economic engines.....

The second call is for deconcentration of the source of the GDP, of the market and the location of the power of the financial market. Decentralization is slightly different from deconcentration. Today, the trend is to concentrate production and the trade in the large, in the corporate, in banking systems which are interlocked and peaked - with sharp focal points. The new argument is for dispersed production, dispersed financial services, greater strength to regional and sub-regional networks, local banks which would have viability and which would have the capacity to manage even if there is a break down in the New York stock exchange.

Curiously, as a response to the terror attacks in Mumbai in 2008, one of India's most successful corporate leaders, Narayana Murthy, the founder of Infosys, suggested that there should be local security councils, as India was too large, too dispersed and diverse, to be managed by any single system of security The idea of Local Economic Development has been adopted by many countries using a cluster approach.

The third is ideas for environmental safeguarding

A focus on water , its link to women and health, and water deprivation as an index of many items of development, :- measurement of poverty, of inequality, of misuse of water, as well as destruction of water resources due to various types of investment . Link water to climate change but also link water to various types of infrastructure development big dams, industrial use, pollution, and most of all global warming which threatens to melt the glaciers and flood several countries.



Globalization, Labour and Women's Work: Critical Challenges in a Post Liberal World

Lourdes Beneria (Spain/USA)



Cultural Interactivity and the Global Processes: Implications for and Response of Women

Lourdes Arizpe



Modernity, Technology and the Progress of Women: Problems and Prospects

Hiroko Hara (Japan)



The fourth is taking note of the shift worldwide in the source of GDP which is moving from the first to the third sector, call attention to how this threatens freedom from hunger and the protection of the environment. The neo liberal market-driven macro and sectoral policies which were biased against agriculture, as well as the low levels of investment in both in terms of infrastructure development (such as extensive road network for marketing and irrigation system); as well as the neglect in adopting new technologies for boosting agricultural productivity, has led to the current rural crisis.

In most parts of the world women are not only small land size farmers but also tend to cultivate food crops. So putting women farmers on the top of the priorities for attention,

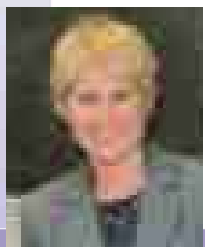
- Attention to enabling their self organization ,
- Attention to facilitating special credit services
- Attention to marketing

As well as investment in agriculture and related items can revive the rural economy



MDGs for Human Development and Human Rights?

Sakiko Fukuda Parr (Japan/USA)



Emancipatory Economics for Real Progress

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Cuban development alternatives to market-driven economies: a gendered case study on women's employment

Marta Nuñez (Cuba)



And finally to rearticulate the women's movement, create new negotiating instruments, derived from knowledge, reasoning with the "other" on policy, to build their global voice. To perhaps give birth to new humane economic theories of growth.

These ideas/proposals for policy shift are particularly helpful to women as they predominate in the small scale sector of production and trade, as well as in agriculture. They are also the most vulnerable in times of crises.



Kavita Ramdas (India/USA)



Removing the Cloak of Invisibility: Integrating Unpaid household Services in the Nation's Economic Accounts

Solita Monsod (Philippines)



Rethinking Progress beyond Economic Growth: Climate Change and Gender Dimensions

Solita Monsod (Philippines)



Commoditization of water and Agriculture: The Millennium Development Cost to Women

Yassine Fall (Senegal)



Women's movement(s) in Post-Colonial Africa and Reversals to Progress Made

Hope Chigudu (Zimbabwe)



Interrogating and Rebuilding Progress: Through Feminist Knowledge

Patricia McFadden (Swaziland)



Critical assessment of state-sponsored spaces for women's progress

Nombiso Gasa (South Africa)



Feminists' perspective on new paradigm of people-centred development

Naoko Otobe (Japan)