

**Statement of Tiye International  
on the fifteen-year review of the  
Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action  
at the 54th session of  
the Commission on the Status of Women in  
New York 1 - 12 March 2010**

Tiye International, the Umbrella NGO of National Associations of Black, Immigrant and Refugee woman and Youth in the Netherlands, in Special Consultative Status with the ECOSOC of the United Nations, welcomes the fifteen-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference of Women and the outcomes of the twenty-third Special session of the General Assembly on Beijing +5 which will be conducted by the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York from 1 - 12 March 2010.

Tiye International has noted that the review takes place just after the Thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In Beijing 198 States declared in 1995 that they are determined to ensure the effective and equal participation of women and girls in all their diversity.

The global United Nations Theme for 2010 are entitled: "Equal rights, equal opportunities and PROGRESS. These are challenges for the future.

The Beijing Platform for Action Constitutes binding guidelines for the formalization of State's policies. In the fields of (inter)national development, gender equality and economic relations. ( Areas of concern, chapter 3 and strategic Objectives A and F/ BPFA)

Through relevant reports Tiye has seen the development of legal frameworks that should promote and protect women's rights, including through the introduction of temporary special measures to accelerate the achievement of equality between women and men, as well as measures to challenge gender and race stereotypes that underpin discrimination against women in our societies.

However Tiye International regrets the lack of equality between black and white women and Tiye believes that unless there is equality between black and white women there will not be equality between women and men. We therefore also regret that equality for all women in law and practice has not been achieved. It is now the moment to end pervasive human rights violations, including stereotypes and gender- and race based violence in the public and private spheres especially of Black and other ethnic minority women. Tiye is concerned about the different forms of multiple discrimination, caused by government policies in society.

Also the Dutch Government is addressing the so called “ Integration Policy”, consisting of three pillars, related to discrimination, but not specific gender discrimination. This is a critical area of concern from the point of view of Tiye International. Especially in the context of eradicating poverty, including the factors unequal access to the labor force and education and enhancing gender equality for all women.

The fifteen-year review provides us globally with an opportunity to send a strong message of renewed commitment to the promotion and protection of all women's human rights.

More than one billion people, the majority women, in the world, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty. Poverty has various causes including structural ones. Poverty is a complex multi dimension issue. With origins in both the national and international domains. The globalization of the world's economy and the uncertain global economic climate, the gender disparities in economic power sharing, all types of conflict (not only war conflict), are also important contributing factors to the economic crisis of women worldwide.

To achieve sustainable development of women and men in all their diversity, women must participate fully and equally in the formulation of macro-economic and social policies and strategies. The eradication of poverty (and gender inequality) cannot be accomplished through programs alone. This requires democratic participation in order to ensure equal access to resources for equal opportunities and to public services.

One of the manifestations of economic crisis is lack of income, f.e. caused by unemployment (see SCP Annual reports 2007/ and case study from the Netherlands, Employment obstacles for Black and immigrant women in the Netherlands, Drs Hellen Felter/ December 2007)

According to recent CBS data in the Netherlands, 22% of young Black and Immigrant women, professional educated, are still unemployed. However take into consideration that figures vary among these groupings.

The review of Beijing +15 is based on overcoming and remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), therefore Tiye international calls the International Community and all member states, to take into account and consideration the MDGs:

**1.** to support more effective (these) women's NGOs, especially in women's human rights and empowerment in all its dimensions: Psychological -, ( self-images etc), Social and Cultural - ( participatory competences etc.) Political or Economic-( concerns formal power at decision making level, but also stereotyping, stigma, forms of multiple discrimination etc.)

**2.** to emphasize that not only gender perspectives to be inclusive, but also the intersection of other factors , such as race, age , ethnicity, disability, sexuality, etc, all categories as mentioned in the Treaty of Amsterdam, article 13.

3. Tiye also calls for the recognition of the contribution of Black and Immigrants in society in the Netherlands. To make more visible the role of Black and Immigrant women in this context of promoting social and economic development and gender equality, also in their country of origins, through their remittances and developing and implementing concrete capacity building and poverty reduction programs from a gender perspective in cooperation with local women's NGOs f.e. in Ecuador, South Africa, Suriname, Ethiopia and Somalia. Urgent support, non selective solidarity and earmarked resources are a must.

4. to invest and to enhance a balanced and equal participation at all levels of Decision Making of (young) women in all their diversity. (taking into consideration that Black and Immigrant groups in the diaspora are from a demographic point of view young).

5. to facilitate the productive employment of (Black and Immigrant) women through a greater recognition of their competences, credentials and their full and effective and sustainable participation in the labour force.

6. to facilitate non discriminatory education programs in cooperation with the relevant NGOs. Non discriminatory education benefits both girls and boys and thus ultimately contributes to more (gender) equality..

Tiye International calls at this fifteen-year's review of the Beijing Platform for Action for increased political will directed to achievement of all women's full equality with men.

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The Netherlands



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